



## FUTURE TELLING • Prophecies, Predictions, and Psychics

The future seems increasingly unsafe and unstable. During such times, future knowledge becomes a valuable commodity. But such knowledge brings with it, its own set of questions and uncertainties: What's true? Who do you listen to? and, Where do you go for guidance?

We'll begin our investigation with Nostradamus – one of the world's most infamous Seers. It would seem that once your parents name you Nostradamus, you're fairly limited in career choices to either being a psychic or an Italian Opera star.

- I. Could Nostradamus see the future? You be the judge. Here are four of his most famous predictions. Write down, and then share, what event you think people have linked them to.

### Prediction #1 (Quatrain 10,74)

*Just past the Great number SEVEN  
He appears near the time of the 100th GAMES, of SLAUGHTER!  
Not far from the age of the great year  
The entranceway out is their TOMB!*

### Prediction #2 (Quatrain 9,24)

*Near the death of the Pillar of a palace,  
An Indian people, take away the 2, a petite royal,  
Way of a saint, a deliverer of the mud, a French Saints order,  
a dwarf nun, deformed, a traveler, worm of the fruit*

### Prediction #3 (Quatrain 2,28)

*Takes the Goddess of the Moon , for his Day & Movement:  
A frantic wanderer and witness of Gods Law,  
In awakening the worlds great regions to Gods will (Ones Will)*

### Prediction #4 (Quatrain 2,28)

*Earthshaking fire from the centre of the earth  
will cause towers in New City tremble.*



These events are a little creepier. From [paranormal.about.com](http://paranormal.about.com)

“Saw and Felt the Fire.”

*I have had many incidents of extreme premonition and paranormal activity surrounding me. I have no control over these things. About a week before WTC, I had a bad feeling of dread that lasted for several days. When no one I knew died, I didn't know what was happening because the feeling has never been wrong. On August 22, I was watching a boxing match at home. In-between rounds, my mind started to drift. Suddenly I seemed to be in the center of an explosion and the flames hit my face. I could feel the heat and the fire went into my mouth. I jumped up yelling. It only lasted a second, but it's the first time I've had a vision like that. I actually felt the fire. It didn't last long enough to get a bearing on where I was or what caused the explosion. It scared the hell out of me. – Dennis L.*

“Awoke in Panic and Fear.”

*I had a premonition on Monday Sept. 10. I awoke with a start from a deep sleep. I had a panic feeling that I was going to die. I couldn't move my right arm no matter how hard I tried with all my strength. It was as though a huge weight was pressing down on me. I couldn't move my body and I had such a state of panic and fear of dying. It was like I was gasping for each breath and there wasn't enough for me to breathe in. This went on for about three hours! It felt like someone heavy was sitting on my whole body. I was so confused the next morning until I turned on the news and saw the tragedy unfolding. I know this had to do with the Sept. 11th attack. I just wish that I knew what it was about and could notify the authorities. – Lisa S.*

“Foresaw Building Collapse.”

*May 5, 2001: I dreamt I was in Seattle on business, and the skyscraper I was in rattled hard. I thought it was an earthquake and called out to people to leave. I ran out and saw that there were splits and schisms in the ground outside, which made the landscape unrecognizable. Then I went back into the building. I was rescuing people at the same time I was trying to find “safer ground,” but nothing seemed safe or clear. The skyscraper began collapsing floor by floor, sinking slowly into the earth like a giant acupuncture needle into flesh, and it was swallowed up almost completely. Then I feared for my life as I sensed the total collapse of the building, floor by floor, and the sinking into the earth. I ran down many flights of stairs and got out just in time.*

*August 29, 2001: About two weeks before Sept. 11th, I had a reoccurrence of this dream, with the skyscraper I was in collapsing once again floor by floor, but set in Toronto.*

“The Wave of Smoke.”

*I am a 39-year-old woman living in the rural area of Riverside, Ca. My mother was visiting me the week before [the attack] happened. Friday night, I had my earthquake dream, which I never shared with anyone because I thought they would think that I am nuts. But this time I told my mother on Saturday morning. On Sunday afternoon there was an earthquake around the Los Angeles area. In my next dream I was being knocked around into a column-like thing and saw people falling. I saw this big wave rolling and coming at me. I just thought it was water. When the tragedy happened in New York and I saw the news clips of people running and the smoke chasing them, that is the exact image of the thing I saw in my dream. The “wave” I saw was smoke, and I got this unexplainable feeling that this was what the dream was about. – Jeanne R.*

2. Do you think these people really saw Sept. 11th before it happened, and that it's possible to foresee a future event, even vaguely?



