

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE? Part 10

“The Witness of Fulfilled Prophecy” (Lesson 2)

INTRO: Fulfilled prophecy is a powerful external testimony to the Bible’s reliability. Over 2000 prophecies in Scripture. Over half already fulfilled. Others await Christ’s return to be fulfilled. Only one has not to be fulfilled as predicted. No room for error (Deut. 18:20-22). Only an omniscient God can pull that off. Biblical predictions made hundreds of years in advance were fulfilled in Christ’s first coming (Gen. 3:15). But the greatest predictive prophecy deals with Jesus Christ. Fourteen times the Gospel writers write Jesus came to fulfill some past prophecy (8 in Matt. – Gospel to the Jew [5:17]). How did Jesus “fulfill the Law and the Prophets”? by living a perfect life that perfectly obeyed the *moral* law, and by offering His sacrificial death on the cross to fulfill the *ceremonial* laws, essentially fulfilling OT prophecies (Isa. 42:21). God keeps His Word, always! There are about 333 prophecies concerning Christ – 109 were fulfilled at His first coming (going to examine some of these). Still 224 to go related to His glorious return, which are the final prophecies in the Bible (Rev. 22:7, 12, 20). Time permits us to look at only some of these Messianic prophecies. I have a list of 103 (almost half of the 224 about His Second Coming). This list represents 14 OT books, mostly Psalms (31) and Isaiah (36) – rest from Gen, Ex. Deut., Jer., Ez., Dan., Hos., Micah, Zech., Mal. The OT writers under God’s inspiration clearly anticipated a coming Messiah hundreds of years before His arrival in a manager in Bethlehem. Messianic truths and prophecies cover several areas:

I. HIS ETERNAL EXISTENCE (Isa. 9:6; 63:16; Jn. 1:1; 8:58; 17:5; Heb. 1:3)

- A. Role in Creation of Universe (Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 1:2)
- B. Role in Creation of Mankind (Gen. 1:26-28)

II. HIS MIRACULOUS BIRTH – About 50 (48 of 109) prophecies came true when Jesus was born

- A. *Promised* “Seed of a woman” (Gen. 3:15 and of Abraham (Gen. 12:3; 17:19; 22:18; 28:13-14). Fulfilled in Gal. 4:4; Acts 3:25; Heb. 2:14)
- B. The *Place* – Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2; Matt. 2:1)
- C. The *Nature* – By a virgin (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18)

III. HIS SINLESS LIFE AND MINISTRY

- A. Ministry in Galilee (Isa. 9:1-2; 42:6-7; Matt. 4:12-16; Isa. 61:1-3; Lk. 4:16-21) – essentially eradicated disease with His 40 plus miracles

- B. To be a Prophet (Deut. 18:15, 18-19; Matt. 21:11; Jn. 6:14) – He was
- C. To be a Priest (Gen. 14:18; Psalms 110:4; Heb. 5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:11, 15) He was
- D. To be a King (Isa. 9:7; Jn. 18:33-37) – He was
- E. Sinless Life (Isa. 53:9; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:22) – perfect substitute – He did
- F. His miraculous works! 40 recorded miracles!

IV. HIS ROAD TO THE CROSS AND DEATH – 33 Prophecies in His last 24 hours. Predicted His own death three times! (Matt. 16:21 ...) Matt., Mk., Lk. all record.

- A. Triumphal Entry (Zech. 9:9; Jn. 12:13-15)
- B. More – See List . . . from betrayal by a friend, Judas to arrest, mock trials, scourged, death, burial (Dan. 9:26; Isa. 53:4-8; Psalms 22)

V. HIS GLORIOUS AND VICTORIOUS RESURRECTION

This is not only the greatest miracle of all (outside creation), it is the great prophecy fulfilled of all! See Psalms 16:10; Isa. 53:10 and Matt. 28:1-6; Acts 2:22-32.

VI. HIS ASCENSION, EXALTATION, INTERCESSION

- A. Ascension to Exaltation at Father’s right hand (Psalms 110:1, 4; Acts 5:31; Heb. 8:1)
- B. Intercession (Heb. 2:17-18; 4:14-16)

VII. HIS PROMISED RETURN

109 prophecies fulfilled in His first coming. 224 still to happen in His second coming! If all the prophecies related to His initial coming came to pass, I’d bet my place in heaven on these about His return will be fulfilled as well. (Mk. 13:23; Matt. 24:29-31; Rev. 22:7, 12, 20)

ILLUS: P. Stoner – fulfilling only 8 by chance is 1 in 100 quadrillion! If took silver dollars ... No surprise (Lk. 24:36ff)

CONC: If God became a man... Fulfilled prophecy is a powerful witness that we can trust the Bible and its Author to do what and all He says.