

Why The Word?? - Scientific Evidence for our Supernatural Bible, Part 2

This series was called "Why The Word??" and was taught at North Christian Church in August of 2022; visit www.nccdighton.org

My prayer is that you use the points from this series to reach out to others with the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In fact, why not memorize your favorite 2 or 3 points from Part 1 of this series??

- maybe it's the verse in Job about the sea being frozen over, hard as stone, even though no one had ever been to the North Pole to see it
- or maybe it's the verse in Genesis where it says God made man from the dust of the ground, and the 16 main elements that we've been proven now to be made of.
- or maybe that the Bible said the earth was round thousands of years before science ever discovered it, as ancient science thought it was flat and on the back of turtles :)

How might these things open up some minds to consider the Bible is the Word of God?

We are called to be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in us:

1 Pe 3:14-16a

*But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;** 16 yet do it with gentleness and respect,*

What if you knew, down pat, the scientific point and scripture as proof of God's inspiration of the Bible, proving that it's "Holy", and not just another book??

We are called to do our job as faithful messengers of God's Word, and part of that is sharing the gracious proofs God has provided for us.

Remember this verse??

Ac 17:2-3** And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths **reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."

In Part 2, we will specifically be doing just that, regarding the evidence of Jesus being the Christ; the promised One mentioned by the prophets of old.

Just a couple points of review, as we're talking about scientific evidence that reveals the Bible must be the Word of God:

The Objective Truth About Science

The thing people often overlook is that science simply complements the things written in the Bible, and even

validates it as coming from an all-knowing, all-powerful Creator God.

We also noted in Part 1, that **life itself** on earth should not even exist according to **the laws of mathematical probability**,...

... and we examined the **scientific principles stated in the Bible**, *LONG BEFORE man/science ever discovered them...* and there are many.

This gave us evidence of a divine Author for the Bible who **must have inspired** certain men on what to write, which is why we can call it "Holy Scripture".

In Part 2, we will focus more on **the laws of mathematical probability**... *what are the odds of the prophecies and predictions in the Bible all coming true, hundreds and even thousands of years after they were written?*

In the Old Testament, the prophets recorded that God would one day save His people from their sins.

And one day, centuries afterwards, He fulfilled His promise by becoming a man, the Messiah, God in the flesh, also called Emmanuel which means "God with us". (**Isa 7:14, 9:6**)

There are many prophecies that predicted what the God-man would be like, where He would be born, and what He would go through in his life.

Only a perfect, omni-scient God could make all of these prophecies without error.

Let's warm up with the fact that God told us that He was going to tell us the future!

Is 46:8-11

"Remember this, and be assured;

Recall it to mind, you transgressors.

9 "Remember the former things long past,

For I am God, and there is no other;

I am God, and there is no one like Me,

10 Declaring the end from the beginning

And from ancient times things which have not been done,

Saying, 'My purpose will be established,

And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

11 Calling a bird of prey from the east,

The man of My purpose from a far country.

Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass.

I have planned it, surely I will do it.

A great deal of the Bible talks about future predictions.

The Bible is the only religious book in the world that dares to predict future events in great detail.

Other religious books don't have detailed prophecies, because it's impossible to do so unless you're the Omniscient One, which means "Omni-science", the One with all knowledge!

The Bible has hundreds of incredibly accurate prophecies about many different people and events over thousands of years.

This is God's signature on the Bible; the proof that it is God-breathed.

2 Ti 3:16

*All Scripture is **breathed out by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.*

God even set forth a challenge to false prophets to tell the future, and the challenge has remained for 2500 years!

Is 41:21-23

"Present your case," the LORD says.

"Bring forward your strong arguments,"

The King of Jacob says.

22 Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place;

As for the former events, declare what they were,

That we may consider them, and know their outcome;

Or announce to us what is coming.

23 Declare the things that are going to come afterward,

That we may know that you are gods;

No one has succeeded in this, other than what we find in the Bible.

And people love to offer up the name of Nostradamus and his predictions, but a true prophet is able to give SPECIFIC, not general, prophecies...

... and he is also correct EVERY time.

Inaccuracies are how we recognize false prophets who are empowered by the kingdom of darkness.

And because **true** prophets are correct every time, as recorded in the Bible, this is "Why The Word?"!!... this is why we believe and know the Bible is the Word of God!

Now let's talk about **the laws of mathematical probability...**

... after all, we're talking about scientific evidence that proves the Bible must be the Word of God.

This is a scientific principle; the way science tells us to accurately figure out **the chances, or the odds**, of certain things happening when combined together.

The Laws of Mathematical Probability

Statistical theory shows if the probability of one event occurring is 1 in 5, and of another event is 1 in 10, then the probability of both events being fulfilled in sequence is 1 in 5×10 , or 1 in 50.

You simply multiply the bottom numbers, here the 5 and the 10, to get the chances of BOTH things coming true.

