

high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat which made Israel to sin had made, both that altar and the high place he broke down and burned the high place and stamped it small to powder, and burned the idol. And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchers that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchers, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the Lord which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words. Then he said, What marker is that which I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulcher of the man of God, who came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Bethel. And he said, Let him alone: let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came out of Samaria."

Leave him alone, let no man move his bones. So they took the bones of the priests who had sacrificed at this altar but they left those of the man of God who had given God's word against them. So this was literally fulfilled 300 years later. Josiah carried it out. There are those who say, What kind of proof is that? Josiah for his kings. He saw what he was supposed to do and he did it. Well, if you read the account it doesn't sound as if he had read 1 Kings, or at least he may have heard this ch. read but it had not sunk into his mind. It gives the impression that he was rather surprised the way things happen. But he did literally fulfill it.

Suppose he had read 1 Kings. Antichristian books speaking of the Bible like to show where they think people deliberately tried to fulfill prophecy. The book The Passover Plot which had a rather wide vote (?) several years ago had as its central theme that Jesus read the OT, found what the Messiah was going to do, found that the people expected He would be crucified and raised from the dead and therefore He deliberately tried to get Himself crucified in order that He could be crucified and they could take him down from the cross while he was still living and then his disciples could bring Him out and say He had been raised from the dead! A rather absurd idea! And it has what it had for a brief time there, but still it is an argument that is used against fulfilled prophecy, that a man intentionally fulfills.

Well in this case, suppose Josiah intentionally fulfilled it. Does that ruin the force of it as evidence that God actually spoke to this prophet? No it does not for a number of reasons.

In the first place it == this prediction specifically gave the name Josiah. Now the book of Isaiah specifically predicts Cyrus 150 yrs. before his time, and people say That's impossible it must be written by a Second Isaiah. Of course it is impossible unless you believe in a God who can predict the future if He chooses and can even give a man's name hundreds of years before his time. But we have this instance also in the Bible where that happens. And there is no other King Josiah before this time. We have his name specifically given.