

Why The Word?? - Scientific Evidence for our Supernatural Bible, Part 3

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

I want to thank Pastor Collins for the opp. to stand behind his pulpit, and also for giving me one more day to finish this prophecy series, rather than squeezing it all in on Thursday.

A couple people actually told me they were confused by how we came up with some of the numbers, so I'm grateful we can take our time and go through this so it makes sense.

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,*

Omni-science Behind the Bible

Prophecy is one proof that God has given us "Holy Scripture" that is "God-breathed". **2Ti 3:15-16**

2 Ti 3:14-17

*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been **acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** 16 **All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,** 17 **that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.***

Paul was talking about the OT prophets, here.... and how they pointed to Jesus as the Christ, well before the New Testament letters were compiled.

We're being called by the Spirit to know and use these proofs at the proper time, to show people the God-given evidence behind our faith.

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&3, we're specifically doing just that, regarding the evidence of Jesus being the Christ; the promised One mentioned by the prophets of old.

We're focusing 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.

And, one more mention here,... 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.

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

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

If you were at all confused about how we came to our numbers in Part 2, please pay special attention to this statement...

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.

So let me give you another example, I hope this helps...

If I put 99 silver coins in a piggybank, and only 1 gold coin in with it, your chances of picking out the gold coin are 1 in 100, right??

What if I set up another piggybank with the same amount of coins, and you get to try it again?? Chances for that piggybank are also 1 in 100 to get the gold coin, right??

But what are the chances that you'll pick out the gold coin out of BOTH of the piggybanks?? (you only get one pick out of each one)

You might say “I’d have to get REALLY LUCKY to get them both!”, and you’d be right... you know those chances are small.

The laws of mathematical probability tell us that would be 1 in 10,000.

How do we get that?? By multiplying the two odds together... 1 in 100 x 100 = 10,000. (grab a calculator:)

You might not think the odds are that low, but those are the chances according to this scientific principle.

Now, if you want to understand WHY science has come up with this formula... you might want to go study Statistical Theory! :)

But for our purposes, just know **this is how science says it works. :)**

In Part 2, we started giving **conservative estimates** of the odds of certain Bible prophecies coming true, and then kept a running tally of the odds of MULTIPLE prophecies coming true.

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

And today, we'll review our first 6 prophecies again, just putting the initial scripture on the board, and then we'll finish up the remaining prophecies to get to our finale'. :)

And hopefully, if you were struggling during Part 2, this will make more sense to you this time.

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**.

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, as well? - 1 in 12 tribes.

So, here's our starting point.

Messianic Prophecies

The odds are 1 in 12 that the Messiah would actually be born in the line of Judah, and it came true in Jesus' birth 1500 years after Genesis was written.

Now, just keep that in mind.

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.

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

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 26:15,27:7**

Written hundreds of years beforehand, it later took place with the betrayal of our Lord Jesus by Judas Iscariot in **Mat 26**.

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 the potter's field was also fulfilled in **Mat 27**.

The potter's field aside, what are the odds that the Lord would be betrayed for 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 giving odds of 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 **all three** prophecies coming true: which is 1 in 240,000.

Are you with me so far??

And again, if you might think that 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.

Notice, also, this Messiah would be God Himself.

This was fulfilled over 700 years later, as recorded in **Mat 3**.

As we know, 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 **all 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**.

So, what are the odds NOW, of these first 5 prophecies ALL coming true, **without even 1 being wrong??** (that's the key... it's truly a LONG SHOT if not even one of them can be wrong... that's the point of these mathematical laws)

Mathematical Odds of Prophecies Combined

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

If these numbers seem too big to you, take out a calculator and multiply them together to see it for yourself.

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 what science might call **an impossible number**, if there really is such a thing.

Remember the movie "Dumb and Dumber"?

Remember the young lady is trying not to break his heart, saying his chances of them going out are only one in a million? :)

Then he said "so you're telling me there's a chance!" :)

He missed the point, right? The point was that it's NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE.

Yes, there's a 1 before all of these, but when the number gets so large, scientists say we might as well call it impossible.

And again, this is why so many scientists have turned to God and the Bible as the only rational 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 at the Last Supper when Jesus broke the bread and passed it on to Judas.

So we're saying the odds of his friend being his betrayer are 1 in 20... so we add that to our running tally!

Mathematical Odds of Prophecies Combined

If we multiply $12 \times 200 \times 100 \times 20 \times 20 \times 20$, we get the odds of **all 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 when it was recorded for us that Jesus died by crucifixion.

So now let's add this to our tally.... 1 in 50.

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 **all seven** prophecies coming true: which is 1 in 96,000,000,000!

I think this is where we left off in Part 2, so now we'll visit a few more scriptures along the way :)

Next!

Messianic Prophecies

The Messiah would be **wounded** by His enemies and **whipped** by them. **Is 53:5 cf. Mt 27:26**

Let's say the probability of this is only 1 in 25, as any number of events could have occurred before His death.

This is a pretty specific prophecy:

Is 53:5 *But He was **pierced through** for our transgressions,
He was **crushed** for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,
And **by His scourging** we are healed.*

This was fulfilled hundreds of years later in the eyewitness accounts of the Gospels.

So again, we're saying odds of 1 in 25.

Mathematical Odds of Prophecies Combined

If we multiply $12 \times 200 \times 100 \times 20 \times 20 \times 20 \times 50 \times 25$, we get the odds of **all eight** prophecies coming true: which is 1 in 2,400,000,000,000!

(we're in the trillions now!)

