

Proofs of Inspiration

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(note: for convenience, largely gleaned from others)

I. Prophecy—Isa 46:9, 10; 41:22-23

A. Probabilities Included

1. Some on Christ—see Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*. See also Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks*. See also Grant Jeffreys, *Armageddon, Appointment with Destiny*. (1 in 9E35, 9 followed by 35 zeros)

Event	Prophecy	Fulfillment	Prob 1/
Born in Bethlehem	Mic 5:2	Mt 2:5-	300000
Forerunner	Mal 3:1; Isa 40:3	Mt 3:1-2	1000
Enter Jerusalem on Donkey	Zech 9:9	Lk 19:35-37a	10000
Betrayed, wounded	Zech 13:6		1000
Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zech 11:12	Mt 26:15	10000
This silver discarded	Zech 11:13		100000
No defense but innocent	Isa 53:7		10000
Crucified	Ps 22:16		10000
Year of cutting off	Dan 9:24-27		3000

2. Some Other Prophecies—see Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*. See also Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks*.

a. Tyre—Ezk 26 (Probability of 1 in 400,000,000)

Event	Prophecy	Fulfillment	Prob 1/
Nebuchadnezzar will destroy the mainland city		Nebuchadnezzar laid seige three years after the prophecy. Tyre surrendered 13 years later (573 BC).	2
Many nations against Tyre		Alexander the Great went after Tyre in 333 BC. Antigonus laid seige 18 years later. The seige lasted 15 months. The Moslems also took Tyre.	5
Make her a bare rock		True today	2000
Fishermen spread nets over site		Often mentioned by men as true	10
Throw debris into water		By Alex	10
Others fear at fall			10
Never rebuilt		still an excellent site for a city but never rebuilt	20
Never found again		never, not even in Rev prophecies	

b. Sidon—Ezk 28:22-23 (Probability of 1 in 50)

Event	Prophecy	Fulfillment	Prob 1/
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No mention of destruction		Displays a real contrast between Tyre and Sidon. Sidon was often attacked and blood flowed in the streets. However, she was always rebuilt.	2
Blood in the streets			5
Sword on every side			5

c. Samaria—Hosea 13:16; Micah 1:6 (Probability of 1 in 20,000)

Event	Prophecy	Fulfillment	Prob 1/
Fall violently	Hosea	Sargon in 722 BC. Alexander in 331 BC. Hyrchanus in 120 BC.	10
Become as a heap in the field	Micah	Finally, happened	2
Vineyards planted there	Micah	Trees still there	500
Stones poured downhill	Micah		2
Dug up	Micah		1

d. Gaza-Ashkelon—Amos 1:8; Jer 47:5; Zeph 2:4, 6, 7 (1 in 100,000)

Event	Prophecy	Fulfillment	Prob 1/
Philistines will not continue	Amos 1:8	Sultan Bibars destroyed in 1270 AD	10
Gaza to be bald	Jer 47:5	There is a Gaza but it is in the wrong place.	1000
Ashkelon desolate	Zeph 2:4		2
Shepherds will dwell there	Zeph 2:6		5
Remnant of Judah will reinhabit Ashkelon	Zeph 2:7		?

e. Moab-Ammon—Ezk 25:3-4; Jer 48:47; 49:6 (1 in 1000)

Event	Prophecy	Fulfillment	Prob 1/
Taken by some who will live off the fruit of the land	Ezk 25:4	Shalmaneser of Assyria took in 354 BC.	5
'Men of east' make a site for palaces	Ezk 25:4	The Emir Abdullah, ruler of Transjordan, built his palace there.	10
People of old Moab and Ammon will reinhabit	Jer	Ammon is capital of Trans-Jordan	20

f. Petra and Edom—Isa 34:6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 15; Jer 49:17-18; Ezk 25:13-14; 35:5-7 (1 in 10,000)

