

PROPHECIES FULFILLED BY JESUS

Adapted from: "55 Old Testament Prophecies about Jesus" at:
<https://www.jesusteam.org/blog/old-testament-prophecies/>

What Are The Odds?

Some scholars believe there are more than 300 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. These prophecies are specific enough that the mathematical probability of Jesus fulfilling even a handful of them, let alone all of them, is staggeringly improbable—if not impossible.

Peter Stoner, Chairman of the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena College, was passionate about Biblical prophecies. With 600 students from the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Stoner looked at eight specific prophecies about Jesus. They came up with extremely conservative probabilities for each one being fulfilled, and then considered the likelihood of Jesus fulfilling all eight of those prophecies.

The conclusion to his research was staggering. The prospect that anyone would satisfy those eight prophecies was just 1 in 10^{17} . In *Science Speaks*, he described it like this:

"Let us try to visualize this chance. If you mark one of ten tickets, and place all of the tickets in a hat, and thoroughly stir them, and then ask a blindfolded man to draw one, his chance of getting the right ticket is one in ten. Suppose that we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state.

"Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote using their own wisdom."

In the following pages we will look at a small sample of these fulfilled prophecies.

Prophecies of Jesus' Birth

Not only was Christ's miraculous birth prophetically revealed, but God planned His lineage from the very beginning. Here are eight prophecies predicting elements of Jesus' birth and childhood.

The nations will be blessed through Abraham's lineage

Prophecy	"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:3).
Fulfillment	"And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways" (Acts 3:25-26).

The nations will be blessed through Jacob's offspring

Prophecy	"Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring" (Genesis 28:14).
Fulfillment	"the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor" (Luke 3:34)

A virgin will give birth, and he will be called Immanuel (God with us)

Prophecy	"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).
Fulfillment	"The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).

The Messiah will come out of Egypt

Prophecy	"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my Son" (Hosea 11:1).
Fulfillment	"So he [Joseph] got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my Son'" (Matthew 2:14-15).

The Christ will be born in Bethlehem

Prophecy	"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." (Micah 5:2).
Fulfillment	"When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" (Matthew 2:4-6).

Prophecies of Jesus' Ministry

Christ's ministry will destroy the devil's work

Prophecy	"And I will put enmity you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel" (Genesis 3:15).
Fulfillment	"The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work" (1 John 3:8).

Jesus will have a sinless, blemish-free life and ministry

Prophecy	Sacrifices in the Old Testament: "The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats" (Exodus 12:5).
Fulfillment	Jesus the Perfect Sacrifice for our Sin: "How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" (Hebrews 9:14)

Christ's ministry would begin in Galilee

Prophecy	"Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future <u>He will honor Galilee</u> of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned" (Isaiah 9:1–2).
Fulfillment	"When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, <u>He withdrew to Galilee</u> . Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah. (Matthew 4:12).

Jesus would have a Miraculous Ministry

Prophecy	"Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert" (Isaiah 35:5–6).
Fulfillment	"When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, He sent His disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?' "Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me'" (Matthew 11:2–6).

Prophecies of Jesus' Rejection, Triumph & Arrest

Jesus would be despised and rejected

Prophecy	"He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem" (Isaiah 53:3).
Fulfillment	"All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove Him out of the town, and took Him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff" (Luke 4:28-29).

Jerusalem will rejoice as the Messiah comes to her upon a donkey

Prophecy	"Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9).
Fulfillment	"A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Hosanna in the highest heaven!' "When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?'" (Matthew 21:8-10)

He will be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver

Prophecy	"I told them, 'If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.' So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. "And the Lord said to me, 'Throw it to the potter'—the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord" (Zechariah 11:12-13).
Fulfillment	"The chief priests picked up the coins and said, 'It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.' So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: 'They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me'" (Matthew 27:6-10).

Prophecies about Jesus' Death and Resurrection

They would pierce Christ's hands and feet

Prophecy	"Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; <u>they pierce my hands and my feet</u> " (Psalm 22:16).
Fulfillment	"These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: 'Not one of his bones will be broken,' and, as another scripture says, ' <u>They will look on the one they have pierced</u> '" (John 19:36-37).

Jesus will be lifted up, and everyone who looks on Him will live

Prophecy	"So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived" (Numbers 21:9).
Fulfillment	"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him. "For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (John 3:14-18).

They would cast lots for Jesus' clothing

Prophecy	"They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment" (Psalm 22:18).
Fulfillment	"When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. 'Let's not tear it,' they said to one another. 'Let's decide by lot who will get it.' "This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, 'They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.' "So this is what the soldiers did" (John 19:23-24).

Like the Passover Lamb, none of the Christ's bones will be broken

Prophecy	The Preparation of a Passover Lamb: "It must be eaten inside the house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones" (Exodus 12:46).
Fulfillment	"Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, <u>they did not break his legs.</u> Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: 'Not one of his bones will be broken'" (John 19:31-36)

The Messiah's blood will be spilled for atonement

Prophecy	"For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life" (Leviticus 17:11)
Fulfillment	"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28).

The Messiah's Resurrection Predicted

Prophecy	"I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done. The Lord has chastened me severely, but He has not given me over to death" (Psalm 118:17-18).
Fulfillment	"In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: "The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again"'" (Luke 24:5-7).

The Messiah Will Conquer Death

Prophecy	"On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; He will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken" (Isaiah 25:7-8).
Fulfillment	"When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory'" (1 Corinthians 15:54).

There is much more to consider about the Uniqueness of Jesus.

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