

Messianic Prophecy: What Is It?

Messianic prophecy is the collection of over 100 predictions (a conservative estimate) in the Old Testament about the future Messiah of the Jewish people. These predictions were written by multiple authors, in numerous books, over approximately 1,000 years. Messianic Prophecy is so dramatic today, because with the discovery of the [Dead Sea Scrolls](#) and the reliability of the [Septuagint](#) version of the Old Testament (both of which have been proven to exist prior to the time Jesus walked on the earth) you can be assured that these prophecies were not “conspired” after-the-fact.

Messianic Prophecy: Fulfillment by Jesus Christ

Messianic prophecy was fulfilled by the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Although many Jews did not accept Jesus as their Messiah, many did, and they became the Jewish sect later known as the Christians. Christianity, based in dramatic part on the fulfillment of historical prophecy, spread rapidly throughout the Roman Empire of the 1st Century. Examine the prophecies yourself, and calculate the probability of one man fulfilling just a handful of the most specific ones, and you’ll be amazed.

“Jesus said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.’” Luke 24:44 (NIV)

The Old Testament verses are the prophecy; the New Testament verses proclaim the fulfillment. Check them all out for yourself!

- Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23)
- A descendant of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3; 22:18; Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16)
- Of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10; Luke 3:23, 33; Hebrews 7:14)
- Of the house of David (2 Samuel 7:12-16; Matthew 1:1)
- Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-7)
- Taken to Egypt (Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:14-15)
- Herod’s killing of the infants (Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16-18)
- Anointed by the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2; Matthew 3:16-17)
- Heralded by the messenger of the Lord (John the Baptist) (Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 3:1-3)
- Would perform miracles (Isaiah 35:5-6; Matthew 9:35)
- Would preach good news (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:14-21)
- Would minister in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1; Matthew 4:12-16)
- Would cleanse the Temple (Malachi 3:1; Matthew 21:12-13)
- Would first present Himself as King 173,880 days from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Daniel 9:25; Matthew 21:4-11)
- Would enter Jerusalem as a king on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:4-9)
- Would be rejected by Jews (Psalm 118:22; I Peter 2:7)
- Die a humiliating death (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53) involving:
 - rejection (Isaiah 53:3; John 1:10-11; 7:5,48)
 - betrayal by a friend (Psalm 41:9; Luke 22:3-4; John 13:18)
 - sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:14-15)
 - silence before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-14)
 - being mocked (Psalm 22: 7-8; Matthew 27:31)
 - beaten (Isaiah 52:14; Matthew 27:26)
 - spit upon (Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 27:30)
 - piercing His hands and feet (Psalm 22:16; Matthew 27:31)
 - being crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38)
 - praying for His persecutors (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:34)
 - piercing His side (Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34)
 - given gall and vinegar to drink (Psalm 69:21, Matthew 27:34, Luke 23:36)

- no broken bones (Psalm 34:20; John 19:32-36)
- buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60)
- casting lots for His garments (Psalm 22:18; John 19:23-24)
- Would rise from the dead!! (Psalm 16:10; Mark 16:6; Acts 2:31)
- Ascend into Heaven (Psalm 68:18; Acts 1:9)
- Would sit down at the right hand of God (Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 1:3)

Messianic Prophecy - What Are The Odds of Fulfillment Without God?

Messianic Prophecy is so powerful because of the statistical odds that one man would fulfill every single one of them. If we just analyze seven of the more specific prophecies in the Old Testament, that were later fulfilled in the Person of Jesus Christ, we are stunned by the statistical impossibility of such an historical reality. As an illustration, we have inserted some conservative "odds" alongside seven established prophecies. Please feel free to propose you own prophecies and your own odds - the dramatic point will still be made!

Messianic Prophecy

Odds Without God

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| 1. | Jesus would be a descendant of David. | 10^4 (1 in 10,000) |
| 2. | Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. | 10^5 (1 in 100,000) |
| 3. | Jesus would be a miracle worker. | 10^5 (1 in 100,000) |
| 4. | Jesus would present Himself as King riding on a donkey. | 10^6 (1 in 1,000,000) |
| 5. | Jesus would be betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver. | 10^6 (1 in 1,000,000) |
| 6. | Jesus would be crucified. | 10^6 (1 in 1,000,000) |
| 7. | Jesus would first present Himself as King 173,880 days from the decree of Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem. | 10^6 (1 in 1,000,000) |
| | Total Probability (without God) | 10^{38} (1 in a 100 billion, billion, billion) |

Messianic Prophecy - The Challenge

Messianic prophecy is phenomenal evidence that sets the Bible apart from the other "holy books." We strongly encourage you to read the Old Testament prophecies and the New Testament fulfillments on the previous page. Better yet, get a Jewish Tanakh (the Hebrew scripture read in the Jewish synagogues) and read the Messianic prophecies from there. It is dramatic, eye-opening and potentially life-changing!