

# **Have the prophecies of the Bible Been Fulfilled ?**

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There are hundreds of prophecies in the Bible concerning the return of Jesus Christ, the followings are just a few of them since this is intended to be a short pamphlet.

The five major signs and directives Christ mentioned are:

1. The Gospel shall be preached in all the world.
2. The time of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled.
3. The abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel shall be fulfilled.
4. Elam – geographic location.
5. The name of the Lord.

We shall study these five signs and directives:

## **1. The Gospel shall be preached in all the world.**

The Disciples asked Christ: “*Tell us, when shall these things be?*

*And what shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?”* (Matt. 24; 3)

He answered; “*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come*”. (Matt. 24; 13, 14)

There were many publications in the mid 1800’s stating that the Bible was being preached all over the world. Before 1804 the Bible had already been printed and circulated in 50 languages. In 1816, the American Bible Society was formed, George Storrs, in the newspaper, “Midnight Cry”, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, 1843, states that these two societies [British and American] with their innumerable branches were spreading the Gospel of Christ in every part of the world. The many publications on this subject convinced scholars that this prophecy would be fulfilled by the mid 1840’s.

## **2. The Time of the Gentiles Fulfilled**

The Disciples asked Christ; “*when shall these things be? And what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?*” (Luke 21; 7)

Christ warned them of false prophets, and then gave them His second promise;

“*...and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentile, until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled...and then they shall see the son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory*”. (Luke 21; 24-27)

The term Gentile refers to non-Jews. In 70 AD, Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman, Titus, and the Jews were scattered and exiled exactly as had been foretold by Christ. After that the Holy Land was continuously occupied and ruled by non-Jewish people- (gentiles). The Turkish government, as Islamic rulers in the middle east, (including Palestine) under pressure of western powers, notably England, signed an agreement called the Edict of Toleration, in 1844 permitting religious freedom in their territory. At that point, Jews started

returning to Palestine and finally established the independent state of Israel. So the second promise was fulfilled by year 1844.

### 3. Daniel's Prophecy

The disciples asked Jesus; “*what shall be the sign of your coming... ”* (Matt. 24; 3).

Christ said; “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel, stand in the holy place..” (Matt. 24; 15)

Daniel chapters 8 through 12 talks about this subject and he prophesies not only the first coming but the second coming of the Messiah as well. Concerning the first coming of the Messiah, Daniel prophesies that from the restoration of Jerusalem to the time the Messiah gave his life for the sins of the people is 70 weeks

(Dan. 9; 24 )

In the Bible each day stands for a year

70 weeks x 7 days per week = 490 days = 490 years

Christ at the time of crucifixion was 33 years old

490 years - 33 years = 457 years BC (Before the birth of Christ)

This was the year that king of Persia Artaxerxes issued the decree to restore Jerusalem. (Ezra 7; 7,8 )

Concerning the second coming of the Messiah, here are the exact words of Daniel;

“*How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the abomination of desolation, to give the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said on to me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed”*. (Dan. 8; 13,14)

2300 days = 2300 years

from year 457 BC to year 1 (birth of Christ) is 456 years

2300 years – 456 years = 1844

The third promise also gives us the year 1844.

### Thief in the night

In the year 1844 all three of the above prophecies given by Christ were fulfilled. How could that happen? Are we making a mistake? Christ Himself told that He is coming as a thief in the night.

“*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night... ”* (II Pet. 3; 10)

When a householder finds out that a thief had been in his house the thief has already gone. So it may have happened in that same way to the majority of humanity, that without their awareness, the Lord came and has gone.

### 4. Elam- Geographic Location

We have another clue- where on our planet will He appear? The Bible does guide us to that.

“*And I will set my throne in Elam... saith the Lord”* (Jer. 49; 38)

“*...in Elam... ”* (Dan. 8; 2)

“*...toward the east... ”* (Eze. 43; 1-6)

Christ himself said; “*For as the lightning cometh out of the east and shineth even unto the west, so shall also the coming of the son of man be.*” (Matt. 24; 27)

Where is Elam? The historical geography map of the Middle East 2500 years ago shows it to be around the Persian Gulf, and it is east of the Holy Land. In today’s maps, part of Elam is in Iran, and part is in Iraq.

