

Christianity Is Not Merely A ‘Belief’ It Is A FACT - You Can Prove it!

By Keith Mason

I asked a woman in the store the other day what she thought would happen to her after she died. “*We can’t really know,*” she replied.

However, the truth is, we *can* know. We have the word of someone who was there – Jesus Christ, the Son of God. And He did not just peek behind the curtain in some out-of-body experience and revive on the operating table. He was dead (and buried) for three days, and He came back to life; and He was the Son of God, so this makes what He says extremely credible.

Many (if not most) people spend more time planning and thinking about where they’ll go for a two-week vacation than about their eternal soul. You are going to be dead a lot longer than you’ll be alive; isn’t it worth some time (including reading this) to consider what happens after you take that last breath. After all, 10 out of 10 people die. Then what.

We often hear statements such as, “*religious belief is a matter of faith, not something that can be proven.*” While this may be true of other religions, you **CAN** prove that the Bible is true. What frustrates me immensely is that Christians should know this – be taught, and learn it – but most of them are unaware you can prove the Bible, so the “*you can’t prove it*” concept persists. However, the truth is we can be more than 99.999 percent sure that the Bible is true. Read on.

Prophecy Proves The Bible

There are many, but perhaps the most convincing and hardest to refute piece of evidence confirming the Bible’s truthfulness is prophecy. It is something that sets the Bible apart from all other religious books. Prophecy is absolutely unique to the Bible and not found in any other religious scriptures.¹ The Bible states that only God knows the future (Isa 46:10). If psychics could really predict the future credibly, they would all invest in the stock market, get rich, and retire. One of the main reasons the Bible contains so many prophecies is so that in their fulfillment, the divine origin of the Scriptures may be established. Isaiah 46:9-11 records: “*I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done.*” Jesus said, “*I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe*” (John 13:19).

God uses this attribute that He alone possesses, to prove that the Bible - His message to us - is from Him. Although the Bible was penned by men, God Himself is the author. 2 Peter 1:21 states, “*For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*” Moreover, 2 Timothy 3:16 says, “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.*”

There are 8,362 predictive verses in the Bible.² At the time it was written, 27% of the Bible was prophetic. **The amazing thing is that while there have literally been thousands of fulfilled prophecies not once has the Bible ever been wrong - that’s right, it is 100 percent accurate.** Moreover, the Bible's many authors did not just predict vague or ambiguous things like Jeane Dixon or Nostradamus (see www.emjc3.com/prophecy101.htm to see the vagueness of Nostradamus’ prophecies), but were very specific.

Prophecies about Jesus

For thousands of years the Hebrew Scriptures predicted that a Messiah would one day come. The Old Testament details over three hundred prophecies about Jesus that were fulfilled in

¹ Missler, Chuck, *Prophecy 101*, khouse.org, 2002; Hunt, Dave, The Berean Call Newsletter, 11/30/07; Campbell, Charlie, *One Minute Answers to Skeptics’ Top Forty Questions*, Aquintas Publishing, 2005; et al.

² J. B. Payne, *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy*.

the New Testament. Prophecies such as His place of birth, His lineage, the exact date (483 years in advance) He would enter Jerusalem, how He would die, that He would be betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver, He would rise from the dead on the third day, His hands and feet would be pierced. On and on it goes, over 300 incredibly detailed predictions, most written hundreds, even thousands of years before they happened. (To view them see footnote)¹

Mathematically, the odds that one person would fulfill only 8 prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th power (1 in 10 with 17 zeros behind it).² That is for 8 prophecies, but it gets more incredible: the odds of one person fulfilling 48 prophecies are 1 in 10 to the 157th power³ (1/10 with 157 zeros behind it). Here is a visual illustration of 1 in 10^{157} power: if a person started counting electrons (counting 250 electrons per minute, 24 hours a day), it would take 57 million years to count them. Mark one of these electrons with an X then mix them all up: the probability of picking the one with the X on it is 1 in 10^{157} power.

