

EVIDENCES FOR THE HISTORICAL RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE

Western civilization is for the first time in
history in danger of dying. The reason is
spiritual. It is losing its life, its soul; that soul
is the Christian faith... We do apologetics
not to save the church but to save the world.

Peter Kreeft and Ron Tacelli

The Bible is Unique in Its Survival

Through Time: The overwhelming and widespread evidence of the Bible presents the factuality of absolute reliability.

Old Testament: There are more than 14,000 existing

Old Testament manuscripts and fragments copied

throughout the Middle East, Mediterranean, and

European regions that agree dramatically with

other. These documents agree with the Septuagint

version of the Old Testament...as well as the Dead

Sea Scrolls. The Jewish Scribes went to extra-

Chinque in Carnival

Samuel Davidson shares the Regulations for the Jewish Talmudists regarding transcribing and copying the holy manuscripts.

Davidson explains that “the rolls in which these regulations are not observed are condemned to be burned...or they are banished to the schools, to be used as reading books.”

The Talmudists were so convinced that when they finished transcribing a MS they had an exact duplicate, they would give the new copy equal

Unique through Persecution

The Bible has been criticized and viciously attacked by the enemies of Christianity. In A.D. 303 the Roman Emperor Diocletian ordered Christians to cease worshipping Christ and his military to desecrate Christian Scriptures.

As Christian Apologist Bernard Ramm has stated, "Many have tried to burn it, ban it, and outlaw it from the days of Roman Emperors to present day Communist-dominated countries...A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded. When the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut

Unique through Criticism

Liberal Theologians declared that the Bible was filled with myths and historical inaccuracies. But Manuscript discoveries and Archaeology have completely nullified the criticisms of the Critics.

Middle Eastern Studies Scholar, Dr. J. Randall Price, states: "Those who expected the [Dead Sea Scrolls] to produce a radical revision of the Bible have been disappointed, for these texts have only verified the reliability of stability of the Old Testament as it appears in our modern translations."

Unique in Criticism

Dr. Price continues as he writes concerning the discoveries relating to the book of Daniel: "The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, then, has made a contribution toward confirming the integrity of the biblical text and its own claim to predictive prophecy. Rather than support the recent theories of documentary disunity, the Scrolls have returned scholars to a time when the Bible's internal witness to its own consistency and veracity was fully accepted by its adherents."

Unique in Criticism

Noted classical scholar Professor E.N. Blaiklock wrote:
“Recent archaeology has destroyed much nonsense and will destroy more. And I use the word nonsense deliberately, for theories and speculations find currency in biblical scholarship that would not be tolerated for a moment in any other branch of literary or historical criticism.”

Renowned archaeologist William F. Albright concluded:
“All radical schools in the New Testament criticism that existed in the past or which exist today are pre-archaeological, and are therefore, since they were built on a false foundation, bound to collapse.”

Unique in Criticism

The Distinguished archaeologist and scholar Dr. Clifford Wilson concludes his monumental 17 volume survey *Archaeology - the Bible and Christ*, with these words: "It is remarkable that where confirmation is possible has come to light, the Bible stands investigation in what are unique in all literature. Its superiority to attacks, its capacity to withstand criticism, its amazing facility to be proved right after all, are all staggering by any standards of scholarship. Seemingly assured results 'disproving' the Bible has been vindicated. That is true from Genesis to Revelation, as we have seen in this book."

THE STATISTICAL PROOF FOR GOD

“Throughout the New Testament, the Apostles appealed to two areas of the life of Jesus of Nazareth to establish His Messiahship. One was Resurrection and the other was fulfilled messianic prophecy. The Old Testament, written over a thousand-year period, contains more than three hundred references to the coming Messiah. All these were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and they establish a solid confirmation of His credentials as the Messiah.”

Josh McDowell (Evidence for Christianity)

The Bible records thousands of prophecies. These concern nations, cities, national and world leaders, and the coming of Jesus Christ. Nearly every fulfilled prophecy recorded in the Bible can be verified by historical records outside the Bible - and not one prophecy has been proven wrong."

Ruce Bickel and Stan Jantz (Evidence for Faith 101)

Dr. Hugh Ross, Astrophysicist and President, Reasons to Believe states: "Approximately 2000 of the 2500 prophecies in the Bible have been fulfilled to the letter with no errors (the remaining 500 concern events that have not yet occurred...The probability of any one of these prophecies coming true is less than one in ten. The chances that 2000 prophecies could have been fulfilled by chance without error is less than one in 10^{2000} . Since any probability less than 1 in 10^{50} is considered impossible, the only reasonable explanation for the complete accuracy of the prophecies found in the Bible is this:

entist and Christian Apologist, Ralph Muncaster explains the significance of statistical proof and prophecy: "Hard evidence inevitably involves mathematics that either defines a truth by definition (often an equation) or as a highly probable statistical event. Prophecy can provide hard evidence of God, Jesus, and the Bible because it can be evaluated using 'absurdly conservative' assumptions and still prove (statistically) the supernatural inspiration of the Bible...The value of prophecy in 'proving' the existence of God, the deity of Jesus, or the inspiration of the God of the Bible, is directly related to 1) the degree of improbability of random occurrence of a specific event(s) prophesied without God; and 2) the number of consecutive correct prophecies made without error."

