

INTRODUCTION

- * FOCUSING ON THE CHRIST ... *The Shadow of Christ ... The Life of Christ ... Now – The Return of Christ*
- * Last week – the Ascension of Christ ... the angels declared to the apostles that Jesus would return as they saw Him leave.
- * The return of Christ is a very vital aspect of true Biblical teaching. Though there are various theological opinions, the Scriptures are quite clear with details of His return.
- * Advent – a remembrance of His 1st Coming ... coupled with a consideration of His return!

INSTRUCTION**I. PROPHECIES OF HIS 1ST COMING**

- A. Messiah Would Be Born of the _____ of Woman (cf. Genesis 3: 14-15; Galatians 4:4; Matthew 1:20)
- B. Messiah Would Be Born of a _____ (cf. Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18, 24,25)
- C. Messiah Would Be Born in the Lineage of _____ (cf. Genesis 22:18; Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16)
- D. Messiah Would Be Born in the Lineage of _____ (cf. Genesis 21:12; Luke 3:33-34)
- E. Messiah Would Be Born in the Lineage of _____ (cf. Numbers 24:17; Luke 3:33-34)
- F. Messiah Would Be Born in the Lineage of _____ (cf. Genesis 49:8-12; Luke 3:33-34)
- G. Messiah Would Be Born in the Lineage of _____ (cf. Isaiah 11:1; Luke 3:31-32)
- H. Messiah Would Be Born in the Lineage of _____ (cf. II Samuel 7:12-16; Psalm 89:34-37; Jer 23:5; Luke 3:31-32)
- I. Messiah Would Be _____ (cf. Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1)
- J. Messiah Would Be _____ (cf. Psalm 72:10; Isaiah 60:6; Matthew 2:1,11)
- K. Messiah Would Be _____ (cf. Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16)

II. PROPHECIES OF HIS RETURN

- A. Declared By The P _____ (cf. Zechariah 12:10; Daniel 7:13-14)
- B. Declared By The M _____ (cf. John 14:1-3; Matthew 24:29-31; Mark 13: 24-27)
- C. Declared By The A _____ (cf. Acts 1:9-11)
- D. Declared By The A _____ (cf. I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Peter 3:1-10; I John 3:1-3; Revelation 1:7)

INTROSPECTION

- * WHAT IS YOUR PRIMARY FOCUS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON?
- IS IT MEDITATING ON HIS INCARNATION AND REDEMPTION?
- * ARE YOU TRULY CONVINCED OF CHRIST'S RETURN?
- * HOW IS THAT AFFECTING YOUR LIFE TODAY?

Now consider this ... there are over 300 prophecies concerning "The Life of Christ" - His birth, life, death, burial and resurrection

To help conceptualize the remoteness of the probability that one man could fulfill the prophecies fulfilled in Jesus Christ, Dr. Peter Stoner (1888-1980), Chairman of the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena City College (1913-1953), and Chairman of the Science Division of Westmont College from 1953 to 1957, calculated the probability that a person would fulfill just 8 of the over 300 prophecies which were fulfilled in the life of Jesus Christ. In 1944, he published his research results in *Science Speaks: Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible*.

The eight prophecies that he and his statistics class used were:

- 1) Micah 5:2 ... Bethlehem (1 in 280,000 born in Bethlehem ... 2.8×10^5)
- 2) Malachi 3:1 ... preceded by a messenger (conservative estimate at 1 in 1,000 ... 1×10^3)
- 3) Zechariah 9:9 ... King will enter riding on a donkey (conservative estimate at 1 in 100 ... 1×10^2)
- 4) Zechariah 13:6 ... betrayed by Judas (conservative estimate at 1 in 1,000 ... 1×10^3)
- 5) Zechariah 11:12 ... 30 pieces of silver (conservative estimate at 1 in 1,000 ... 1×10^3)
- 6) Zechariah 11:13 ... Judas would try to return the silver (1 in 100,000 ... 1×10^5)
- 7) Isaiah 53:7 ... making no defense for Himself (1 in 10,000 ... 1×10^4)
- 8) Psalm 22:16 ... pierced hands and feet (1 in 10,000 ... 1×10^4)

Factoring in the number of people who have lived at 88 billion, Stoner and his class concluded that the probability of one person fulfilling just eight of the specific prophecies was one chance in 10^{17} (one followed by 17 zeros). How about one person fulfilling just 48 of the over 300 prophecies? Stoner calculated these odds at one chance in 10^{157} !

To illustrate how largeness the number 10^{17} , Stoner gave this illustration: suppose that we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They'll cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would've had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them in their own wisdom. (<http://www.sciencespeaks.net/>)