This is absolutely amazing. In fact, mathematicians tell us that anything beyond 10^{50} is impossible (*they do not say improbable, they say impossible*).⁴ They say impossible possibly because there are only about 10^{17} seconds since the universe began. (It is widely believed that the universe is between 10 to 20 billion years old: roughly 10^{17} seconds). Yet, 10 to the 157th is for only 48 prophecies not 300 plus. Jesus fulfilled not 8, not 48, but over 300 prophecies. We cannot even conceive of this probability. It is less than 1 chance in 10^{942} , that is a 1/10 with 942 zeros after it – this is well beyond 99.999 percent. It is nothing short of a miracle, and in no way happened by chance; Jesus is the promised Messiah of God. He in turn verifies the Bible's truthfulness.

How these figures were arrived at.

To see how these prophecies are calculated, let's examine just three of them. Mica 5:2 says Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. So, how many people worldwide have been born in Bethlehem? Using round numbers and staying conservative, over the last two thousand years let's say the population of Bethlehem at any given time is less than 10,000 and the world's population has been 1,000,000,000 - one billion - that means that the odds of a person being born in Bethlehem (you just subtract the zeros) is 1 in 100,000 (and that is a generous estimate).

Zechariah 11:12 says Jesus would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver. The question is, how many people down through history have been betrayed for exactly thirty pieces of silver? I have no idea, but if I said less than 1 in a 10,000 I think that would be very safe. "*Then I said to them, If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain. So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.*" (Notice how specific the prophecy is. His wages wasn't 'money,' it wasn't 29 pieces or 31 pieces, it wasn't gold or copper, but it was "30 pieces of silver," so I think you could say 1 in a 1,000,000, and still be safe, but for our purpose we'll say 10,000).

Psalms 22 describes a crucifixion, and verse 16 says, Jesus' hands and feet would be pierced. Again, the question is how many people down through history have had their hands and feet pierced in a crucifixion-style execution? Probably a lot, but considering how many people have died in two thousand years, I think it would be safe to say less than 1 in 1,000 people have died with their hands and feet pierced by crucifixion.

So, in these three prophecies, you have 1 in 100,000, 1 in 10,000 and 1 in 1,000. Remember these numbers.

¹ To see all 300 prophecies go to www.emjc3.com/prophecy101.htm.

² McDowell, Josh; *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*; Here's Life Publishers, 1979; p 167.

³ *ibid*

⁴ Eastman, Mark; Missler, Chuck; *Creator Beyond Time and Space*; Word for Today; Nov. 1995; p 75.

Composite Probabilities

To understand these figures, you need to understand how composite probability works. Let's say you have a group of one hundred people. Within that group, 40 of them are left-handed and 60 of them are right-handed. If you picked someone at random, what are the odds of getting a left handed person? Obviously it is 40 percent.

Let's say that 40 of them are women and 60 are men. If you picked someone at random, what are the odds of picking a woman? Again, it is 40 percent.

Now what are the odds of picking a left-handed woman? To figure that out, you multiply the probabilities together: $.4 \times .4$ is $.16$, so the probability of getting a left-handed woman is 16 percent.

Let's go back to our three examples (born in Bethlehem, hands and feet pierced, betrayed for thirty pieces of silver); if you multiply them together, you get 1 in 1,000,000,000,000 or (1 in 10^{12}) - to multiply them, you just add up the zeros. And we just looked at 3 of the 300. When you compound the probabilities, you can see how the number gets real large very quickly.

In my booklet, *The Bible Proof Book* ^{*1}, I list several objections to prophecy. I'll try and summarize them here too.

Objection 1 – Modern Psychics Make Predictions Too

Do you think that predictions and prophecies aren't really evidence for the divine origin of the Bible because modern psychics make predictions too? This line of thinking is possibly understandable but, upon examination, completely unjustified.

Before mentioning the track record of modern psychics, let me first address one thing: Deuteronomy 18:22 states that the test for someone who prophesied in the name of the Lord was that they had to be 100% accurate. If they were 99% accurate and 1% wrong (if they had just one prophecy that didn't come to pass), verse 20 says that they were to be stoned to death. This was a practice that, no doubt, gave pause to any who were not absolutely sure their message was from God. The Bible is 100 percent accurate.