3. Where would such knowledge come from?
  
4. Have you ever had a sense that something was going to happen, and it did?
  
5. Deja vu is the sense that you've seen the same event before. Deja vu is the sense that you've seen the same event before (sorry). Psychologists think that our perceptions take a detour in the brain and go directly to our memory before being processed. Of course this could be psycho-babble for "we have no freakin" idea. Others think we have, in a dream, experienced this future event. What do you think? Ever had one?
  
6. The ability to see the future suggests the existence of the soul. Brains are bound by space and time, and usually, your skull. It may be that a component of our soul can transcend that barrier in limited ways. Do you think we have a soul? If so, where did it come from?

#### When Interpreting Dreams Beware of Freud, as well as Fraud

Between 1978 and 1985, the New Year's predictions of the *National Enquirer's* favorite psychics yielded two accurate predictions out of 486 (Strentz, 1986). During the early 1990's, tabloid psychics were all wrong in predicting surprising events (Madonna did not become a gospel singer, a UFO base was not found in the Mexican desert, Queen Elizabeth did not abdicate her throne to enter a convent). And they again missed all the significant unexpected events, such as the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Saddam Hussein's assault on Kuwait, and the World Trade Center bombing in the early 1990's.

Analyses of psychic visions offered to police departments reveal that these, too, are no more accurate than guesses made by others (M. Reiser's *Police Psychology: Collected Papers*, 1982). Psychics working with the police do, however, generate dozens or even hundreds of predictions; this increases the odds of an occasional correct guess, which psychics can then report to the media. Moreover, vague predictions can later be interpreted to match events, which provide a perceptual set for interpreting them. Police departments are wise to all this. When Jane Ayers Sweat and Mark Durm (1993) asked the police departments of America's 50 largest cities whether they ever used psychics, 65 percent said they never had. Of those that had, not one had found it helpful. (From Davidmyers.org)

7. Because knowledge of the future is a valuable commodity, there are a lot of frauds out there trying to "cash-in." They often use tricks to make it seem like they have secret knowledge. Any idea how they might do this? Try this one. Tell a person to pick any color and you'll tell them what it is. Subliminal messaging is the key to this trick. In the few (blue) sentences before you ask them to (blue) choose you (blue) have to weave the color (blue) into the sentence four or five times in a way that it can't be detected (blue). Give it try. If you practice it and do it undetected it almost always works.



### The Bible and Prophecy

While it's a relatively new problem for our society, telling true prophets from false ones has been around for a long time. In these passages, the Bible addresses some of the key issues.

Deuteronomy 18:14-22:

*The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so. The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death."*

*You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?" If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.*

Jeremiah 28:9:

*But the prophet who prophesies peace will be recognized as one truly sent by the LORD only if his prediction comes true."*

Daniel 2:1-7:

*In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. So the king summoned the magicians, enchanter, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means."*

*Then the astrologers answered the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it."*

*The king replied to the astrologers, "This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble. But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me."*

*Once more they replied, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will interpret it."*

*Then the king answered, "I am certain that you are trying to gain time, because you realize that this is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me the dream, there is just one penalty for you. You have conspired to tell me misleading and wicked things, hoping the situation will change. So then, tell me the dream, and I will know that you can interpret it for me."*

8. What lessons are being taught?

9. Do these have relevance for today?

10. Do you think most fortune telling leads people toward or away from God?



### Prophecy and Messiahs

Besides the end of the world (Armageddon), the most significant subject of religious prophecy concerns the coming of a Messiah. So we shouldn't leave our topic without a quick look at this issue. The Old Testament makes repeated predictions that God would send someone who would make it possible for us to have a relationship with God.

Here are four:

Micah 5:2-4:

*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."*

Isaiah 7:14:

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*

Isaiah 9:6:

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 53:4-6:

*Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

11. In Luke 24:44 Jesus says, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Do you think Jesus fulfilled the above prophecies? If so, how?

12. If you could see the future, what would you want to know?

We're going to try something radical here: an experiment (FDA approval is still pending). Everyone take a moment, close your eyes, and silently talk to God (prayer) about the things in the foreseeable future that cause you stress. Also, ask God to give you some sense, this week, that He's there.

On your own, try reading the gospel of Matthew. It's full of examples of Jesus fulfilling the prophecy of the Old Testament.

End 

The Compass is the discipleship curriculum for Campus Crusade for Christ's Campus Ministry. It was created by Centerfield Productions, the field based division of CruPress. We'd love to hear your feedback on this lesson. Please write us at [centerfield@uscm.org](mailto:centerfield@uscm.org)