

The Uniqueness of the Bible #3 Fulfilled Prophecy

Intro: One of the things that sets the Bible apart from all other books is its legitimate claim to predict the future.

God himself reveals the value of fulfilled prophecy as an evidence of His reality and power.

“Present your case,” the Lord says. “Bring forward your strong arguments,” The King of Jacob says, “Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place; as for the former events, declare what they were, that we may consider them, and know their outcome; or announce to us what is coming. Declare the things that are going to come afterward, that we may know that you are gods; Indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us and fear together.” (Isaiah 41:21-23)

Of course, a prophecy must have manifest supernatural features to be a genuine prophecy.

It must significantly precede the person or event described.

It must deal in specific details, not vague generalities.

The prophet must be accurate 100% of the time.

Isaiah served as God’s spokesman to declare God’s promise to bring a deliverer to the Jewish people.

Authenticated by the Jewish people as coming from Isaiah the son of Amoz whose ministry lasted from approximately 750-700 BC.

Perhaps the most impressive manuscript from the Dead Sea Scrolls is this complete scroll of Isaiah the prophet (dated to at least 100 BC).

Comparison of it with other manuscript traditions confirms the textual reliability of these prophecies.

It also shows that the prophecies existed at least a hundred years before Jesus was born and provides evidence for the traditional view that it was written during the days of Isaiah.

Isaiah’s scroll contains clear prophetic declarations of a King to come

He speaks of the hope of God’s presence in a child to be born of a virgin:

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

He speaks of a son who will rule on David’s throne:

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold

it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

He speaks of his endowment with the Spirit of God and his righteous rule:

Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And He will delight in the fear of the Lord, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; but with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist. (Isaiah 11:1-5)

He speaks of a preparation for the Lord's coming to His people:

A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:3)

He speaks of the humility and meekness of the coming king:

"Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. "He will not cry out or raise His voice, nor make His voice heard in the street. "A bruised reed He will not break, and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. "He will not be disheartened or crushed, until He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law." (Isaiah 42:1-4)

He speaks of the light he will be to all the world:

And now says the Lord, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, in order that Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and My God is My strength), He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (Isaiah 49:5-6)

He speaks of a time in rejection and sacrifice in behalf of His people:

Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. (Isaiah 53:4-6)

Such prophecies by Isaiah thrilled the hearts of the Jewish people and they longed for the arrival this person to come—Messiah, they called him.

Edersheim in his monumental work quotes the aspirations of Jews in the inter-testamental period by quoting a non-biblical work called the “Psalter of Solomon” which pronounced blessings upon those who live in the “day when the King, the Son of David, having purged Jerusalem and destroyed the heathen by the word of His mouth, would gather together a holy people which He would rule with justice, and judge the tribes of His people, dividing them over the land according to tribes, when no stranger would any longer dwell among them” (Edersheim, p. 80). Such were the hopes of all Israel as the NT period dawned.

God’s prophecies through Isaiah have been fulfilled by Jesus Christ.

Jesus clearly claimed to be the one to whom the Jewish prophets pointed, confirming it not only by his miraculous ministry but by his death and resurrection from the dead.

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. (Matthew 5:17-18)

Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” (Luke 24:44)

And His apostles with conviction and miracle working signs confirmed that He was the one of which the prophets spoke!

Matthew reports Mary’s conception before her cohabitation with her betrothed Joseph:

Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.” (Matthew 1:22-23)

He refers to John’s preparatory ministry:

For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!’” (Matthew 3:3)

He points out Jesus teaching ministry around the sea of Galilee:

This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying, “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—“The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light, and to those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, upon them a light dawned.” (Matthew 4:14-16)

He reported Jesus’ quiet and unassuming presentation of himself:

in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, might be fulfilled, saying, “Behold, My Servant whom I have chosen; My Beloved in whom My soul is well -pleased; I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He shall proclaim justice to the Gentiles. “He will not quarrel, nor cry out; nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. “A

battered reed He will not break off, and a smoldering wick He will not put out, until He leads justice to victory. "And in His name the Gentiles will hope." (Mt. 12:17-21)

He reports Jesus' compassionate miracles of healing:

in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "He Himself took our infirmities, and carried away our diseases." (Matthew 8:17)

John reports Jesus' rejection by the Jews:

that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" (John 12:38)

These things Isaiah said, because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him. (John 12:41)

Clearly Jesus and apostles saw Isaiah's words as finding their fulfillment in Jesus and in no other!

No other character in history has successfully duplicated all the prophecies about the Christ!

Impossibility of being fulfilled by chance

Stoner picked out just 8 of the OT prophecies about Jesus and calculated the mathematical probability of a chance fulfillment. The probability is 1×10^{17} , comparable to a blind man finding a marked silver dollar in a pile two feet high the size of the state of Texas.

Thus, there can no naturalistic explanation for the prophecies of the OT and their NT fulfillments in Jesus.

These fulfilled prophecies established three important truths

The existence of God

**The existence of a manifestly supernatural phenomenon like fulfilled prophecy is undeniable proof of a supernatural being—
God!**

The deity of Jesus Christ

The fact that Jesus fulfilled these verses is proof that He is the Jewish Messiah and "God with us".

The inspiration of the OT Scriptures

What book ever written has produced such a vast array of proofs of its divine origin.

Conclusion: The Bible is indeed unique among the books of this world. Its unity, its impact upon the world, and its powerful supernatural prophecies clearly place it in a class all by itself!