

Prophecy was designed, so to speak, to supply the place of sensible miracles. Who but the Omniscient Being Himself could have given such a graphic description of this people in all ages of the world? It was certainly not within the sphere of human knowledge to describe their successive character for one century, much less for nearly four thousand years; and yet we find, in the writings of Moses, their whole history epitomised in a few short sentences. A prophecy, aside from its accomplishment, is no evidence of a divine revelation; but when taken in connection with its fulfilment it is as clearly demonstrative as any evidence can be. Who can examine the prophetic sentences which we have so hastily considered, and compare them with the history of the people to whom they related, and then doubt that there has ever been a revelation of God made to man?

Prophecy is the stronghold of Christianity. Instead of decreasing in strength, it is accumulating force in every generation. It is a map of human destinies on a large scale, and is constantly filling up, in all its latitude and longitude, with all the important events of this world. No man ever did, or ever can arise from a candid and thorough examination of it with a single doubt on his mind of the truth of revelation. Was it predicted that the posterity of Ishmael would be numerous? Its history has justified the prediction. Was it prophetically announced that he should beget twelve princes? This annunciation was confirmed in his twelve sons. Was it foretold that he would become a great nation? This is proved to have been the case from the fact that the most powerful nations of ancient and modern times have been unable to subdue them, and that they once included in their conquests the greater part of the temperate zone, and that their empire reached from India to the atlantic. Was it predicted that they would be wild men? The history of their race confirms the truth of the prediction. Did the prophecy declare that their hands would be against every man? Mr. Gibbon himself testifies its truth, when he says they were "*armed against mankind.*" Was there to be a reciprocity of their hostility according to ancient prophecy? It is fulfilled in the universal antipathies of the rest of mankind against them. Did the prophetic voice give them a residence in the presence of their brethren? That voice finds its confirmation, in their dwelling in the presence of the Moabites, the Ammonites, the Israelites, and the Edomites, in ancient times, and in the midst of nations in modern times. Infidels may as well attempt to extinguish the luminary of day, as destroy the confidence of the intelligent in the revelation of God.

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Books.—The finest rule I ever met with in regard to the choice of books, is this: "Books are good or bad in their effects, as they make us relish the word of God, the more or less after we have read them."—*Leigh Richmond.*