

Who Knows the Future?

In the famous Cambodian story of Tun Jay, his mother had a strange dream and then she went to find a fortune-teller. She only met the wife of the fortune-teller. The wife knew that this mother was going to have a very clever son that could become a king. But an evil spirit made her prophecy instead that he would become a servant. After the baby was born, the evil spirit always followed Tun Jay to make sure his prophecy would be fulfilled. This story is a warning about fortune telling. While she was pregnant, the mother of Tun Jay was worried, wanting very much to know the future of her child, whether he would have good or bad luck, live or die, so she had sought out a fortune-teller. Did trying to know the future really help her?

People Want to Know Their Future

We all at some time think it would be nice to know the future. Life is not certain. Sometimes accidents happen suddenly even causing people to die. Because of this we want to know what will happen to us in the days ahead. There are many people who make predictions about the country, the world or various individuals. People then spend a lot of money buying magazines and newspapers that claim to tell their future according to the year and month of their birth.

If they get ready to go on a business trip and a fortune-teller says they will have an accident, then they will not go. And if the fortune-teller says that a certain man and woman are a fitting pair and will have peace in their marriage and success, they follow the advice. People are willing to let fortune tellers direct their lives, hoping for success. Is this good or bad?

Thinking about our future is good. If we are lazy and do not

think about our future, it is like taking a trip when we do not know where we are going. Instead we should follow the Khmer proverb that says, "Look to the other side before you row with the oar."

Accidents that come from Fortune-telling

Going to the fortune-teller can cause problems. The first problem is that we lose a lot of money if the fortune-teller foretells incorrectly. Some fortune-tellers are very clever at deceiving, not knowing anything about our future, but they know how to speak so that we will believe them. Very often they say, "You will have this problem..., but if you do this...you will be safe." This makes us spend even more money on their plan--giving some to them and spending some to carry out the plan prescribed. Another Khmer proverb says that, "The fortune-teller is the liar, the skilled laborer is the thief." This means that whether often or infrequently the fortune-teller does lie.

Some fortune-tellers foretell just to get money, saying they know our future, but it is only their guess. Some foretell well and seem to truly know about the future. Where does their power come from? The story above about Tun Jay, shows that fortune-tellers often know the future and have power by means of the evil spirits. The evil spirits make a bad thing happen according to what they have led the fortune-teller to predict. So you must be careful of fortune-tellers or a good situation may turn into a bad one just as it did for the mother of Tun Jay.

The main problem is that fortune-tellers are not one

hundred percent correct. Much of what these people say is not true. In fact, one editor in America researched 15 years of these kinds of predictions and found they were wrong 95% of the time (Ralph Blodgett, "Signs of the Times, January 1995, p. 21). According to this, foretelling is very faulty. But whether or not the predictions that are based on the stars, the cards, or palms are true, they are effective for frightening people into action and for bringing profit to the fortune-teller.

So what should we do in order to predict our future and have some control of what will happen?

The best thing we can do about our future is to live in a righteous way. We know that we will reap what we sow. We should spend our money and our time doing good. We must seek counsel from wise people and wise books.

We should search for truth until we know about the good kind of life we want that can result in a good future and can give hope for us and our children. This is better than spending money for an unreliable fortune-teller.

It is more effective to follow the good counsel regarding how to have a good marriage than it is to pay a fortune teller to show you which is the right lady. Who we are now determines our future. Let us become more moral, kind and unselfish people and that will lead to a good future

Good Thoughts that can Help your Life

Most fortune-tellers use a book with ancient inscriptions. Some have it in a book, some use chalk on a chalkboard. Some use different pictures.

There is a book that many people in the world, including scientists, have searched for, in order to know about their

futures in order to find wisdom for their futures. It is a book that is very old. Much of it is over 3000 years old. Its wisdom has been so useful that many have carefully guarded and passed on its words throughout these centuries. It is called the Bible. Its pages are full of proverbs, fascinating accurate historical stories. It has intriguing parables, psalms and poems. While some people think that this book is only for Westerners, many others say it is an international book that was written in Asia of which much has been translated into more than 2000 languages. People from every part of the world have gained benefit from reading and following it.

In this book there is counsel regarding finances, health, family, government, morality and much more. It is like a library in one book! We have seen that this Bible is full of good counsel for our lives. It is like a letter from God to you. When you receive a letter from a relative in the United States of America, you read it very carefully, don't you? You read it because you know that person loves you and perhaps wants to help you. In the same way we should often read this letter from God written for you and for all the people in the world.

