

Prophecy And The Inspiration Of The Bible

What Qualifies As True Prophecy?

- “But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’ And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?’-- when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.”

—Deuteronomy 18:15-22

What Qualifies As True Prophecy?

- “The event must be beyond the power of man to foresee; it must not be a vision of hope or a result of fear; it must not be a scientific or political forecast. The prediction must be written before the event occurs and must be applicable to it. The language of the prophecy must be clear and the fulfillment plain.”

—Why We Believe The Bible, George Dehoff, p.70

A Look At 8 Prophecies

- #1 — Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans (Or *rulers*) of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins (Hebrew *going out*) are from old, from ancient times (Or *from the days of eternity*).
 - The odds that any one person in the world has been born in Bethlehem. 1:200,000
- #2 — Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
 - The odds that any one person has ridden into Jerusalem, riding a foal of a donkey, claiming to be king of the Jews. 1:100 to be reasonable.
- #3 — Zechariah 11:12 "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."
 - The odds that any one person has been paid thirty pieces of silver to turn someone in to the authorities. 1:1000

A Look At 8 Prophecies

- #4 — Zechariah 11:13 “And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter” —that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.”
 - In the New Testament we read of Judas in Matthew 27:1-7. "When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor. Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money." So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers.”
- How often has this happened? Lets just say 1:100,000 as a conservative number.

A Look At 8 Prophecies

- #5 — Zechariah 13:6 "And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends." (KJV)
- How many have been wounded in their hands? 1:1000 (the comment here can be attributed not to the actual crucifixion but to the comment from Thomas [one of the 12 disciples] after the crucifixion and the apparent resurrection. In John 20:24-29 we read:
 - "Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

A Look At 8 Prophecies

- #6 — Isaiah 53:7 "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth."
 - How many have been charged and been innocent and not defended himself? What are the chances? 1:1000
- #7 — Isaiah 53:9 "And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth."
 - Jesus was crucified between two thieves, but was buried in the tomb of one of the richest men. What are the chances? 1:1000
- #8 — Psalm 22:16 "Dogs (The word in Hebrew means Gentiles) have surrounded me; a band of evil men have encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet."
 - How many have died from crucifixion (note the Romans did not invent crucifixion until 90 B.C. and yet we can read from the Septuagint three centuries before Christ that author prophesied that the messiah would be crucified)? What are the chances? 1:10,000

A Look At 8 Prophecies

- #1 — Micah 5:2 =1:200,000
- #2 — Zechariah 9:9 =1:100
- #3 — Zechariah 11:12 =1:1,000
- #4 — Zechariah 11:13 =1:100,000
- #5 — Zechariah 13:6 =1:1000
- #6 — Isaiah 53:7 =1:1,000
- #7 — Isaiah 53:9 =1:1,000
- #8 — Psalm 22:16 =1:10,000
- Total composite probability: $1:10^{28}$
- Total population that ever lived less than 100 billion: 10^{11}
- The odds that a single person could accidentally have these things happen is: $10^{28} - 10^{11} = 10^{17}$

Prophecies Surrounding The Life Of The Messiah

- Dr. Peter Stoner, in an analysis that was carefully reviewed and pronounced to be sound by the American Scientific Affiliation, states that the probability of just eight prophecies being fulfilled in just one person is 1 in 10 to the 17th power.
 - That's 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000!
- “Cover the State of Texas with Silver Dollars, 2 ft. deep. Mark one Silver Dollar and place it in the pile. Take a second person blindfold them and give them one chance to pick the correct Silver Dollar.”
—Josh McDowell

What Are The Chances?

- **Eight More Prophecies:**
 - The Virgin Birth – Isaiah 7:14
 - The Resurrection – Psalm 16:10
 - His Government – Isaiah 9:6
 - His Kingdom – Daniel 2:44
 - His Davidic Lineage – Acts 13:22,23
 - The Rule Of His Scepter – Genesis 49:10; Hebrews 1:8
 - Soldiers Gambled For His Clothing – Psalm 22:18; John 19:23,24
 - He Was Scourged And Spat Upon Before Crucifixion – Isaiah 50:6

What Are The Chances?

- **16 Prophecies:**

- Now lets look at someone randomly fulfilling not 8, but 16 of the over 300 prophecies.
- If 8 is 10^{17} , 16 would actually be 10^{45}
- That is 1 in
1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,
000,000,000,000,000
- Concept Model: Create a ball of Silver Dollars: the diameter which equals 15 times the distance of the Earth to the Sun. Mark one Silver Dollar and place it in the pile. Take a second person blindfold them and give them one chance to pick the correct Silver Dollar.

What Are The Chances?

- **48 Prophecies:**

- Now lets look at someone randomly fulfilling not 16, but 48 of the over 300 prophecies.
- 1 in 10^{157} or 1 with 157 zeros behind it.

- Chuck Missler, Mathematician, in his book, *The Search For Messiah* said,

- “Mathematicians tell us that if an event has a probability which is less likely then one chance in 10^{50} , then that event is mathematically impossible. Such an event, if it were to occur, would be considered a miracle.”

- It is easier to prove the existence and claims of Jesus Christ then it is to prove that you or I exist.

— From <http://www.direct.ca/trinity/part2.html>

Closing Thoughts

- “(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.” —Romans 4:17 KJV