

## **Straight Talk #8 On Nostradamus By Sharon Schnoebelen, © 2009**

Nostradamus (Michael de Nostradame - 1503-1566) was a French physician, counselor and astrologer to Kings Henry II and Charles IX, renowned for predictions both of events of his day and of the distant future. In 1555, and in later years, he published ten centuries (lengthy poems), each containing a hundred quatrains. The prediction of the death of Henry II was fulfilled in Nostradamus' own lifetime. He even predicted the date of his own death, in advance, and the date that his body would be later exhumed.

Nostradamus foresaw the decline of the Roman church as a result of advancements in science and astronomy. He gave the date for that as 1607 (Lippershey invented his telescope in 1608). He prophesied the persecution of astronomers by the church and the seizure of their books. He also foresaw the rise of rationalism. The reign of the common people is another event in which he saw disaster for the Vatican and named correctly the year 1792. This was the year of the French Revolution, which was virulently anticlerical, and all but destroyed Catholicism in France for many years.

But the deciphering of these verses requires *interpretation*. To know the future was dangerous at that time, so Nostradamus veiled his meaning in a motley of languages, including French, Spanish, Latin, Italian, Greek and Hebrew. He also made anagrams and syllable permutations. He succeeded so well in his camouflage that the Church did not put his book on the *Index Censur Liborum* (Index of Forbidden Books) until 1781.

Nostradamus was a Roman Catholic and did not consider himself an enemy of the Church. In fact, he predicted the coming of a purified faith in the faraway future when "the death of the body will no longer be considered a sacrifice" and "the day of death will become another birthday." This may apply to the advent of Spiritualism in the 19th century.

Others of his forecasts appear to apply closely to World War I and II. Their meaning, however, was obscure until after they came to pass. Hundreds of other quatrains still await explanation. Thus, they may be accurate or woefully incorrect.

### **But What Does the Bible Say?**

It is evident from history that Nostradamus did manifest some sort of prophetic gift. However controversial some of his quatrains might be in regard to obscure interpretation, many of his predictions did indeed come to pass. With this in mind, we should be able to judge him as a prophet by Biblical standards. Just because a prophet gives prophecies that come true does not necessarily mean that this prophet is of Holy

Spirit. Actually, accuracy of predictions is only one of several tests given by the Word:

**Test #1)** The prophet must be 100% accurate (see **Deut. 18:20-22**). This means that if even ONE prophecy is wrong, then his entire prophetic "ministry" collapses. This is why the prophetic claims of cult leaders like Joseph Smith (Mormons) or the Governing Body of the Jehovah's Witnesses (Watchtower) can so easily be evaluated and discarded. In the case of Nostradamus, the inscrutability of many of his prophecies makes them difficult to decipher, as was mentioned above. Thus, there are many ways to interpret them. That makes it difficult to be certain about what is said.

It is like the proverbial fortune teller saying to a client, "You will meet a tall dark stranger on a rainy night." That is so vague, it will almost certainly come true if you wait long enough. Similarly, there have been almost 400 years of history into which we can try and fit Nostradamus' enigmatic quatrains since he wrote them. Naturally, some of them seem to fit. Additionally, even some of the things that seem to be fairly clear and accurate do have problems.

For example, Nostradamus is credited for predicting the coming of Hitler and his blitzkrieg over Europe. However, Nostradamus called the man in his prophecy "Hissler." Now many would doubtless say that it is pretty picky to call a guy on a prediction made almost four centuries earlier because he got two letters wrong. However, "almost" doesn't count except in horseshoes and hand grenades. YHWH is PERFECT and His Word is PERFECT (**Ps. 12:6-7**) and if you are going to claim to be true prophet, your prophecies must be 100% right, not just 80%.

A *true* prophet, Isaiah, for example, mentions another conqueror, King Cyrus of Persia, almost 200 years before the king was born; and predicts exactly what Cyrus would do - to the letter (see **Is. 44:28** and elsewhere). This prophecy was written around 712 B.C., and was fulfilled about 176 years later. Isaiah got Cyrus' name exactly right because he was a true prophet. Nostradamus "*missed it by that much*" because he was false.

There are doubtless other places where Nostradamus can be proven to have been mistaken. To God, it doesn't matter how often he was right. It only matters if he was wrong *once*, and he was. Just as it takes only one murder to make a person a murderer, so it only takes one false prophecy to make someone a false prophet.

**Test #2)** The prophet cannot lead people away from the worship of the true Creator (**Deut. 13:1-3**). Nostradamus does not seem to have been an orthodox Christian. Though, technically, he was not precisely an idolater, he was an astrologer and a Catholic. Astrology was forbidden by the Holy Bible (see **Lev. 19:31, 20:6; Deut. 18:14; Isaiah 19:3; Jer. 29:9** and **Ezek. 13:23**). It is doubtful that YHWH would bless a man who was in such sin with incredible powers of prophecy. Additionally, although Catholics are sincere and some of them are doubtless Christians, there is much idolatry in their practices - especially in the time contemporary to Nostradamus. The Vatican denies the key tenet of the gospel: salvation by grace through faith (**Eph. 2:8-9**). Oddly enough, Nostradamus' name itself means "Our Lady" (i.e. Notre Dame).

All of this does not bode well for Nostradamus being a true prophet. There is no record of him ever testifying of Jesus or leading someone to Christ. His astrology especially is way off from God's truth.

**Test #3)** This is like the second. It says that if anything the prophet says does not precisely line up with the Bible, it is because there is "no light in them." (**Is. 8:20**) As has already been discussed, Nostradamus was involved with practices that would disqualify him from this point, to say nothing of the fact that some of his predictions do not line up with Biblical prophecy.

## Then How Could He Be So Accurate?

Since Nostradamus was a not a prophet of God, then *how did his prophecies seem to come to pass in so many cases?* Well, the best hypothesis is that he was used by Satan. While the devil cannot know the future *precisely*, he CAN make his plans. He can then certainly reveal those plans to those who serve him or those who are unknowingly manipulated by him. If the Almighty does not intervene and stop Satan's plans, they will come to pass, and the prophecy will come true. The texts mentioned earlier in the Torah make it clear that YHWH allows false prophets to test His people, even ones that occasionally make what appear to be incredibly accurate predictions.

The devil is a master chess player, and plans things centuries in advance because he is, of course, immortal.

Notice that much of what Nostradamus predicts involves evil things; death, war, people like Hitler, etc. Satan could have had all these plans and people in mind and communicated them to Nostradamus through his minions, the demons or familiar spirits, just as the demonized lady in **Acts 16:16** was able to prophesy truly by the power of the devil.

Nostradamus was a kind of sorcerer or wizard. History makes it clear that he practiced the occult. As such, it is likely that he trafficked in black magic or demonology; although there is no direct evidence for this. Even the fact of his astrology would be a serious enough sin to open the door for Satan to invade his heart and soul. Satan has certainly used Nostradamus and his writings down through the centuries to draw people away from YHWH and true Bible prophecy and into the dark realms of the occult. Remember, Satan will us nine truths to sneak in one lie, and that is just what seems to be happening with Nostradamus.

However, YHWH frequently stops Satan's plans, and this would explain the unevenness and obscurity of many of Nostradamus' prophecies. Only YHWH and His prophets can be 100% accurate. The Bible is JUST THAT ACCURATE. No Bible prophecy has ever failed to come to pass—some of them made 400 years or more before their fulfillment—others still waiting to be fulfilled. Trust in the Bible, and in the Lord Yah'shua (Jesus) and leave Nostradamus where he belongs, in the ash can of historical curiosities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us through:

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