For example, if I'm holding one hand behind my back, the odds are 1 in 5 that you will guess how many fingers I'm holding out, because I only have 5 fingers... right? :)

If I'm holding both hands behind my back, the odds are 1 in 10 that you can guess how many fingers I'm holding out.

And the odds of you guessing correctly in both instances are the two multiplied together, which would be 1 in 5×10 , or 1 in 50. Capiisce?? :)

So what we're going to do is **give conservative estimates** of the odds of certain Bible prophecies coming true, and then keep a running tally of the odds of MULTIPLE prophecies coming true, acc. to the laws of mathematical probability.

Let's consider today only one area of prophecy and its fulfillment; the coming of the Messiah.

And keep in mind, these various prophecies are written by different men in different centuries; which is even further evidence of the Spirit of God inspiring them on what to write.

Messianic Prophecies

The Bible teaches the Messiah would come **from the tribe of Judah**; one of the 12 tribes descended from Jacob. **Gen 49:10**
cf. Luk 3:34, Heb 7:14

Gen 49:10 *"The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
Until Shiloh (Messiah) comes,
And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples."*

Heb 7:14 tells us the Lord is descended from the tribe of Judah, as also apparent in Jesus' genealogy given in **Luk 3:23-34**.

Heb 7:14

For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

Ironically, the author of Hebrews stated this while pointing out that Jesus wasn't of the priestly line of Levi, who's another of the sons of Jacob.

But, to stick to our lesson topic, what is the probability that Jesus would come from the tribe of Judah, as predicted in **Gen 49**, when there were 11 other possible tribes? - 1 in 12 tribes.

So, here's our starting point. The odds are 1 in 12 that this prophecy about the Messiah would come true, and it came true in Jesus 1500 years after Genesis was written.

Our next prophecy:

Messianic Prophecies

The Bible also predicts the Messiah would be **born in Bethlehem. Mic 5:2 cf. Mat 2:1**

Mic 5:2 *"But as for you, **Bethlehem** Ephrathah,
Too little to be among the clans of Judah,
From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.
His goings forth are from long ago,
From the days of eternity."*

This is obviously a reference to the Messiah who came from the days of eternity.

This was fulfilled at the birth of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew centuries later, and Jewish historical records also support Jesus being born in Bethlehem.

Bethlehem was a small town, apparently, as compared to so many other significant towns in the land of Judah.

Mt 2:1

*Now after Jesus was born in **Bethlehem** of Judea in the days of Herod the king.*

Now what is the probability of this coming true?
Conservatively let's say 1 in 200, as there were at least 200 towns in Judea back then.

Some historians say there were many more towns than that.

So now, we have to multiply the first 2 prophetic odds together to keep our running tally, right?

The odds of Jesus being born from the tribe of Judah was 1 in 12, and here the odds are 1 in 200 that the Messiah would actually be born in tiny Bethlehem.

Mathematical Odds of Prophecies Combined

If we multiply 12×200 , we get the odds of **both** of these two prophecies coming true: which is 1 in 2400.

Do you see? Here's how we scientifically figure out the odds of all these things coming true. :)

Now, let's keep the ball rolling:

Messianic Prophecies

The Messiah would one day be betrayed for **30 pieces of silver**. **Zech 11:12 cf. Mat 26:15**

Written hundreds of years beforehand, it later took place with the betrayal of our Lord Jesus by Judas Iscariot.

Zech 11:12-13 *Then I said to them, "If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages **thirty pieces of silver**. 13 Then the Lord said to me, "**Throw it to the potter**" — the lordly price at which I was priced by them. **So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord, to the potter.***

We actually have two prophecies here, as you will see.

Fast forward over 500 years...

Mt 26:14-16 *Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" **And they paid him thirty pieces of silver.** 16 And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.*

Mt 27:3-7 *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, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." 5 And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. 6 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." 7 **So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers.***

The potter's field aside, what are the odds it would be exactly 30 pieces of silver??

Let's conservatively say probability is 1 in 100, there could have been any number of pieces of silver (it could have been 2,3,4,20,30,40, 98,99,100, 200, 300, 1000!), or it also could have been gold, or bronze, or none at all!

That's why 1 in 100 is certainly conservative here.

So now, my friends, we have 3 probabilities to combine together, to see the odds of all 3 predictions coming true.

Mathematical Odds of Prophecies Combined

If we multiply $12 \times 200 \times 100$, we get the odds of these three prophecies coming true: which is 1 in 240,000.

Are you with me so far??

And if you believe the Lord Jesus arranged these events on his own, then look at the difficulty of arranging who His ancestors would be, arranging where He would be born, and arranging the exact price of His betrayal!

By the way, there are 48 specific prophecies in the Old Testament that point to Jesus Christ being the Messiah.

We're only going to cover 11 Messianic prophecies, and we'll continue calculating the odds according to the laws of mathematical probability.

As you're probably beginning to see, the odds are going to be staggering.

Next!

Messianic Prophecies

The Messiah would be **preceded by a messenger**. **Is 40:3 cf. Mt 3:1-3**

Let's conservatively say the probability is 1 in 20.

