



Evidence from Fulfilled Prophecy

The Bible contains approximately 2500 prophecies. Approximately 2000 of them have already been fulfilled in the past (but after the prophecies were made). Over 300 prophecies from the Old Testament were fulfilled in the life of Christ. Mathematicians have calculated probabilities (based on very reasonable assumptions) that fulfilled prophecies could have been fulfilled by “chance” or by “human devices.” They have come up with such infinitesimally small probabilities as to make them obviously supernatural and miraculous. Fulfilled prophecy is one of the strong sources of evidence that the bible is not just a “man-made” book, but is supernatural—given by God. Here are just a few examples.

- About 500 years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Daniel prophesied *to the year* when Jesus would begin His public ministry. By the way, God planned an eclipse (from eternity past!) to allow people of today to precisely date events of that day. (Daniel 9:25-26)
- About 700 years before His birth, Micah the prophet prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2)
- About 500 years before Jesus came, the prophet Zechariah prophesied that he would be betrayed for the price 30 pieces of silver—the price of a slave. Also that the money would be used as a burial place for the poor who were not from Jerusalem. (Zechariah 11:12-13; Matthew 27:3-10)
- Hundreds of years before the invention of the horrible means of execution known as crucifixion, King David and the Prophet Zechariah prophesied what the death of the Messiah would be like. (Psalm 22; 34:20; Zechariah 12:10)
- Isaiah prophesied (by name) that Cyrus would conquer Babylon and Egypt. (At the time, Babylon was thought to be “unconquerable.”) Isaiah also prophesied that Cyrus would let the Jewish captives return to their homes. Isaiah prophesied this 180 years before Cyrus did these things, 150 years before Cyrus was even born, and 80 years before the Jews were even taken in captivity! (Isaiah 44:28; 45:1, 13)
- Two Bible prophets (Isaiah and Jeremiah) prophesied that Babylon would be destroyed, never again inhabited, that people would even avoid its ruins, and that the stones would not even be moved for building material. When they prophesied these things, Babylon was a huge city (196 square miles), surrounded by a moat and by double walls 330 feet high. Each of the walls was 90 feet thick. Everyone thought it was indestructible. (Isaiah 13:17-23; Jeremiah 51: 26, 43)
- Prophecies made by Moses, Jeremiah, and Jesus Himself, predicted that Judah would be conquered and the people carried off into slavery on two different occasions. This happened in 605 BC (by Babylon) and in 70 AD (by Rome). It was also prophesied that the

Jewish people would be *scattered* without being *assimilated* so that one day they would return to their own land—as they have done. These prophecies cover a period of 3500 years! (Deuteronomy 29; Isaiah 11:11-13; Jeremiah 25:11; Hosea 3:4-5; Luke 21:23-24)

- At the time of Jeremiah, Edom (part of modern Jordan) was a fertile land with good supplies of water. Jeremiah prophesied that it would become a barren wasteland. It did. (Jeremiah 49:15-20; Ezekiel 25:12-14)
- Joshua prophesied that Jericho would be rebuilt by one man, whose oldest son would die when construction began and whose youngest son would die as it was completed. It was fulfilled about 500 years later. (Joshua 6:26; 1 Kings 16:33-34)
- The time of Elijah's supernatural departure in a fiery chariot was prophesied accurately by a group of 50 prophets. (2 Kings 2:3-11)
- The prophet Jahaziel prophesied that King Jehoshaphat (with a small and humanly weak army) would defeat a huge, well-equipped and well-trained army without even having to fight. It happened just as he said. (2 Chronicles 20)
- A prophet whose name we do not know for sure prophesied that a future king of Judah, whose name would be "Josiah" would take the bones of the pagan priests that served King Jeroboam and burn them on an altar built by Jeroboam. About 300 years later, it happened just as he said. (I Kings 13:2; II Kings 23:15-18)
- Here is a sampling of the 300 Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah. He would be: Born of the seed of a *woman* (Gen 3:15; Mt 1:20); Born of a Virgin (Is 7:14; Mt 1:18, 25); The Son of God (Psalm 2:7; Matt 3:15); The Seed of Abraham (Gen 22:18; Matt 1:1); The Descendent of Isaac (Gen 21:12; Luke 3:23-24); The Descendent of David (Jer. 23:1; Luke 3:23-31); Born at Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matt. 2:1); A Prophet (Deut 18:18; Matt. 21:11); A Priest (Psalm 110:4; Heb 3:1; 5:5-6); A King (Psalm 2:6; Matt 27:37); A Judge (Is 33:22; John 5:30); Preceded by a Messenger (John the Baptist) (Is 40:3; Matt 3:1-2); Rejected by His own People (Is 53:3; John 7:5, 48); His side would be pierced (Zech 12:10; John 19:34); Crucified (Psalm 22:1, 11-18; Luke 23:33; John 19:23-24, 33)