

Evidence from Prophecy - Jesus the Christ

And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. – Luke 24: 25-27

As discussed in our last session, fulfilled prophecy must meet a standard which includes being written before the events prophesied take place. There can be no question regarding the prophecies in the Old Testament regarding the Messiah were written before Jesus because the Old Testament had been translated from Hebrew into Greek at least 100 years before the time of Christ. Some of the prophecies are quite specific while some are general. The following chart illustrates some of the 300 or so prophecies concerning the Christ.

Prophecy	Fulfillment	Notes
Born of a virgin Is. 7:14	Matt. 1:18, 24, 25	
Declared to be God's Son Psalm 2:7	Matt. 3:17	Also declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection – Rom. 1:3,4
From tribe of Judah Gen. 49:10	Luke 3:23, 33	Jewish commentaries on OT recognized this as a messianic prophecy
Of the house of David Jer. 23:5	Luke 3:23, 31 Acts 13:22,23	Also II Sam 7:11 – God would build a house (family) for David
Born in Bethlehem Micah 5:2	Matt. 2:1	There were two Bethlehams – Micah specifics which one. Jews recognized this as a prophecy of the Christ Matt 2:6, John 7:42
He would be a prophet Deut 18:18	Matt. 21:11 Matt. 24	Similarity between Christ and Moses

A messenger would come before Him Is. 40:3	Matt. 3:1-2	
He would perform miracles Is. 35:6; Is. 32:3,4	Matt 9:35	
Enter Jerusalem on a donkey Zech. 9:9	Luke 19:35-37	Not the way a king was expected to enter a city
Wounded and bruised Is. 53:5; Zech. 13:6	Matt. 27:26	Perhaps the most difficult thing for Jews to accept about the Messiah
Spit upon and beaten Isaiah 50:6	Matt 26:67	
Hands and feet pierced Ps. 22:16	Luke 23:33	Crucifixion was not known in Jewish law when Ps 22 written
Garments gambled for Ps. 22:18	John 19:23-24	
Bones not broken Ps. 34:20	John 19:33	
His side pierced Zech. 12:10	John 19:34	
Buried in a rich man's tomb	Matt. 27:57-60	

Some say that when Mary was pregnant with Jesus she excused herself by saying she was bearing the Messiah, but if that was so, Jesus would have no reason to fulfill these prophecies. Even if he had wanted to fulfill her desires, the probability of fulfilling these (and many others) is virtually zero. Prophecy stands as a strong evidence that the Bible was a divinely inspired book by a God who loved mankind.

Questions for consideration:

1. How important does the bible consider prophecy?
2. How would you convince someone that the prophecies concerning Christ are written before the events of his life?
3. How would you respond to the criticism that the prophecy in Genesis 3:15 regarding Christ is too general and does not count as a prophecy?