

Prophecy About Jesus Christ

Grace Fellowship Church

Probability of Jesus Christ Fulfilling Prophecy



The focus of this topic is to look at the probability of Christ fulfilling the prophecies in the Old Testament.

So, what is probability? Probability, also known as "odds," is a branch of mathematics that measures the likelihood that a given event will occur. To begin, let's look at some interesting "odds":

Being struck by lightning in a year = 7×10^5 or 1 in 700,000

Being killed by lightning in a year = 2×10^6 or 1 in 2,000,000

Becoming president = 1×10^7 or 1 in 10,000,000

A meteorite landing on your house = 1.8×10^{14} or 1 in 180,000,000,000,000

You will eventually die = 1 in 1

As you can see, the probability of being struck or killed by lightning, becoming president, or having a meteorite land on your house, progressively increases, given the event; however, someone somewhere will be that 1 in 10x, and that someone could be you.

Now, let's look at one of the most amazing probability studies to be conducted. Dr. Peter Stoner, author of Science Speaks, who applied the principle of probability, which states that if the chance of one thing happening is "1 in M", and the chance of another independent

thing happening is "1 in N," then the chance that they shall both happen is "1 in M x N," as it pertains to fulfillment of Biblical prophecies.

The Bible is full of prophecies, either events that have happened or events that will happen in the future. In Science Speaks, Dr. Stoner looks at the probability that one man, Jesus Christ, could have fulfilled even 8 of the 300 prophecies that pertain to Him in the Bible. Let's look at these eight prophecies from the Old Testament pertaining to Christ, their fulfillment by Christ in the New Testament, the probability of one man fulfilling each prophecy, and the sum of one man fulfilling all eight prophecies. Keep in mind, the time span between the prophecies of the Old Testament and the New Testament fulfillment is hundreds, even thousands of years.

Old Testament Prophecy
Fulfillment

New Testament

Probability

Christ to be born in Bethlehem (**Micah 5:2**), And Herod asked where Christ had been born ... they answered Bethlehem (**Matt 2:4-6**) – **2.8×10^5 or 1 in 280,000**

Forerunner of Christ (**Malachi 3:1**), John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ (**Mark 1:2-8**) – **1×10^3 or 1 in 1,000**

Christ to enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey (**Zech 9:9**), Christ enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey (**Matt 21:4-11**) – **1×10^2 or 1 in 100**

Christ to be betrayed by a friend (**Psalms 41:9**), Judas betrayed Jesus (**Luke 22:21**) – **1×10^3 or 1 in 1,000**

Christ to be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (**Zech 11:12**), Judas sold out Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (**Matt 26:15**) – **1×10^3 or 1 in 1,000**

30 pieces of silver casted down and used to buy a potter's field (**Zech 11:13**), 30 pieces of silver used to buy a potter's field (**Matt 27:3-10**) – **1×10^5 or 1 in 100,000**

Although innocent, Christ kept silent when on trial (**Isaiah 53:7**), Jesus kept silent when questioned (**Mark 14:60-61**) – **1×10^3 or 1 in 1,000**

Christ crucified (**Psalms 22:16**), Jesus was crucified (**John 19:17, 18**) – **1×10^4 or 1 in 10,000**

To answer the question: What is the probability of one man fulfilling all eight prophecies, the principal of probability is applied.

Therefore, multiplying all eight probabilities together
(1 times $2.8 \times 10^5 \times 10^3 \times 10^2 \times 10^3 \times 10^3 \times 10^5 \times 10^3 \times 10^4$)
gives us 2.8×10^{28} , or for simplicity sake **1×10^{28} or 1 in 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.**

Given this and the time span between the writings of the Old Testament and the fulfillment by Christ in the New Testament, the prophecies were either given to the prophets by God, or the prophets just wrote them down as they thought they should be.

With Christ fulfilling all eight prophecies, what are the odds the prophets were just guessing?

Jesus fulfilling just **8** of **300** prophecies is **10^{28th} power.**

That is: **1 in $10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000$**

Fulfilling **48** is **10^{157th} power.**

Make a ball of ping pong balls with this and it has the circumference from the earth to the sun 40 times. Mark one yellow and randomly pick one. That is the probability of one person fulfilling **48 prophecies**, yet **Christ fulfilled over 300 prophecies.**

Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus

The chart below contains a list of Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth who is called the Christ and the Son of God. These fulfilled prophecies demonstrate that the human authors of Scripture who wrote the Bible were inspired by God the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21). It also of course demonstrates that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

There is no way, short of being supernatural, that Jesus could have manipulated the events and people in His life to respond in exactly the way necessary for it to appear that He was fulfilling all these prophecies, including John's heralding Him.

There were many prophecies concerning the Messiah that were simply beyond the human control of Jesus: (1) Place of birth (**Mic. 5:2**). (2) Time of birth (**Dan. 9:25; Gen. 49:10**). (3) Manner of birth (**Isa. 7:14**). (4) Betrayal (5) Manner of death (**Psa. 22:16**). (6) People's reactions (mocking, spitting) (7) Piercing (8) Burial.

