

Study 42: The Song of Moses, Part 5 Deuteronomy 28-32

In our previous studies, the question arose as to why it was important to study Bible prophecy, and why it mattered if it was fulfilled in the 1st century or is yet to be fulfilled.

Because the prophecies of the New Testament have *time references* associated with them that point definitively to a fulfillment that was *close at hand* in the 1st century, if these things have *not* been fulfilled, they *never will be*.

That may seem to be a radical statement, but think about it. If I predict that a bus will arrive before 4 PM, and it doesn't arrive until 9, would you consider that to be a fulfilled prophecy? Hardly! Once the clock passes 4, the prophecy becomes FALSE. It has failed, *even if* a similar event occurs later.

Let's say I was *really specific* and said that a Greyhound bus would arrive at the corner of Broadway and 4th Ave. in downtown San Diego on Oct. 2, 2015 before 4 PM. As long as a bus operated by that company stops at that corner on Oct. 2nd **before** 4 PM, the prophecy has been fulfilled. However, once it's 4:01 PM, the prophecy can *never* be fulfilled. It has FAILED. So, even if that *same* bus arrives the *same day* at that *exact* location, but it doesn't get there until *after* 4 PM, the prophecy remains *unfulfilled*. To claim that its fulfillment was simply "delayed" does nothing to alleviate the situation. The prophecy has **failed** and it can **never be fulfilled**.

It's extremely important to realize what's at stake here. What we're talking about is the integrity of Scripture, but more than that, we're talking about the very **deity** of Jesus Christ Himself. (Can God be wrong?)

Jesus made some very specific prophecies in the New Testament regarding the end of the age, His return, and the age to come, and they *all* had **time references** inextricably tied in with them. If they didn't happen **when** He said they were going to, those prophecies have failed and can **never come to pass**. Moreover, that would prove that Jesus was *not* the divine Son of God, and could *not* have been Israel's promised Messiah. "Delay" in the fulfillment of His prophecies was not possible, due to the time restrictions He placed on them!¹ Anyone who thinks the claim of "delay" solves this difficulty doesn't understand the issue.

Rev 15 1 I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God's wrath is completed. **2** And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God **3** and sang **the song of God's servant Moses** and of the Lamb:

"Great and marvelous are your deeds,
 Lord God Almighty.
 Just and true are your ways,
 King of the nations [or *ages*]
4 Who will not fear you, Lord,
 and bring glory to your name?
 For you alone are holy.
 All nations will come
 and worship before you,
 for your righteous acts have been revealed."²

We left off at:

Deut 32 33 Their wine is the **venom** of serpents, the deadly poison of cobras.

Rom 3 12 All have turned away,
 they have together become worthless;
 there is no one who does good,
 not even one."³
13 "Their throats are open graves;
 their tongues practice deceit."

¹ See the article: "An Air of Expectancy" handed out previously.

² Phrases in this song are drawn from Deut. 32:4; Ps 86:9; 98:2; 111:2-3; and Jer. 10:7.

³ Ps 14:1-3; 53:1-3; Ecc 7:20.

“The **poison of vipers** is on their lips.”⁴
14 “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”⁵

Deut 32 34 “Have I not kept this in reserve
and sealed it in my vaults?
35 It is mine to avenge; I will repay. [see v 41]
In due time their foot will slip;
their day of disaster is near
and their doom rushes upon them.”

36 The Lord will vindicate his people
and relent concerning his servants
when he sees their strength is gone
and no one is left, slave or free [*and they
are without a ruler or leader*].
37 He will say: “Now where are their gods,
the rock they took refuge in,
38 the gods who ate the fat of their sacrifices
and drank the wine of their drink offerings?
Let them rise up to help you!
Let them give you shelter!

39 “See now that I myself am he!
There is no god besides me.
I put to death and I bring to life,
I have wounded and I will heal,
and no one can deliver out of my hand.
40 I lift my hand to heaven and solemnly swear:
As surely as I live forever,

Rev 10:5-6 Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. 6 And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, “There will be **no more delay!**”

It’s unfortunate that the KJV translates the last part of this verse, “that there should be time no longer,” from which some have assumed that there is an “end of time.” This isn’t the case, as you can see from the modern translation above. There is no “end of time” in Scripture, only a “time of the end,” and the difference between the two is *huge!*

Deut 32 41 when I sharpen my flashing sword
and **my hand grasps it in judgment,**
I will take vengeance on my adversaries
and repay those who hate me.

Luke 21:22 [Jesus said,] “For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled” [NKJV].

2 Thess 1:4-8 ...[W]e ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, 5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; 6 since it is a righteous thing with God to **repay** with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking **vengeance** on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ [NKJV].

2 Thess 1:9-10 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might 10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. **This includes you,** because you believed our testimony to you [NIV].

⁴ Ps 5:9; 140:3.

⁵ Ps 10:7 (LXX).