

conquest by the Persians, of the still more rapid conquest by Alexander, and of the breaking apart of the Greek empire -- striking instances of divine prediction many centuries in advance.

In Daniel 9 there is a clear presentation of the central feature in God's redemptive activity, the death of Christ as the all-sufficient atonement for sin, along with a statement of the approximate time from Cyrus' edict to Messiah's coming. Readers of this chapter could see that exactly seven 'sevens' of years (49 years) had elapsed between God's promise to Jeremiah that Jerusalem would be rebuilt and the edict of Cyrus that gave the Jews permission to return. Then, after a fairly short unspecified interval, there would be a period of 62 'sevens' before the coming of the Messiah. This period of 434 years fits very neatly into the five and a half centuries between Cyrus and Christ. It would not enable a reader to determine the exact time when He would come, but would give a good general figure and provide a remarkable instance of fulfilled prophecy. (We have looked at efforts to find an exact prediction of the precise time of the atonement, and have seen the erroneous ideas involved in these attempts.)

Daniel 11 includes a remarkable prediction of the events connected with the establishment and progress of the Greek kingdoms into which Alexander's empire was divided, with pictures of many of the vital political and military events during a period of more than a century, not given in such detail that one could know ahead of time exactly what would occur, but so described that it could readily be seen, after the events occurred, that they exactly fulfilled the predictions. No other part of the Bible contains so many predictions of political events that have occurred exactly as predicted.

### **Predictions that are yet to be Fulfilled**

While the book contains many prophecies of events that have occurred exactly as predicted, we have seen that a number of verses, including Daniel 2:44, 7:21-22, 26-27, and