

PROPHECIES OF CHRIST

When we look at the New Testament authors we find that there are two pieces of evidence that Jesus is the Messiah:

1. The eyewitness testimony of the resurrection
2. The evidence of fulfilled predictive prophecies, prefigures, and foreshadows

Why is predictive prophesy important?

1. It helps us conclude that there is a divine intellect (God) behind the Bible
2. It authenticates that Christ is divine

Scriptures on how the Bible speaks of prophecy:
 Deuteronomy 18:21-22
 Isaiah 41:21-24, 41: 8-9, 44:6-8, 45:20-22, 46:9-10, 48:3-7
 Luke 24:27
 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

The following is a list of prophecies, what they are, where in the Old Testament they were given, and where in the New Testament they were fulfilled:

PROPHECY	OLD TESTAMENT	FULFILLED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT
PROPHECIES CONCERNING HIS BIRTH		
Descended from Abraham	Genesis 12:2-3, 22:18	Matthew 1:1
Descended from Isaac	Genesis 21:12	Matthew 1:2
Descended from Jacob	Numbers 24:17	Luke 3:23, 34
From the tribe of Judah	Isaiah 49:10	Luke 3:23, 33
From the line of Jesse	Isaiah 11:1	Luke 3:23, 32
From the House of David	Jeremiah 23:5	Luke 3:23, 31
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18, 22, 23
PROPHECIES CONCERNING HIS NATURE		
Pre-existence	Micah 5:2	Colossians 1:17
A prophet like Moses	Deuteronomy 18:18	Acts 3:23

PROPHECY	OLD TESTAMENT	FULFILLED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT
A priest	Psalms 110:4	Hebrews 5: 5, 6
PROPHECIES CONCERNING HIS MINISTRY		
He would enter Jerusalem on a donkey	Zechariah 9:9	Luke 19:35-37
PROPHECIES CONCERNING EVENTS AFTER HIS BURIAL		
The resurrection	Psalms 16:10	Acts 2:31
He would be seated at the right hand of God	Psalms 110:1	Hebrews 1:3
PROPHECIES CONCERNING EVENTS THAT HAPPENED IN ONE DAY		
Betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	Matthew 10:4
Silent before his accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12
Wounded and bruised	Isaiah 53:5	Matthew 27:26
Struck and spit upon	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67
Hands and feet pierced	Psalms 22:16	Luke 23:33
Crucified with thieves	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38
Garments parted, lots cast	Psalms 22:18	John 19:23-24
Forsaken cry	Psalms 22:16	Matthew 27:46
Buried in a rich man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60

OBJECTIONS TO PREDICTIONS AND PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS

1. The prophecies fulfilled by Jesus were deliberately engineered by Jesus
The Passover Plot by H.J. Schonfield proposes that Jesus was pretending to be the Messiah and connived to “fulfill” prophecies in order to substantiate his claims.

Answers to this objection:

- At no time was Jesus accused of being a liar, even by his contemporary adversaries and enemies. He was called a blasphemer, a glutton, and a drunk—but lying would go against his honest nature.
- There is no way that Jesus could control many of the events necessary to fulfill prophecies: place of birth, time of birth, manner of birth, betrayal, manner of death, people’s reactions (mocking, spitting, staring, etc.), piercing, burial, etc.
- It takes a much bigger miracle to believe in the “Passover Plot” than to accept these prophecies as supernatural and orchestrated by God.

2. Psychics have made predictions like the Bible’s.

Answers to this objection:

- Deuteronomy 18:20-22 teaches that the test of a prophet was whether they ever uttered predictions that did not come to pass. Those who failed were stoned—a good deterrent for false prophets or psychics.
- Biblical prophecies are not known to make a single error.
- A study of prophecies by psychics was made between 1975 and 1981. Of the 72 predictions made only 6 were fulfilled in any way. Two were vague, two were hardly surprising (the US and Russia would remain leading powers and there would be no new world wars).
- The *People’s Almanac* did a study of predictions by the 25 top psychics—92% of their predictions were completely wrong. Accuracy of 8% is easily explained by chance.
- In 1993 psychics missed every major unexpected new story, including Michael Jordan’s retirement, flooding in the Midwest, and the Israel-PLO peace treaty.
- Among false past predictions were the Queen of England becoming a nun and Kathy Lee Gifford replacing Jay Leno as the host of *The Tonight Show*.
- Nostradamus never predicted either the place or year of the great California earthquake, most of his famous predictions were vague and he was frequently wrong. He would have never stood the test of a Biblical standard for a prophet.

3. The prophecies fulfilled in Jesus are a coincidence or an accident.

“You could find other great figures that fulfilled some of these prophecies.”

Answers to this objection:

- There are probably other great figures that fulfilled one or two of these prophecies, but not all 61 major prophecies.
- In fact, for many years the Christian Victory Publishing Company would offer \$1,000 to anyone who could find someone that fulfilled even half of the predictions concerning the Messiah.

USING MATH AND PROBABILITY SCIENCE TO ANSWER OBJECTIONS

Peter Stoner shows in his book *Science Speaks* that coincidence is ruled out by the science of probability.

He takes eight prophecies and determines the chance that any man might have fulfilled all of them:

The odds of this are 1 in 10^{17} —that's a one with seventeen zeroes behind it!

100,000,000,000,000,000

To visualize this number take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. The silver dollars will cover the state of Texas two feet deep. Mark one of those silver dollars with a red X. Now blindly choose one of them. The chances of you finding the silver dollar with the red X on your first try is the same chance that anyone could fulfill even eight of the prophecies.

Now what about using this same math to figure out the odds of someone fulfilling 48 of the prophecies:

The odds of this are 1 in 10^{157} —that's one with 157 zeroes behind it!

To visualize this number take some electrons and line them up single file, side-by-side for one inch—you will have 2.5 times 10^{15} electrons. If we counted the electrons in this one inch line and counted 250 electrons per minute, day and night without a break it would take 19 million years to count all the electrons.

Now let's take a cubic inch of electrons and count them the same way. It would take 19 million years times 19 million years times 19 million years or 6.9 times 10^{21} years to count them all.

Now let's create a solid sphere of electrons with a radius of 6 billion light years. If we created 500 of these spheres every minute it would take us 10^{10} times 6 billion years to use up all of our electrons.

Now mark one of those electrons with a red X and blindly find it. . .the chance of you finding that electron on the first try are the chances of any man fulfilling 48 of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled.