

Prophetic Proof

The Destruction of Samaria

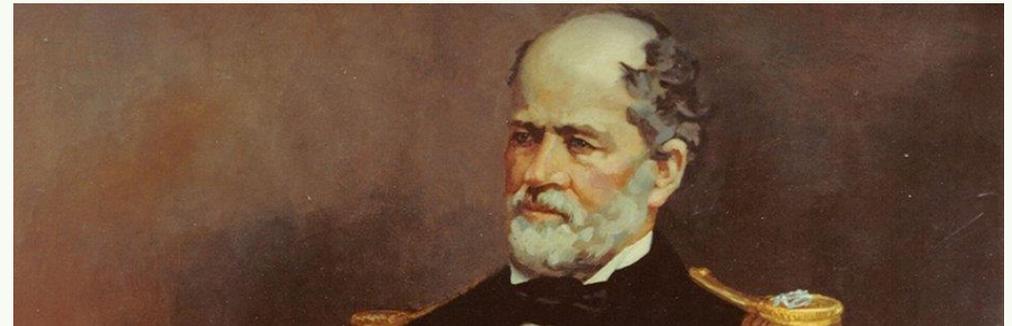
One of the great proofs that the Bible is God's Word is its prophetic content. Take the ancient city of Samaria, for instance. You may not be so familiar with this place, but Samaria was once capital of the northern kingdom of Israel (a.k.a. Ephraim), just as Jerusalem was of the southern kingdom (a.k.a. Judah). And over 700 years before Christ, God gave the prophet Micah a fascinating prophecy of its destruction: ***“Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the field, places for planting a vineyard; I will pour down her stones into the valley, and I will uncover her foundations”*** (Micah 1:6).



This city was attacked no less than three times by the Assyrians (722BC), Alexander the Great (331BC), and John Hyrcanus (120BC). But it is probably the Assyrian attack by Sargon that is referred to here, and in his own annals he tells how he took 27,290 captive. Now, normally when a city was destroyed it resulted in debris on top of a Tell (mound). But because Samaria was built on a 300-foot high hill (1 Kings 16:24) her stones were rolled down the sides and vineyards were planted there (Isaiah 28:1) – just like the prophecy said! *But what about the prophecy that, “I will uncover her foundations”?* Amazingly, they were unearthed by archaeologists (Reisner & Fisher) from Harvard University in 1908-10! More proof alright!

Great SCIENTISTS WHO BELIEVED THE BIBLE

In 1962 a symposium on Antarctic research was named in honour of the oceanographer, **Matthew Maury (1806-1873)** by the American Geophysical Union. *“It is fitting,”* they said, *“that this Symposium, based on results obtained by scientists of many countries, working harmoniously and fruitfully in Antarctica...should be dedicated to Maury – a pioneer in cooperative international studies on the oceans, the atmosphere, and the polar regions.”* And no wonder! This pioneer in ocean studies had written papers which were all major publications in their day, as well as bringing ten sea-faring nations together to co-operate on the subject in 1852! And this legend of science was a great Bible believer too...



“I have been blamed by men of science,” he said, *“...for quoting the Bible in confirmation of the doctrines of physical geography. The Bible, they say, was not written for scientific purposes, and is therefore of no authority in matters of science. I beg pardon! The Bible is authority for everything it touches...”* Yes, he was another great scientist who believed the Bible. So, don't let anyone tell you science rules out God!