It is a very lonely thing to seek to know our future from a fortune-teller who does not know very clearly. We also have to spend a lot of money and they are usually just guessing, not willing to help us work out our problems. If the fortune-teller is connected to an evil spirit then he will surely cause you more problems still. But if the Bible is true and if there is a God who is alive and can help people today then we do not have to worry about being alone any more.

The Bible's Predictions Have Been 100% Accurate

Another reason that many people trust the Bible and read it

often is because it is also full of many predictions. The Bible calls the writers of these prophecies, prophets. Some of these prophecies were in fact already fulfilled.

The Bible tells many stories about what prophets predicted. One predicted a lion would be along the road to devour someone. It happened. Another predicted a great fire would destroy a city named Sodom. It happened. A prophecy predicted that a war would come and it happened.

The Bible also includes sixty prophecies regarding the birth and life of Jesus. Some of these have already been fulfilled. It also includes prophecies that have not yet been fulfilled, they are for the future still.

Daniel was a prophet who lived about the time of the Buddha. He was a captive in another country called Babylon. Because he was a faithful and righteous man, the king made him an important official even though he was a foreign slave. Later, after he died, they called him a prophet of the Bible.

In those days, the king of that country, named Nebuchadnezzar, was very concerned about the future of his country. The Bible says that one night he had a very strange dream. Then he forgot it. He called together his wise men in order to interpret the dream, but there was no wise man who could interpret it. Only Daniel could do it, who had received wisdom from God in order to interpret it. The other wise men told the king, "What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among men" (Daniel 2:11). The King had dreamed about a great big statue that had a head of gold, a chest of silver, thighs of bronze and legs of iron, with feet of iron mixed with clay. Afterwards a rock came, without any hands holding it, and hit the feet of the statue destroying it all. That rock became a great mountain and filled the earth.

From that time until now powerful kingdoms that came into being just as in the statue. These were Babylon (the gold head), Medo-Persia (the chest of silver), Greece (the thighs of bronze), Rome (the legs of iron), Eastern Europe that had ten countries (the feet of iron mixed with clay) and those countries and people truly fell just as the prophecy said. Now we live in the time of the feet (the iron mixed with clay) and there is only one part left in this prophecy that is not fulfilled--the rock that destroyed the feet of the statue. The prophecy claims that this rock is the coming of God (the second coming) the Creator who, according to the prophecies, will come to judge the world. Today all those time periods have come and gone. All those prophecies have been fulfilled. The only one that is left is the coming of that great rock.

Christians believe that God will rescue all who read His book and follow His counsel, trusting His love and help.

The Power of God's Word

Many people buy scriptures and wear them around their necks. They may place scriptures on their walls. This may make them feel confident. The Bible also has many powerful words. These are promises that should help people's lives. But the Bible says the best place to put these words is in a person's mind and in his heart to act upon them. One wise ancient king said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against You." Psalm 119:11

In fact the God who gave these ancient scriptures said, "My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you" Proverbs 3:1-2.

What do you think? Do you think the Bible is a book that is

believable? If there is a God that is dependable like the Bible claims, how incredible that would be. Therefore, let us test the Bible and see if there is a God who can truly help us.

Many have found the words of the Bible to be powerful to change their whole lives for the better. If there is such power, wouldn't it make sense to look at those words and see what is there?

You should start by reading Proverbs and follow the ideas of God that you see there. Then you will know to what degree the Bible can help you. You should also read in Genesis or Luke. If you do not have a Bible, ask the person who shared these lessons with you how you can get one.

Points to Remember

* Don't think about your future too much, but do instead what is good for your future.

* If you are a fortune-teller you must have something by which to foretell, and you must follow it correctly.

* The prophecies in the Bible are one hundred percent correct.

Psalms 119:105 says "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

Questions

1--Please underline the correct statements.

Fortune-tellers can predict our futures sometimes.

Fortune-tellers predict 100% accurately.

The future depends completely on fortune-tellers.

2--Write T before the statements that are true.

_____ The Bible is God's word for humans.

_____ Much of the Bible was written 3500 years ago.

_____ Those who wrote the Bible were prophets.

3--Circle the correct answers.

Have some of the prophecies in the Bible been fulfilled?

Yes No

The prophet Daniel is a prophet of whom?

God Evil spirits

4--Please answer the following:

Do you believe in the Bible?

Do you want to study the Bible?

5--If this statement is true of your choice today, check it:

_____ I want to know more of the good counsel and God's power in His word. I will learn more.