## 5. The Name of the Lord

Jesus warned us against those using the name of Christ. “*For many shall come in my name saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many*” (Matt. 24; 5)

So He shall come with new name;

“...and thou shalt be called by a new name”. (Isa. 62; 2)

“...the Lord God shall...call his servants by another name”.(Isa.65;15)

“...To him that overcometh...give him a white stone and in the stone a new name written which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it”. (Rev. 2; 17)

“...and I will write upon him my new name”. (Rev. 3; 12)

At first it seems difficult to accept a new name for the returning Christ but let's think deeply, if it is the will of God, then we should have peace of mind about this matter.

### Now we know;

1. The Bible was preached all over the world in the 1840's.
2. The time of the Gentiles was fulfilled in 1844.
3. The Prophecy of Daniel gives us the year 1844.
4. He shall come from Elam.
5. He shall come with a new name.

### The Search

Now that we have discovered the year 1844 and the location of Elam, the next step is to go there and search, or go to the history books of Iraq and Persia (now called Iran) of year 1844 to see if we can find any clues on this Subject.

Fortunately this search has been done and it has been found that there was one claimant in Elam.

### History of the Bahá’í Faith:

#### The Báb

On May 23, 1844, in the city of Shiraz, located in the southern part of Persia, which is within ancient Elam, a young man 25 years of age announced that He was the One foretold by the Holy Scriptures.

He called Himself “the Báb” (which means gate) and said He was sent by the Lord to announce the coming of One greater than Himself. He declared His willingness to sacrifice Himself for that Great One.

Many became His followers but those in opposition succeeded in having Him imprisoned and finally had Him publicly executed. Twenty thousand of His followers were also killed for their beliefs.

The Báb had His own holy Writings. Among His Writings; "*In the year nine ye will attain unto all good*". Again He writes; "*In the year nine ye will attain unto presence of God*".

### **Bahá'u'lláh**

Bahá'u'lláh, which means "the Glory of God", was born into a wealthy and noble family in Teheran, the capital of Persia, part of the ancient Assyrian Empire. He joined the Faith of the Báb and, for that reason, was tortured and imprisoned in Teheran with heavy chains on His neck, nine years after the declaration of the Báb. Since He was of a noble family, His life was spared but He was then banished to the city of Baghdad.

He received His revelation while in prison under heavy chains, and later in Baghdad publicly announced His mission. As many were attracted to Him, the officials moved Him to different cities and finally, imprisoned Him in the fortress of Akka, in Palestine. He passed away in 1892. While a prisoner, Bahá'u'lláh revealed many books and letters to guide humanity. He addressed the kings and rulers including Napoleon III of France, Queen Victoria of England, Kaiser Willhelm of Germany, Czar Alexander II of Russia, Pope Pius IX, and the rulers of the Republics of the Americas, to whom He announced His mission.

Bahá'u'lláh is the Manifestation of God (the father) for this age and has brought the teachings which will finally bring unity and peace to mankind. He has brought new World Order which is the promised Kingdom of God. Bahá'ís believe that Christ referred to Bahá'u'lláh when He said; "*For the son of man shall come in the Glory of His Father*". (Matt; 16; 27)

Bahá'u'lláh wrote His will and testament so that after Him, His eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá would be the Center of His Covenant and the interpreter of His Writings. Because of this, the Bahá'i Faith is the only religion in the world which did not split into different sects after the death of its Founder.

### **Bahá'i Laws & Teachings**

As every religion has its own laws and obligations, the Bahá'i Faith too has its laws that believers have to follow:

Pray and read the Holy Writings every day.

Observe the Bahá'i Fast from March 2 to 20

Observe Bahá'i Holy days and attend the Nineteen Day Feast.

Use of alcoholic drinks and narcotics is strictly forbidden.

Observe Bahá'i marriage laws. In Bahá'i marriage each partner must freely choose the other. Once the choice is made the consent of the living, natural parents of both parties is required. This is conducive to unity between two families.

Respect for and obedience to the government and no participation in partisan politics.

Backbiting and gossip, are strictly forbidden.