After all, the Messiah could have been said to be preceded by any number of things, or nothing at all.

Is 40:3 *A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.*

This was fulfilled over 700 years later, as recorded in :

Mt 3:1-3 *Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 3 For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!'"*

John the Baptist's main mission was to make the people ready for the official public appearance of Jesus as the Messiah.

Mathematical Odds of Prophecies Combined

If we multiply $12 \times 200 \times 100 \times 20$, we get the odds of these four prophecies coming true: which is 1 in 4,800,000!

If you don't mind, we're going to start using exclamation points! :)

Next!

Messianic Prophecies

The Messiah would enter Jerusalem **on a colt. Zech 9:9 cf. Lk 19:33-38**

He could have entered many different ways, on a camel, on his own two feet, carried by men as a champion, or even by planes and cars if He had come later in time!

Remember, Zechariah was written 500 years before Jesus was even born.

Let's conservatively say the probability is 1 in 20.

Zech 9:9 *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, **your king** is coming to you;
He is just and endowed with salvation,
**Humble, and mounted on a donkey,
Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.***

This was fulfilled in :

Lk 19:33-38

*And as they were **untying the colt**, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 And they said, "The Lord has need of it." 35 And they brought it to Jesus, and they threw their garments on the colt, and put Jesus on it.*

36 And as He was going, they were spreading their garments in the road. 37 And as He was now approaching, near the descent of the

Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, 38 saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Mathematical Odds of Prophecies Combined

If we multiply $12 \times 200 \times 100 \times 20 \times 20$, we get the odds of these five prophecies coming true: which is 1 in 96,000,000!

Is that enough?? :) Or shall we keep on going??

What we're going to see is that all these prophecies being fulfilled **in the life of one man hundreds of years later** is actually leading to **an impossible number**, according to the scientific laws of mathematical probability.

Again, this is why many scientists are turning to God and the Bible as the only possible explanation for all of this.

Next!

Messianic Prophecies

The Messiah would be **betrayed by a friend**. Ps 41:9 cf. Jn 13:18

Let's just say the probability of this occurring is 1 in 20 - He could have been betrayed by an enemy, a mother in law, a ruler, a son or a daughter.... or even nobody at all!

First of all, here's the prophecy, written approximately 1000 B.C.

Ps 41:9 *Even my close friend, in whom I trusted,
Who ate my bread,
Has lifted up his heel against me.*

This was fulfilled when Jesus said :

Jn 13:18 *"I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.'*

Eating bread refers to the intimacy of sharing a table with friends. (this was very intimate in Biblical times)

Remember, it was at the Last Supper when Jesus broke the bread and passed it around in the presence of Judas, His betrayer.

Mathematical Odds of Prophecies Combined

If we multiply $12 \times 200 \times 100 \times 20 \times 20 \times 20$, we get the odds of these six prophecies coming true: which is 1 in 1,920,000,000! (we're in the billions now!)

Next!

Messianic Prophecies

The Messiah would have **His hands and feet pierced!** **Ps 22:16 cf. Lk 23:33**

Let's say the probability is conservatively 1 in 50.

Jesus could have died or been killed any number of ways; by disease, heart attack, beating, stoning, pushed off a cliff... or by guns, electric chair, or injection if He had come later in time!

And when this prophecy was written in the book of Psalms, 1000 years before Christ, crucifixion was not even invented yet as a means of capital punishment, historically speaking!

That's a stunner. Why would anyone write His hands and feet would be pierced when no means of such a type of death existed??

And by the way, you might ask some of your friends to examine the odds of what we are noting.

Ps 22:16 *For dogs have surrounded me;
A band of evildoers has encompassed me;
They pierced my hands and my feet.*

This was fulfilled in :

Lk 23:33 *And when they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left.*

Mathematical Odds of Prophecies Combined

If we multiply $12 \times 200 \times 100 \times 20 \times 20 \times 20 \times 50$, we get the odds of these seven prophecies coming true: which is 1 in 96,000,000,000!

We'll continue the tally, and see the finale', in Part 3 of this series.

But think about the kinds of odds we're talking about here!

To now think the Bible is NOT supernatural is actually an irrational thought.

Nothing else but an **Omniscient** Being could be behind this... and thankfully this same God is also **loving** towards us sinners.

Why The Word?

The Bible is like no other religious book. It's prophecies have all come true as proof it's supernatural, and that's why we can turn to it for the Truth about life and salvation, as well!

Remember this verse we started with??

Is 46:8-11

"Remember this, and be assured;

Recall it to mind, you transgressors.

9 "Remember the former things long past,

For I am God, and there is no other;

I am God, and there is no one like Me,

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*And from ancient times things which have not been done,
Saying, 'My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';
11 Calling a bird of prey from the east,
The man of My purpose from a far country.
Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass.
I have planned it, surely I will do it.*

We do indeed have the Word of God in the Bible.

And this Messiah who revealed Himself in the Person of Jesus Christ was actually God in the flesh who came to save us from our sins.