

# ***The Narrowing of Prophecy***

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**E**vidence of the divine origin of the Scriptures is found within the writings themselves. Unlike the Koran or the Book of Mormon, both works of men which were produced within the lifetime of single individuals, the Bible is a collection of books spanning about 1500 years of history. These books are united by a single theme: the development and preservation of the nation of Israel unto the purpose of introducing the Savior into the world (Rom 9:5).

As this theme unfolds, vague prophecies of the future are given concerning this coming Savior. For example, Gen 3:15 speaks of “*the seed of woman*,” which in its context could mean just about anyone since all humans would come from Eve. But the prophecy of the Savior narrows a bit when a man of faith, Abraham, is chosen as the father of the Messianic nation. From this man’s descendants “*all the families of the earth shall be blessed*” (Gen 12:3).

The prophecies narrow further several hundred years later as a specific descendant of Abraham is chosen to head a royal lineage. The Messiah will come from the family of David, of the tribe of Judah (2 Sam 7:12-16; Is 11:1; Rev 5:5).

The narrowing scope of prophecy includes details such as the town of the Messiah’s birth (Mic 5:2), the failure to appreciate Him for what He was (Is 53), the manner of His death, the words He and others would speak and something as trivial as what would happen to His clothes (Ps 22).

It doesn’t take much of a genius to predict that a commercial airliner will crash somewhere in the world next year. But get more specific and men begin to look foolish:

*An American Airlines Boeing 757 en route from Dallas to London will crash over Greenland on September 17, 1997. The crash will be due to a bomb explosion planted in a red Samsonite suitcase. Two hundred and twelve people will die but one stewardess by the name of Estelle Van der Hoeven will survive by falling to earth in the tail section.*

Do you think you should cut this “prophecy” out and keep it? What are the odds that I will be famous come September 17 of 1997?

The narrowing of Messianic prophecy points to the power of God to declare what shall be and His ability to orchestrate events both by miracle and providential control to bring the prophecy to pass.

Outside of the Scriptures, man’s attempts at specific predictions are dismal failures (as will be the one above). No book or books can match the Bible in fulfilled prophecy.