

QUESTIONS ABOUT JESUS

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# DID JESUS ACTUALLY FULFIL PROPHECIES?

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## QUESTION

# DID JESUS ACTUALLY FULFIL PROPHECIES?

The Old Testament contains scores of prophecies about the coming of the 'Messiah'. Not only are there a large number of prophecies, many are extremely specific and all were undoubtedly written hundreds of years before the time of Jesus.



ONE PASSAGE ALONE IN ISAIAH 53:2-12  
FORETELLS TWELVE ASPECTS OF CHRIST'S PASSION,  
ALL OF WHICH WERE FULFILLED IN JESUS.

**SUFFER LIKE A LAMB  
WOUNDED FOR OUR SINS**

CARRY OUR SORROW

SMITTEN AND  
AFFLICTED BY GOD

**ISAIAH 53:2-12**

**SINLESS**

**REJECTED**

PRAY FOR OTHERS

DIE WITH

**LIFE OF SUFFERING**

**THE WICKED**

*DESPISED BY OTHERS*

*MAN OF SORROW*

**PIERCED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS**

**HERE ARE SOME OTHER MAJOR PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE  
MESSIAH, ALL OF WHICH WERE FULFILLED IN JESUS**



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**BORN OF A VIRGIN (Isaiah 7:14)**

**SEED OF ABRAHAM (Genesis 12:1-3)**

**TRIBE OF JUDAH (Genesis 49:10)**

**HOUSE OF DAVID (2 Sam. 7:12-16)**

**BORN IN BETHLEHEM (Micah 5:2)**

**HERALDED BY THE LORD'S MESSENGER (Isaiah 40:3)**

**CLEANSE THE TEMPLE (Malachi 3:1)**

**REJECTED (Psalm 118:22)**

**HANDS AND FEET PIERCED (Psalm 22:16)**

**PIERCED IN HIS SIDE (Zechariah 12:10)**

**RISE FROM THE DEAD (Psalm 16:10)**

**ASCEND INTO HEAVEN (Psalm 68:18)**

Christians point to the myriad of Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Jesus as good reason for believing that Jesus is the Christ - the son of God and the saviour of the World.

The exact fulfilment of so many specific predictions is so persuasive that many skeptics and critics of Christianity have repeatedly raised objections to try to negate them. We're going to look at 4 common objections to the claim that Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies.



# 1

## JESUS FULFILLED THE PROPHECIES BY ACCIDENT

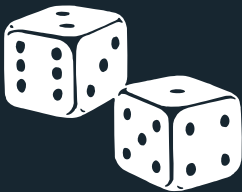
Some critics contend that Jesus just happened to be in the right place at the right time. Interestingly, mathematicians have crunched the numbers to figure out that possibility.



**LEE STROBEL**

Christian apologist

Christian apologist, Lee Strobel reports that professor Peter Stoner, who was the chairman of Westmont College's science division in the mid 1950s, worked with six hundred students to come up with their best estimate of the mathematical probability of just eight prophecies being fulfilled by any one person living down to the present time.



The odds came out at one chance in a hundred million billion. It is not reasonable to hold that Jesus fulfilled hundreds of prophecies by accident.

## 2

## **JESUS INTENTIONALLY FULFILLED THE PROPHECIES**

Although Jesus could have manoeuvred His life to fulfil certain prophecies, many were completely outside of His control. Such as, being born of a virgin, His ancestry, His place of birth, His betrayal for thirty pieces of silver, the method of His execution, His legs remaining unbroken on the cross, soldiers gambling for His clothes, and His resurrection.



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## THE PROPHECIES WERE WRITTEN AFTER THE TIME OF JESUS



**NORMAN GEISLER**

Christian apologist

The average skeptic of Christianity may contend that the prophecies were written centuries after the time of Jesus. However, in terms of professional scholars, Christian apologist Norman Geisler notes that, "*...even the most liberal critics admit that the prophetic books were completed some 400 years before Christ, and the book of Daniel by about 167 BC.*"





Furthermore, there's good evidence for dating most of the books considerably earlier than that, with some of the psalms and earlier prophets dating from the eighth and ninth centuries before Jesus.

## 4

## **CHRISTIANS MISREPRESENT THE PROPHECIES**

Some skeptics contend that Christians misinterpret Old Testament passages to make them point to Jesus as the Christ. The New Testament sometimes does apply parts of the Old Testament to Jesus as the Christ which were not written directly about Him. But this misses the point - hundreds of Old Testament prophecies point unmistakably to Jesus as the Christ. For a skeptic to use this argument, they must show that not a single Old Testament prophecy was predictive of Christ and fulfilled in Jesus.



Jesus's miraculous fulfilment of the myriad of Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah remains one of the most potent arguments in confirming His identity. Those who carefully scrutinise the record find that these predictions and their fulfilment in Jesus cannot be explained away or dismissed.



# **QUESTIONS:**



**WHY IS IT IMPOSSIBLE THAT JESUS FULFILLED ALL THE PROPHECIES BY ACCIDENT?**

**WHY IS IT UNREASONABLE TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS INTENTIONALLY FULFILLED THE PROPHECIES?**

**LIST 10 OF THE MAJOR PROPHECIES ABOUT THE MESSIAH  
ALL FULFILLED IN JESUS.**

**1.**

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**2.**

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**3.**

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**4.**

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**5.**

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**6.**

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**7.**

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**8.**

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**9.**

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**10.**

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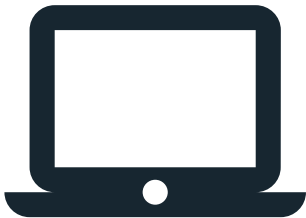




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