Consider work as worship ( work which is done in the spirit of service to others is elevated to the station of worship).

Contribute to the Bahá’í Fund. This Fund is spent for improvement of education, health and welfare of the poor, old and needy, administration, literature and teachings.

There is no collection of money in the Bahá’í Faith, and Bahá’is do not accept contributions from non- Bahá’is.

Teaching the Bahá’í Faith to others. (As Christ told His disciples to scatter around the world

and give the good news, in the same way Bahá’u’lláh told His followers to tell other people the good news of His Faith for today.)

## Fruits

When the disciples asked Christ how they would know the false from the true, Christ gave them this guidance: “*Ye shall know them by their fruits...*” (Matt.7; 16,20)

Let’s study the fruits of the teachings of Bahá’u’lláh; The core of His teachings is the three onenesses;

Oneness of God

Oneness of religion

Oneness of humanity

We are created noble and spiritual beings, and we should try not to lose that position. “*Noble have I created thee, yet thou hast abased thyself. Rise then unto that for which thou wast created*” (BWF, p 159)

Living a moral life has a direct influence on our spiritual happiness.

The family is the foundation of human society.

Consultation is a dynamic process for finding truth and for solving conflicts.

Each individual must make his own independent search for truth. (There are no clergy or priests in the Bahá’í Faith).

Education must be made available to all. “*Knowledge is as wings to man’s life, and a ladder for his ascent. Its acquisition is incumbent upon every one*”. (TB, p.51)

Men and women should enjoy equal rights, privileges, education, and opportunities throughout the world. “*Humanity is like a bird with its two wings—the one is male, the other is female. Unless both wings are strong and impelled by some common force, the bird cannot fly heavenwards*”. (BNE, p.147)

“*O people of the world! The Religion of God is to create love and unity, do not make it the cause of enmity and discord*”. (BWF, p.209)

“*That one indeed is a man who, today, dedicateth himself to the service of the entire human race*”. (WOB, p.198)

“*The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens*”. (GWB, p.250)

Christ who had knowledge of His Father could say the same thing about the earth, but He did not. He said; *"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he the spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth..."* (John 16; 1213)

In that time 2000 years ago, travelling was by foot, horse and camel. People did not have much knowledge of the earth, they thought it was flat and did not know what was on the other side of the oceans. "Nahum" writing of the end of the time: "...the chariots shall range in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways; they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightning". (Nahum, 2; 3,4) This is a good description of the automobile. Today we have automobiles, airplanes, telephones and radios. We know how our earth looks, we can travel around the earth, communicate over long distances- so we can understand teaching of Bahá'u'lláh when He writes, "*The earth is but one country*".

A world commonwealth of all the nations of the earth must protect the rights of man. "*Be united, O kings of the earth, for thereby will the tempest of discord be stilled amongst you, and your peoples find rest...*" (GWB, p.254) This is a major step toward establishing the kingdom of God on earth. God gave us a plan, we have to work accordingly.

Unity of humanity is the goal of God for today. Unity of nations, religions and races. "*The well-being of mankind, its peace and security, are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established*". (GWB, p. 286)      "*Soon will the present day order be rolled up, and a new one spread out in its stead*". (GWB, p.7)

A universal auxiliary language shall be adopted so that when people are out of their native country they will be able to communicate with the local people in the auxiliary language and feel at home. Elimination of all kinds of prejudice. (Prejudice means making a judgement based on incomplete or incorrect information). Prejudice, whether religious, racial, patriotic or political, is always destructive.

Religion must be in accord with science and reason.

The soul is an essential part of every human being and will continue after death. "*know thou of a truth that the soul, after its separation from the body, will continue to progress until it attaineth the presence of God...*" (GWB, p. 155)

Economic problems are basically spiritual. Bahá'u'lláh said that work that is done in the spirit of service to humanity is elevated to the station of worship.

