**Bible 101 - Back to Basics # 5**

E. Fulfilled prophesy in the NT - cities

          1. Jerusalem

               a. Fulfilled in AD 70

               b. A thorough reading of Josephus' detail of the War will reveal many fulfilled prophesies.

               c. Here are just two:

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| 7. It then happened that Cestius was not conscious either how the besieged despaired of success, nor how courageous the people were for him; and so he recalled his soldiers from the place, and by despairing of any expectation of taking it, without having received any disgrace, he retired from the city, without any reason in the world. Mathew 24:15-20 |

Yet was the misery itself more terrible than this disorder; for one would have thought that the hill itself, on which the temple stood, was seething-hot , as full of fire on every part of it, that the blood was larger in quantity than the fire, and those that were slain more in number that those that slew them; for the ground did nowhere appear visible, for the dead bodies that lay on it; but the soldiers went over the heaps of these bodies, as they ran upon such as fled from them.

1. NOW as soon as the army had no more people to slay or to plunder, because there remained none to be the objects of their fury, (for they would not have spared any, had there remained any other work to be done,) Caesar gave orders that they should now demolish the entire city and temple, but should leave as many of the towers standing as were of the greatest eminency; that is, Phasaelus, and Hippicus, and Mariamne; and so much of the wall as enclosed the city on the west side. This wall was spared, in order to afford a camp for such as were to lie in garrison, as were the towers also spared, in order to demonstrate to posterity what kind of city it was, and how well fortified, which the Roman valor had subdued; but for all the rest of the wall, it was so thoroughly laid even with the ground by those that dug it up to the foundation, that there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it had ever been inhabited. This was the end which Jerusalem came to by the madness of those that were for innovations; a city otherwise of great magnificence, and of mighty fame among all mankind. Luke 19:41-44

           2. Chorazin and Bethsaida -   Mathew 11:20-24 - Jesus predicts a greater judgement than Tyre and

               Sidon. An earthquake destroyed Capernaum about AD 400 and most believe Chorazin and

               Bethsaida perished at the same time. In AD 700 an attempt was made by King Albilid of Syria

               To build a winter palace on the site of Bethsaida. The king dies and the palace was never

               completed.

          3. Capernaum - Mathew 11:23 - an attempt was made to restore the the synagogue but, like

               Albidid, the architect died suddenly and the project was never completed. Tell Hum, it's now

               accepted site, is a mass of ruins.

          4. Tiberius - the fourth city on or near the Sea of Galilee. Not one word of judgment was spoken

               against her by Jesus and though partly destroyed several times, has always been rebuilt. Still

               there today.

     F. Jewish Cultural Evidence for Reliability of the NT. Some events seem strange to us but are

          perfectly natural in the Jewish culture of Jesus' day.

          1. Tear vases - Weeping was an important part of Jewish life to the extent that professional

               mourners were often hired for funerals. May Jew had "tear vases" in which they collected and

               saved their tears of grief. Luke 7:36-38.

          2. The "betrothal" of Mary and Joseph. Mathew 1:18,19. Betrothal was much more binding among

               The Hebrews of Jesus' time. It was considered the beginning of the marriage and, as such

               required a "divorce" to terminate. In the case of J and M, they were married, but the

               Marriage had not been consummated. Even today, consummation is required to "seal the deal",

               so to speak. See Mathew 1:25.

           3. The sacrifice required after the birth of a child. Luke 2:22-24.

           4. Jewish laws of purity. The woman with the hemorrhage. She had been ceremonially unclean for

               12 years and, according to Jesus custom, would make anyone she touched unclean as well.

               Hence her fright at being found out. Mark 5:24-34

          5. The cleansing of the Temple......twice. One at the beginning of Jesus' ministry (John) and once at

               the end. (Synoptics) Do not misunderstand. Jesus was not opposed to moneychanging. It was

               an important part of Jewish stewardship. Roman coins of the realm were not accepted in the

               Temple because they bore the graven image of Caesar, forbidden by Mosaic law. It was the

               corrupt, short-changing, dishonest, usurious manner in which the priestly families were

               accumulating wealth that incensed Jesus. The whole process and the commotion that resulted

               reflected badly on Gods people in general and His house in particular.

   G. The Apostle Paul - the greatest evidence for the truth of the Christian faith

          1. Cut completely from the cloth of Jewish culture. Galatians 1:14

          2. His sudden conversion. Acts 9:1-9, 17-18

          3. This transformation can be seen as nothing short of a miracle

          4. Revelation direct from God. Did ask any man. Galatians 1:15-17

          5. The impact of his ministry - the planting of many Churches and, of course, his letters.

Next week - Archeology and the NT