Event	Prophecy	Fulfillment	Prob 1/
Become a desolation	Isa 34:13		
Never populated again	Jer 49:18		100
Conquered by heathen	Ezk 25:14	During the 6th cent BC	
Conquered by Israel	Ezk 25:14	1 Mac 5:3 and Josephus	10
Bloody history	Ezk 35:5-6; Isa 34:6-7		

Edom desolate as far as Teman	Ezk 25:13	(So desolate that, until the 19th cent AD, skeptics thought Edom had never existed.)	10
Wild animals inherit the area	Isa 34:13-15		
Cessation of trade	Isa 34:10; Ezk 35:7		
Spectators will be astonished	Jer 49:17		

3. Summaries

- a. On Christ, 1 in 9 followed by 35 zeros!
- b. On the other six is 1 in 4 followed by 26 zeros!
- c. Combined, 1 in 3.6E62. If that many silver dollars in a ball of radius 'r' and if 'd' is the distance from the sun to the earth, then r is 3.6 billion times the size of d.

B. No probabilities given—Messianic—see Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*

1. Concerning His Birth

Event	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Born of the seed of the woman	Ge 3:15	Gal 4:4; Mt 1:20
Born of a virgin	Isa 7:14	Mt 1:18, 24, 25
Son of God	Ps 2:7	Mt 3:17
Seed of Abraham	Ge 22:18	Mt 1:1; Gal 3:16
Son of Isaac	Ge 21:12	Lk 3:23, 24; Mt 1:2
Son of Jacob	Nu 24:17	Lk 3:23, 34
Tribe of Judah	Gen 49:10; Mic 5:2	Lk 3: 23, 33
Family line of Jesse	Isa 11:1	Lk 3:23, 32
House of David	Jer 23:5; 2Sa 7:12-16	Lk 3:23, 31
Born at Bethlehem	Mic 5:2	Mt 2:1
Presented with gifts	Ps 72:10	Mt 2:1, 11
Herod kills children	Jer 31:15	Mt 2:16

2. Concerning His Character

Characteristic	Prophecy	Fulfillment
His pre-existence	Mic 5:2	Col 1:17
He shall be called Lord	Ps 110:1	Lk 2:11; 20:41-44
Called Immanuel	Is 7:14	Mt 1:23
Prophet	Dt 18:18	Mt 21:11
Priest	Ps 110:4	Hb 3:1; 5:5, 6
Judge	Is 33:22	Jn 5:30
King	Ps 2:6	Mt 27:37
Anointed of Holy Spirit	Isa 11:2	Mt 3:16, 17
His zeal for God	Ps 69:9	Jn 2:15-17

3. Concerning His Ministry

Event	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Preceded by a messenger	Isa 40:3	Mt 3:1-2
Miracles	Isa 35:5-6a	Mat 9:35
Teacher of Parables	Ps 78:2	Mt 13:34
To enter the temple	Mal 3:1	Mt 21:12
Enter Jerusalem on Donkey	Zech 9:9	Lk 19:35-37a
'Stone of stumbling' to Jews	Ps 118:22	1Pt 2:7
'Light' to gentiles	Isa 60:3	At 13:47-48a
Resurrection	Ps 16:10	At 2:31
Ascension	Ps 68:18a	At 1:9