These are some of the fruits of the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

It is interesting to note that not only are the prophecies of the Bible fulfilled in the coming of the Bahá'i Faith, but all other religions have certain prophecies that are fulfilled as well. Bahá'u'lláh writes; "*The time fore-ordained unto the people and kindred of the earth is now come. The promises of God, as recorded in the Holy Scriptures, have all been fulfilled*". (GWB, p. 12)

\*\*\* who has eyes, let him see\*\*\*

## Bahá'i Prayers

There are many prayers revealed by Bahá'u'lláh, the Báb and Abdu'l-Bahá for different purposes:

## **Prayer for assistance:**

*“O my God! I ask Thee, by Thy most glorious Name, to aid me in that which will cause the affairs of thy servants to prosper, and Thy cities to flourish. Thou, indeed, hast power over all things!”* - Bahá'u'lláh

## **Remover of Difficulties:**

*“Is there any remover of difficulties save God? Say Praised be God! He is God! All are His servants, and all abide by His bidding”.* - The Báb

## **Children's Prayer:**

*“O God, guide me, protect me, make of me a shining lamp and a brilliant star. Thou art the Mighty and the Powerful”.* -‘Abdu'l-Bahá

## **Bahá'i Community**

Since there are no clergy or priests in the Bahá'i Faith, then how does the Bahá'i Community function?

**Spiritual Assemblies:** In every village or town Bahá'is elect nine members (men and women) to the Local Spiritual Assembly. This council is elected for a period of one year, to conduct the affairs of the Bahá'is in that community. Bahá'is of a country, through their delegates, elect nine members to the National Spiritual Assembly of that country to serve for a period of one year. National Assemblies from around the world elect nine members from the Bahá'is around the world to the Universal House of Justice. Members of the House of Justice serve for a period of five years. The Universal House of Justice is the supreme body of the Bahá'i Faith and guides the entire Bahá'i world. All Bahá'is obey its guidance. All Bahá'i elections are spiritually based and by secret ballot. There are no nominated candidates, no campaigns, and no advertising.

**Nineteen Day Feast:** Bahá'u'lláh teaches that every 19 days Bahá'is of each community shall gather together. This is called the 19 Day Feast. The Feast consists of three parts - the first part is devotional. The second part is for consultation about any subject to improve the community. The third part is a social time so that the members of the community may have fellowship with each other, as members of one family.

Each individual Bahá'i is a valuable person, who through the 19 Day Feast, the Local Spiritual Assembly, the National Spiritual Assembly, and the Universal House of Justice is connected to the World-wide Bahá'i family.

[UHJ]<->[NSA]<->[LSA]<->[19 Day Feast]<->[Individuals]

## **Some statistics as of May 1999:**

Number of National Spiritual Assemblies.....	181
Number of Local Spiritual Assemblies .....	12,535
Number of localities world wide where	
Bahá'ís reside .....	127,683
Tribes, races and ethnic groups in the	
Bahá'í Faith .....	2,112
Languages into which Bahá'u'lláh's	
Writings have been translated .....	802

### **Who is a Bahá'i ?**

Any person who studies the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh and is convinced in his/her heart that He is God's Messenger for today, and is willing to obey His teachings. At that point, the person is enrolled into the Bahá'i community and invited to community activities and to participate in Bahá'i elections. There is no baptism in the Faith.

Question – When a Christian joins the Bahá'i Faith, does he/she lose Christ ?

Answer – No they do not. Bahá'u'lláh has glorified Christ many times in His Writings. Indeed, people who are not Christian, when they join the Bahá'i Faith, learn about Christ and His teachings and how He sacrificed Himself for the sins of the people, and purified the world.

*"He who has ears to hear, let him hear"*

*"He who has eyes to see, let him see"*

**Reference books:**

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| GWB | - Gleanings from Writings of Bahá'u'lláh (USA print) |
| BWF | - Bahá'i World Faith (USA print)                     |
| WOB | - World Order of Bahá'u'lláh (USA print)             |
| TB  | - Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh (UK print)                  |
| BNE | - Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era (USA print)            |

The following books give information about the Bahá'í Faith:

**Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era** – by J.E. Esslemont MB, ChB, FBEA. (This book gives general information about the Bahá'í Faith)

**Thief in the night** – The Case of the Missing Millenium, by William Sears. Published by George Ronald, Oxford, U.K. (This book gives more details about the prophecies in the Bible)

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