We are looking at supernatural evidence here, my friends.

Please don't miss the point; this is **how science says** we are to figure this out!!

Only an all-knowing God can be behind all these prophecies being fulfilled many centuries after they were recorded in the Bible!

Next!

Messianic Prophecies

The Messiah will be **spit upon and beaten**. **Is 50:6 cf. Mt 26:67**

Let's conservatively say the probability 1 in 10.

How many criminals do you know are spit on and beaten when they go to trial?

Is 50:6 *I gave My back to those who **strike** Me,
And My cheeks to those who **pluck out** the beard;
I did not cover My face from humiliation and **spitting**.*

This was fulfilled in :

Mt 26:67 *Then they **spat** in His face and **beat** Him with their fists;
and others **slapped** Him,*

Is this simply another coincidence?

Or, is it another specific prophecy that came true in the life of one man?

Mathematical Odds of Prophecies Combined

If we multiply $12 \times 200 \times 100 \times 20 \times 20 \times 20 \times 50 \times 25 \times 10$, we get the odds of **all nine** prophecies coming true: which is 1 in 24,000,000,000,000! (trillion!)

Next!

Messianic Prophecies

The Messiah would be **silent** before His accusers. **Is 53:7 cf.**

Mt 27:12-14

What are the odds of that?

Let's say the probability of such a specific statement coming true is 1 in 100, especially because it would take supernatural

discipline to not say anything in your defense, especially if you were being threatened with death and you knew you were innocent!

Is 53:7 *He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He did not open His mouth;
Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,
And like a sheep that is **silent** before its shearers,
So He did not open His mouth.*

This was fulfilled hundreds of years later in Jesus' trials in :

Mt 27:12-14 *And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He made no answer. 13 Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" 14 And He did not answer him with regard to even a single charge, so that the governor was quite amazed.*

Why was Pilate so amazed? Because the odds of someone remaining silent in this type of situation are very small!

It's possible this Roman governor, who had punished many other criminals, had never seen such a thing before.

He was probably used to people opening their mouths to beg for their lives, or at the very least defend themselves and try to talk their way out of it. (isn't that what you would do if your life was on the line?)

This is another reason we love our Lord so much..

... because He knew His mission and therefore remained silent, surrendering to a guilty verdict so that He could be judged in our place to save our lives.

So, conservatively, the odds are 1 in 100 that He would remain silent before His accusers.

If you asked Pilate, he might say it's 1 in thousands.

Mathematical Odds of Prophecies Combined

If we multiply $12 \times 200 \times 100 \times 20 \times 20 \times 20 \times 50 \times 25 \times 10 \times 100$, we get the odds of **all ten** prophecies coming true: which is 1 in 2,400,000,000,000,000!

I went to a number converting website to see what number this is called, and the tool wouldn't support a number this big!

Next!

Messianic Prophecies

The Messiah would be put to death **with thieves!** **Is 53:12 cf. Mk 15:27-28**

Probability 1 in 100; and that's conservative!

What are the odds of being put to death with multiple thieves by one's side?

Is 53:12 *Because He poured out Himself to death,
And was **numbered with the transgressors**;
Yet He Himself bore the sin of many,
And interceded for the transgressors.*

This was fulfilled in :

Mk 15:27-28 *And they crucified **two robbers with Him**, one on His right and one on His left. 28[And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with transgressors."]*

And He interceded specifically for them, as was part of Isaiah's prophecy, later saying to the thief who believed in Him that today he would be with Him in paradise.

Mathematical Odds of Prophecies Combined

If we multiply $12 \times 200 \times 100 \times 20 \times 20 \times 20 \times 50 \times 25 \times 10 \times 100 \times 100$, we get the odds of **all eleven** prophecies coming true: which is 1 in 240,000,000,000,000,000!

The answer is 1 chance in 24 to the 16th power. 1 in 24 with 16 zeros after it; **those are the mathematical odds that one person could fulfill just these 11 prophecies!**

For all this to occur "by chance", we would have to call it "impossible".

With conservative probabilities of these things actually happening to the Messiah, we would have to mathematically say it's **not possible**.

Our hope is that some people become believers in Jesus Christ because of these staggering prophecies...

... and this is after examining only 11 of the 48 Messianic prophecies that all came true in the life of Jesus Christ.

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

Nothing else but an **Omniscient** Being could be behind all of these predictions...

... and thankfully this same God is also **loving** towards us sinners.

Why The Word?

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

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.

Jn 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Jn 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is why we believe that through humble, repentant faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we can be saved from the Judgment and receive the gift of salvation. **Rom 6:23**

This is why we believe the Bible when it says that God purchased our salvation on the Cross with His own blood.

Ac 20:28

*Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of **God**, which he obtained with his own blood.*

So now we should know, with greater certainty, that we are redeemed and set free by faith in Christ.

The same Bible that predicted the future accurately so many times is the same Bible that tells us this:

Jn 3:16-18

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,

*but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18
Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not
believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the
name of the only Son of God.*

You are a sinner and you need the Savior.

If you haven't placed your trust in Christ as your Lord and Savior, the promised Messiah, do so now before your time is up!

2 Co 6:1-2

*Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive
the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says, "In a favorable time I
listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you."
Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, **now is the day of
salvation.***

If you bow before the Lord and trust Him for your salvation, God will save you and reserve a place for you in heaven forever and ever.

Ro 10:9-11

*because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and
believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be
saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with
the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 **For the Scripture says,**
"Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."*

Now, hopefully we all know "Why the Word??"

We know we can rest on the Truth of the Word of God.

Amen.