At right hand of God	Ps 110:1	Heb 1:3
Betrayed by a friend	Ps 41:9	Mt 10:4; 26:49-50
Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zech 11:12	Mt 26:15
Money thrown in God's house	Zech 11:13b	Mt 27:5a
Used to buy potter's field	Zech 11:13b	Mt 27:7
Forsaken by disciples	Zech 13:7	Mk 14:50
Accused by false witnesses	Ps 35:11	Mt 26:59-61
Did not answer accusers	Isa 53:7	Mt 27:12-19
Wounded and bruised	Isa 53:5	Mt 27:26
Smitten and spit upon	Isa 50:6	Mt 26:67
Mocked	Ps 22:7-8	Mt 27:31
Hands and feet pierced	Ps 22:16	Lk 23:33
Crucified with thieves	Isa 53:12	Mt 27:38
Made intercession for persecuters	Isa 53:12	Lk 23:34
Rejected by his own people	Isa 53:3	Jn 7:5, 48
Hated without a cause	Ps 69:4	Jn 15:25
Friends stood afar	Ps 38:11	Lk 23:49
People shook their heads	Ps 109:25	Mt 27:39
Stared upon	Ps 22:17	Lk 23:35
Garments parted and lots cast	Ps 22:18	Jn 19:23-24
Suffered thirst	Ps 69:21	Jn 19:28
Gall and vinegar offered him	Ps 69:21	Mt 27:34; Jn 19:28-9
His cry on the cross	Ps 22:1	Mt 27:46
Committed himself to God	Ps 31:5	Lk 23:46
Bones not broken	Ps 34:20	Jn 19:33
His side pierced	Zech 12:10	Jn 19:34
Buried with rich	Isa 53:9	Mt 27:57-60

- C. No probabilities given—Some Other Prophecies—see Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*. See also Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks*.
1. The Golden Gate—Ezk 44:1-3 (shut in 1543 AD. In recent years, when planned reopenings, control of city was lost.)
 2. Thebes and Memphis—Ezk 30:13-15
 3. Nineveh—Nah 1:8, 10; 2:6; 3:10, 13, 19
 4. Babylon—Isa 13:19-22; 14:23; Jer 51:26, 43 (see also Rev 14:8, etal.)
 5. Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum—Mt 11:20-24
 6. Jerusalem's Enlargement—Jer 31:38-40
 7. Palestine—Lev 26:31-33; Ezk 36:33-35

II. Nature of its Teachings (see A. W. Pink, *The Divine Inspiration of the Bible*. We will only give a brief outline of topics. His understanding of the future of the redeemed is not dispensational.)

- A. The nature of God and man required that, if man were to learn of God, there would have to be a revelation by God. Where is that revelation?
- B. The writers are so honest, they record the sins of the people and of the great men of Israel. Not true of any other.
- C. The Bible is unique in its teaching about God and his nature—eternal, infinite, sovereign, etc.
- D. The Bible is unique in its teachings about the nature of man—his sin. For example, see Ro 3:10-18
- E. The Bible is unique in picturing the world as against God—Jn 15:18-19
- F. The Bible is unique in stating the awfulness of sin—Ps 51:4, etc.
- G. The Bible presents the awful consequences of sin—Mk 9:48
- H. A unique salvation—not by works but by sovereign grace
- I. The Bible is unique in its presentation of the future of the saved—heaven and earth.

III. Implications on our hermeneutic

- A. The test of a prophet required the 'literal' hermeneutic—Dt 18:20-22. If a prophecy is not to come to pass except in some allegorical sense, then this passage is meaningless. The allegorical trick was often used by pagan religions.
- B. The use of prophecy as proof of inspiration requires and presumes a 'literal' or 'natural' hermeneutic.
- C. The recognition of great teachings requires teachings which the original hearers could discern from the word spoken to them. This rules out the allegorical method as an approach to prophecy. (of course, we recognize 'figures of speech.' See the book by Bullinger on the subject.)
- D. Examples of interpretation from Jesus
 - 1. Mt 22:41-46 takes Ps 110:1 literally
 - 2. Mt 22:31-32 uses the verb tense in Ex 3:6 to prove a point
 - 3. Lk 4:14-21 proves that the fulfillment of Isa 61:1-2 would be interrupted. We know that interruption to be nearly 2000 years or more.
- E. From the apostles
 - 1. Paul uses the literally meanings of OT verses to prove his points in Ro 3:10-20 and 4:1-8. See especially Gen 15:5-6
 - 2. Peter uses Joel 2:28-32 in At 2:14-21 and proves that fulfillment can be interrupted by nearly 2000 years (we know that). See Joel 3:1-3, 17-20