

Biblical Prophecy

Purpose: so we may believe Jesus is the Christ (See John 13:19)

1. **Unique among religions:** God is _____. He declares the end from the beginning. Isaiah 46:9-10
Man-made Idols cannot compare. Isaiah 48:5, Isaiah 41:21-23
 Prophetic evidence may be more compelling than miracles. Luke 16:31
2. **Jesus' Coming was foretold by a succession of men over thousands of years, including Moses and all the Prophets (Luke 24:27)** They were inspired by the _____ (2Peter 1:21). See also Luke 24:44-47.
3. **Improbable by chance!** Of the approximately 456 prophecies concerning Jesus, the estimated probability of someone fulfilling just 48 of these prophecies was estimated to be approximately 1 in 10^{157} , according to Professor Peter Stoner.
4. **Prophecies about Jesus are detailed, specific, and accurate** in contrast to mystics and psychics who make broad, vague prophecies or have a low accuracy rate. Inaccurate prophecy was grounds for death! (Deuteronomy 18:20)
5. **Timing of Jesus' First Coming:** Daniel 9:24-27 and Genesis 49:10
 - a. Sixty-two sevens & seven sevens from the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem
 - i. Start from the decree by King Artaxerxes (**Nehemiah 2:1**) in 444 BC
 - ii. Add $(62+7)*7=483$ years= $483*360$ days, based on the Jewish year of 360 days.
 - iii. This takes us to **A.D. 33** (Limbaugh, 194).
 - b. Before the temple's destruction
 - c. Before the sceptre departs from Judah
6. **Evidence the prophecies were given before their fulfillment:**
 - a. **Septuagint:** This Greek translation of Hebrew Old Testament was done by ~247 BC.
 - b. **Dead Sea Scrolls:** A manuscript of **Isaiah** was carbon-dated to approximately ~125 BC. Little change was found compared to a Hebrew Masoretic text in AD 916, about 1000 years later.
 - c. **Josephus' Antiquities of the Jews** indicates that portions of **Daniel** were shown to Alexander the Great when he came to Jerusalem, which took place around 330 BC. This suggests Daniel was written prior to 330 BC.
7. **Evidence the fulfillment was not made up**
 - a. Early, eyewitness accounts by Christians who died for the truth
 - b. Ancient non-Christian manuscripts: Tacitus (Roman historian), Josephus (Jewish), etc.
 - c. Manuscript preservation, early manuscript copies, and early church citations
8. **How do Jews react to the prophecies?** The suffering servant in Isaiah 53 was traditionally believed to be the Messiah, but later reinterpreted it to be the nation of Israel. However, Israel was not free of violence/injustice (v.9), did not die to bear the sins of others (v.6,11-12), and is usually referred to with feminine pronoun, unlike masculine pronoun here

Prophecy Examples:

Jesus' Birth: Born in Bethlehem (**Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1**), of a Virgin (**Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23**), of a specific lineage: Abraham (**Genesis 22:18**), Isaac (**Genesis 21:12**), Jacob (**Numbers 24:17, Genesis 35:10-12**), Judah (**Genesis 49:10, Micah 5:2**), Jesse (**Isaiah 11:1**), and David (**Jeremiah 23:5**)

Jesus' Life: Entered Jerusalem on a donkey (**Zechariah 9:9, Mark 11:7-9**), Lived a sinless life (**Isaiah 53:9, 1Peter 2:22**), Preached good news to the poor (**Isaiah 61:1, Matthew 11:5**), Performed miracles (**Isaiah 35:5-6, Matthew 11:5, Matthew 9:35, Luke 4:16-21**).

Jesus' Suffering, Death, & Resurrection: Rejected (**Isaiah 53:3, John 1:11**), Betrayed (**Psalms 41:9, Mark 14:10**) for 30 pieces of silver (**Zechariah 11:12-13, Matthew 27:9-10**), Pierced for our transgressions (**Zechariah 12:10, Isaiah 53:4-12, Psalm 22:1-18, John 20:27**), Buried with the rich (**Isaiah 53:9, Matthew 27:57-60**), Resurrected (**Psalms 16:10, Mark 16:6**)

Jewish History: 1. Scattering for disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:25,64-66; Hosea 9:17; Zechariah 7:14). Some claim this is the Jewish Diaspora. 2. Nation of Israel created in one day (**Amos 9:14-15, Isaiah 66:7-8**). Some claim this was fulfilled in 1948 (Limbaugh, 183). 3. The re-gathering of Israel out of all countries after Jesus's first coming (**Isaiah 11:10-12**). Some claim this has not been completely fulfilled yet.

Jews and Gentiles, Old vs New Covenant: 1. Jesus a light to the Gentiles also (**Isaiah 49:6-7**), 2. All peoples, nations, and languages should serve him (**Daniel 7:13-14**), 3. Inclusion of Gentiles into God's People (**Hosea 1:9, 2:23**), 4. Blessing all the families of the earth (**Genesis 12:1-3**), 5. Israel provoked to jealousy (**Deuteronomy 32:21**), 6. The coming of a new covenant (**Jeremiah 31:31-33**)

Gentiles History: 1. The succession of world's empires in **Daniel 2:31-35**: Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Iron, representing Babylonian, Medo-Persia, Greek, and Roman empires. 2. The name of Cyrus predicted in **Isaiah 44:28** before his birth