

## **“The Mathematical Probability that Jesus is the Christ” by C. J. Sabo (January 2024)**

Adapted from: <https://empower.global/the-mathematical-probability-that-jesus-is-the-christ/>

When one takes a critical look at the overwhelming volume of prophecies that were fulfilled in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, it should cause them to have complete confidence in both God and in His word as a whole.

And if that evaluation is done with integrity, it should also leave non-believers with little choice other than to accept the truth that Jesus is exactly who He claimed to be.

Let me try to explain why that is so, based on some highlights I'll share from an article I recently read on this topic. The article was entitled “The Mathematical Probability that Jesus is the Christ”.

Anyone can make predictions. In fact, people make predictions all the time.

But having those predictions or prophecies fulfilled is a vastly different story.

In fact, the more statements made about the future, and the greater the detail of those statements, the less likely the precise fulfillment of those statements will be.

For example, what's the likelihood of a person predicting today the exact city in which a future leader will be born, at a point in time well into the 22nd century? Say in the year 2724.

This is precisely what the prophet Micah did in Micah 5:2, 700 years before the Messiah was born.

Furthermore, what is the likelihood of predicting the precise manner of death that a future religious leader would experience, a thousand years from now?

Including the fact that it would be a manner of death presently unknown, and that would remain unknown for hundreds of years?

Yet, this is what King David did in 1000 B.C. when he wrote Psalm 22.

And then, what is the likelihood of predicting the specific date of the appearance of some great future leader, hundreds of years in advance?

Yet this is what Daniel did in Daniel chapter 9, an astounding 530 years before Christ.

If one were to conceive of 50 specific prophecies about a person in the future, whom one would never meet, what's the likelihood that person will fulfill all 50 of the predictions?

And how much less likely would this be if 25 of those 50 predictions were about what other people would do to him, and were completely beyond his control?

For example, how does someone “arrange” to be born in a specific family?

Or how does one “arrange” to be born in a specified city, in which their parents don't actually live?

In addition, how does an individual “arrange” their own death – and specifically by means of crucifixion, along with two others, and then “arrange” to have the executioners gamble for this individual's clothing (Psalms 22:18 → John 19:18, 24)?

Furthermore, how does one “arrange” to have the executioners carry out the regular practice of breaking the legs of the two victims on either side, but not their own legs?

While it may be possible for someone to fake one or two of the Messianic prophecies, it would be impossible for any one person to arrange and fulfill all of those prophecies.

The article I mentioned goes on to explain that the science of probability can be used to determine the chance that a given event will occur.

For example, concerning Micah 5:2, where it states the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, the probability of this actually occurring, would be 1 in 300,000, based on careful studies that have been done.

And after examining only eight specific prophecies about the future Messiah, it has been conservatively estimated that the chance of one man fulfilling all eight would be 1 in  $10^{17}$  power.

That’s a 1 with 17 zeroes after it, otherwise known as 100 quadrillion.

To illustrate just how improbable 1 in 100 quadrillion is, mull over this...

Suppose we take 100 quadrillion silver dollar coins and lay them on the surface of the state of Texas, the largest state in the US, excluding Alaska.

That quantity of silver dollars would cover the entire state to a depth of approximately two feet.

Next, randomly select one of those silver dollars, paint it red, and secretly hide it somewhere in that huge mass of coins.

Then securely blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes in any direction, and take as long as he wants, but he must eventually stoop down and pick up a single silver dollar. And when he does, it must be the one that was painted red.

The likelihood of Him selecting the right coin is the same likelihood that the prophets would’ve had of writing those eight prophecies, and having them all come true in one man that would be born hundreds of years after the prophecies had been given.

There are several conclusions that we can draw from this, but let me name just two.

First, only a sovereign, omnipotent God that controls the future could have inspired the writing of those prophecies.

And second, to minimize or ignore the significance of the fulfillment of Bible prophecies concerning the Messiah, means that one is either deceived or just plain ignorant.

And we need to note that there are far more than eight prophecies that were fulfilled by Jesus.

In fact, there are conservatively over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament regarding His birth, life, death and resurrection that were perfectly fulfilled either directly by Him, or through actions done to Him.

And therefore, whenever we read words such as “this was to fulfill the word of”, or verses such as John 12:16, our response should be one of worship.

And not only worship, but also dedicated service, as we seek to die to self and follow Jesus.