Now how about modern psychics? Josh McDowell notes that "in 1976 *The Peoples Almanac* did a study of twenty-five top psychics. The results: of the total seventy-two predictions, sixty-six (92 percent) were totally wrong."²

Objection 2 – Someone Altered The Manuscripts

All the prophecies about Jesus were made hundreds or thousands of years before He was born. Because of the accuracy of the prophecies about Him, many skeptics have tried to insist that the ancient manuscripts have been altered. They have thereby tried to deny that they are even prophecies, and have said that some unscrupulous people acquired the manuscripts and inserted the prophecies found in them. This might sound feasible until you realize that the Septuagint (the Hebrew Old Testament) was translated into Greek between 285-270 BC. This Greek translation shows that there was over a two-hundred-year gap between the prophecies being recorded and their fulfillment in Christ. It is an indisputable fact of history.

Objection 3 – Jesus Deliberately Fulfilled The Prophecies

Another argument people try and make is to say that Jesus deliberately fulfilled these prophecies. The problem with that argument is not only the sheer number of them, but most of them were outside of His control. For example, how could He choose where or when He was going to be born, who His parents were, or His lineage? Nor could He possibly control all the minute details within those prophecies. Did He tell the priests to give Judas 30 pieces of silver?

¹ View or download freely at www.BibleProofBook.com

² McDowell, Josh; *The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict*; Thomas Nelson; 1999; p194

Did he tell Judas to give the money back and to throw it on temple the floor? Did he tell the Romans to pierce His hands and his feet, or His side? Did He tell the Roman guards at the cross to gamble for his clothes? etc...etc... No He did not. That is only a couple examples among 324. For more information regarding this issue see footnote.¹

Objection 4 – The NT Writers Fabricated The Prophecies

Yet another objection that is sometimes made is that the New Testament writers fabricated all the prophecies. There are many reasons why this does not fly. One of them is not only the excessively large number of them (324), but also the fact that the events surrounding Jesus life were well known. So, upon examination, none of the objections hold up.

To conclude, prophecy reveals four things: (1) It proves that God exists, (2) It establishes the divine origin of the Bible, (3) It authenticates the deity of Jesus Christ, and (4) it demonstrates the inspiration of Scripture.

Remember, there are 8,362 predictive verses in the Bible:² a full 27% of the Bible is prophetic. **Although there have been thousands of fulfilled prophecies not once has the Bible ever been wrong; it is 100 percent accurate.**

Now, because “men of God wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit,” as 2 Peter states, and because the Bible is “God-breathed” as 2 Timothy states, and because Jesus is the promised Messiah of God (facts which have been demonstrated here), then the Bible truly is God’s message to us, and we would be wise to heed what it says. We really are sinners saved by Jesus’ death on a Roman cross 2,000 years ago. Furthermore, some people will go to hell and some will go to heaven. The Bible says the only way to heaven is to accept Christ as your Savior.

The choice is yours, if you would rather go to heaven rather than hell then ask Jesus to come in to your life and forgive your sins. Do this and the Bible says you will have eternal life. It is as simple as John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* God wants us to know His Son, to go to heaven and live with Him forever! Don't delay, say this prayer today...none of us are granted tomorrow. Oh, one more thing: you need to obey Jesus’ commandments, including Bible reading and going to church.

If you’re still not convinced and would like to see more evidence, see my ***Bible Proof*** booklet at www.BibleProofBook.com. In it you’ll read more about prophecy, plus learn about the Bible’s astounding scientific accuracy – facts only recently discovered, yet written down in the Holy Scripture’s up to six thousand years ago; and uncover amazing archeological discoveries that verify its truthfulness; and learn about the manuscript evidence, the eyewitness testimony, the resurrection...and more (all empirically and scientifically verifiable FACTS).

This article was adapted from “***The Bible Proof Book***” viewable at www.BibleProofBook.com. For more on prophecy see the prophecy section of ***The Bible Proof Book*** at the above URL. You can email me, Keith Mason, at mason.km@cox.net.

¹ See chapter 6 and 19 of *A Ready Defense*, 1992, viewable at www.greatcom.org/resources/areadydefense.

² J. B. Payne, *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy*.