The following probabilities are taken from Peter Stoner's book entitled, "Science Speaks," which shows that coincidence is ruled out by the science of probability. Stoner says that by using the modern science of probability in reference to just 8 prophecies, Stoner states the following: "We find the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all 8 prophecies is 1 in 10^{17} ...that would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000...17 zeros.

In order to help us comprehend this staggering probability, Stoner illustrates it by supposing that we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state 2 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 of writing just 8 prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them according to their own wisdom.

Now these prophecies were either given by inspiration of God or the prophets just wrote them as they thought they should be. In such a case, the prophets had just one chance in 10 to the 17th power of having them come true in any man, but they all came true in Christ. This means that the fulfillment of these 8 prophecies alone proves that God inspired the writing of those prophecies to a definiteness which lacks only one chance in 10 to the 17th power of being absolute.

In addition to these eight, I give you many more...as Jesus said to Thomas...

John 20:27-31, "Then He said to Thomas, 'Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.' Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.'"

John writes...

John 20:30-31, "Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

Old Testament Messianic Prophecies Literally Fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth

Prophecies Concerning His Birth	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Born of the Seed of Woman	Gen. 3:15	Gal. 4:4
Born of a Virgin	Isa. 7:14	Matthew 1:18, 24, 25
Son of God	Psalms 2:7	Matthew 3:17
Seed of Abraham	Gen. 22:18	Matthew 1:1
Son of Isaac	Gen. 21:12	Luke 3:23, 34
Son of Jacob	Nm. 24:17	Luke 3:23, 34
Tribe of Judah	Gen. 49:10	Luke 3:23, 33
Family Line of Jesse	Isa. 11:1	Luke 3:23, 32
House of David	Jeremiah 23:5	Luke 3:23, 31
Born at Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
Presented with Gifts	Psalms 72:10	Matthew 2:1, 11
Herod Kills Children	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16
Prophecies Concerning His Nature	Prophecy	Fulfillment
His Pre-Existence	Micah 5:2	Col. 1:17; John 17:5
He Shall Be Called Lord	Psalms 110:1	Matthew 22:43-45
Shall Be Immanuel	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
Shall Be a Prophet	Deuteronomy 18:18	Matthew 21:11
Priest	Psalms 110:4	Hebrews 3:1
Judge	Isaiah 33:22	John 5:30
King	Psalms 2:6	Matthew 27:37
Special Anointing of Holy Spirit	Isaiah 11:2	Matthew 3:16-17

His Zeal for God	Psalms 69:9	John 2:15-16
Prophecies Concerning His Ministry	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Preceded by a Messenger	Isaiah 40:3	Matthew 3:1-2
Ministry Began in Galilee	Isaiah 9:1	Matthew 4:12, 13, 17
Ministry of Miracles	Isaiah 35:5-6	Matthew 9:35
Teacher of Parables	Psalms 78:2	Matthew 13:34
He Was to Enter the Temple	Mal. 3:1	Matthew 21:12
He Was to Enter Jerusalem on a Donkey	Zechariah 9:9	Luke 19:35-37
Stone of Stumbling to Jews	Psalms 118:22	1 Peter 2:7
Light to Gentiles	Isaiah 60:3	Acts 13:47-48
Prophecies Concerning Events After His Burial	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Resurrection	Psalms 16:10	Acts 2:31
Ascension	Psalms 68:18	Acts 1:9
Session	Psalms 110:1	Hebrews 1:3
Prophecies Fulfilled in One Day	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Betrayed by a Friend	Psalms 41:9	Matthew 10:4
Sold For 30 Pieces of Silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15
Money to Be Thrown into God's House	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:5
Price Given for Potter's Field	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:7
Forsaken by His Disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Mark 14:50
Accused by False Witnesses	Psalms 35:11	Matthew 26:59-60
Silent Before Accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12
Wounded and Bruised	Isaiah 53:5	Matthew 27:26
Smitten and Spit Upon	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67
Mocked	Psalms 22:7-8	Matthew 27:29
Fell Under the Cross	Psalms 109:24-25	John 19:17
Hands and Feet Pierced	Psalms 22:16	Luke 23:33
Crucified with Thieves	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38
Made Intercession for His Persecutors	Isaiah 53:12	Luke 23:34
Rejected by His Own Countrymen	Isaiah 53:3	John 7:5, 48
Hated Without a Cause	Psalms 69:4	John 15:25

Friends Stood Afar Off	Psalm 38:11	Luke 23:49
People Shook Their Heads	Psalm 109:25	Matthew 27:39
Stared Upon	Psalm 22:17	Luke 23:35
Garments Parted and Lots Cast	Psalm 22:18	John 19:23-24
To Suffer Thirst	Psalm 69:21	John 19:28
Gall and Vinegar Offered to Him	Psalm 69:21	Matthew 27:34
His Forsaken Cry	Psalm 22:1	Matthew 27:46
Committed Himself to God	Psalm 31:5	Luke 23:46
Bones Not Broken	Psalm 34:20	John 19:33
Heartbroken	Psalm 22:14	John 19:34
His Side Pierced	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34
Darkness Over the Land	Amos 8:9	Matthew 27:45
Buried in a Rich Man's Tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60