

The Path - Christian Apologetics

Day 17: Fulfilled Bible Prophecies

Today we will more fully explore the Christian evidence of fulfilled Bible prophecies. It would be time prohibitive to cover the multitude of prophecies made both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. We will have to limit our study to predictions about the coming Messiah, recorded in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament.

God predicted that He would use prophecy to establish the veracity of His Word. In Isaiah 48:3-5 the Lord said:

“I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I shewed them; I did them suddenly, and they came to pass. Because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck sinew, and thy brow brass; I have even from the beginning declared it to thee; _____
I showed it thee: lest thou shouldst say, ‘Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them.’”

God is explaining here that the recorded prophecies made before their fulfillment were to let His people know that He planned and orchestrated these predicted events.

Jesus Christ appealed to messianic prophecy to prove His identity. To the two men who walked with Him on the road to Emmaus he explained in Luke 24:27:

“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the _____ the things concerning himself.”

In John 5:46 Jesus explained: “for if ye had believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he _____ me.”

Jesus explained to them that the events that these men were worried about prior, during, and after the crucifixion were predicted by the Old Testament prophets.

The apostles also appealed to Messianic prophecy to prove Jesus' identity. In 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, the Apostle Paul writes:

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received how that Christ died for our sins according to the _____ ; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the _____ .”

The apostle Paul was reminding the Corinthians of the Old Testament scriptures which predicted three things:

1. The death of Jesus Christ
2. The burial of Jesus Christ
3. The resurrection of Jesus Christ

One Old Testament prophet that predicted that the Messiah would die for our sins was Isaiah. Isaiah 53:5-8 reads:

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: for the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he openeth not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgement: and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the _____ of the _____ : for the transgression of my people was he stricken.”

This whole chapter in Isaiah is about a suffering savior that would come to bear the sins of God's people.

King David likewise predicted the death and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. You will recognize the opening words of Psalm 22:

“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

These are the words of Jesus upon the cross. This entire chapter describes his crucifixion and the reason for it. Verses 16-18 describe the crucifixion directly:


“For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they _____ my _____ and my _____. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and _____ upon my vesture.”

In Psalm 22 we have these prophecies made about the coming Messiah:

1. His exact words upon the cross
2. The words of His mockers predicted (verse 7,8)
3. His hands and feet pierced in death
4. The “staring” of the multitude at his crucifixion
5. His garments parted and lots cast for them

God wanted truth seekers to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus was and is the Messiah who has come to earth to save us

Peter Stoner (Chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena City College until 1953; Chairman of the Science Division, Westmont College, 1953-1957) examined just eight Messianic prophecies to determine the mathematical probability that all of these prophecies would be fulfilled in one man from the time that they were written down to the present time. He found: “The chance that any man might have lived, down to the present time, and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th power.” In order to help us comprehend this staggering improbability, Stoner illustrates it by explaining that if you had 10 to the 17th power silver dollars one could cover the entire state of Texas two feet deep. If we marked one of the silver dollars and stirred the whole mass thoroughly and blind folded a man and told him he could travel as far as he desired, but he must pick up the marked silver dollar on the first try. What chance would he have of finding that marked silver dollar on the first try? The same change that the prophets would have had of writing just these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man from the time they were written down to the present time.



There are not eight messianic prophecies: there are over 60 with over 230 different variables embedded in those prophecies. Messianic prophecy, and Bible prophecy in general, is a powerful argument for the inspiration and the veracity of the Holy Bible.

Discussion:

- 1. How did God use prophecy to establish the veracity of His teaching in the Bible?**
- 2. How does Bible prophecy assist us in identifying Jesus as the Messiah?**
- 3. What events did the Bible predict regarding Jesus' death?**
- 4. What chance did mathematician Peter Stoner find that Jesus would fulfill eight specific prophecies "from the time they were written down to the present time?"**