The Statistical Proof for God

Is There a Difference between Biblical Prophecies and Predictions made by Psychics?

The test of a prophet was whether they ever uttered predictions that did not come to pass (Deut 18:22). Those whose prophecies failed were stoned (18:20). A practice that gave pause to anyone who was not absolutely certain his message was from God. Amid hundreds of prophecies, biblical prophets are not known to have made a single error. A study of psychics from 1975 and observed until 1981 showed only six of their predictions were fulfilled in any way. 92% of the

the Statistical Tool for God

ological Prophecy and Psychic Predictions

1993 the Charlotte Observer reported the

psychics missed every major unexpected new

ry, including Michael Jordan's retirement

and west flooding, and Israel - PLO peace

aty. Among their false prophecies were th

Queen of England would become a nun,

thie Lee Gifford would replace Jay Leno

st of "The Tonight Show"

The Statistical Proof for God

Principles for Evaluating Prophecy

Specificity of Prophecy

Number of consistently correct prophecies
Hancaster explains:

Statistical proof is not 100% certain. But it is highly reliable through repeated observation and experimentation...the standard benchmark is something with a probability of less than 1 in 10^{50} is impossible or absurd (without God); therefore humans accept such probability as 'proof.' Dr. Pierre Borel, noted authority of probability, states in his book, *Probability in Life*, that once the number is past one chance in 10^{50} (from a human perspective), the probabilities are so small it is impossible to think that an event will ever occur. Scientists generally accept a standard that is something with a probability of less than 1 chance in 10^{50} is regarded as

THE STATISTICAL TOOL FOR GOD

CRITERIA for STATISTICAL EVALUATION of CERTIFIED PROPHECY

Of sufficient specificity, and unlikelihood, that a cursory examination would lead a reasonable person to conclude that fulfillment would yield a probability of 1% or smaller.

Authenticated by one source and confirmed by a separate source that would receive no net benefit from confirmation of the prophecy.

Based on reliable source. The sources of both prophecy and confirmation must be reliable, or the prophecy

the Statistical Proof for God

The Significance OF PREDICTIVE PROPHEC

Reveals the Divine Intellect behind the Bible

Establishes the Fact of God

Authenticates the Deity of Jesus

Demonstrates the Inspiration of the Bible

How Did Jesus Christ Substantiate His Claim to be the Son of God?

There are three lines of Evidence that Jesus provided to support His claim to be the Son of God and the Son of Man.

The three proofs are:

His fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies

His sinless life and miraculous deeds

the Statistical Proof for God

There are several studies regarding the Messianic prophecies being fulfilled in Jesus. These three stand out: *Prophecy and History: What the Bible Teaches About the Promised Messiah* by James Smith, *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy* by J. Baron Payne, and *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah* by Alfred Edersheim. Smith discusses 73 prophecies regarding the first coming of the Jewish Messiah which Payne studies 191 prophecies. Edersheim states that there are at least 456 prophecies predicting the first coming of the Messiah. All three scholars declare that Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies

Messiah

Messianic Prophecy	“Guesstimate of Odds”
Abraham an ancestor (Gen 9-10)	1 in 3
Isaac an ancestor (Gen 22:18)	1 in 1000
Jacob an ancestor (Gen 26:4)	1 in 10,000
Leah an ancestor (Gen 28:14)	1 in 100,000
Rachel an ancestor (Gen 49:10)	1 in 1,000,000
Benjamin an ancestor (Isa 11:1-5)	1 in 10,000,000
From the tribe of Judah (II Sam 7:11-16)	1 in 100,000,000
From Bethlehem as birthplace (Micah 5:2)	1 in 100,000

Messianic Prophecies

Called "God with us" (Isa 7:14)	1 in 100,000
Calming the sea (Ps 107:29)	1 in 10,000,000
Special Miracles" (Isa 35:4-6)	1 in 100,000,000
Names given (Isa 9:6)	1 in 10,000
Use of Parables (Ps 78:2)	1 in 10
Ultimate king over all (Is 45:23;Ps22)	1 in 10
Offering & Pass Over Lamb(Is 53)	1 in 100
With "wicked men" (Isa 53:3-9)	1 in 10
Associated with rich man (Isa 53:3-9)	1 in 10
Humility of entry in Jerusalem (Dan 9:20-27)	1 in 10,000,000

Messianic Prophecies

Rejection by Israel; silent (Isa 8:10)	1 in 10,000
Hands & feet pierced (Psalm 22)	1 in 10,000
Identifying place of crucifixion (Gen 22)	1 in 1,000,000
Will thirst during death (Ps 69:20-22)	1 in 10
No bones broken (Psalm 22)	1 in 10
Identification of words at execution (Ps 22)	1 in 1000
Robes cast for clothing (Psalm 22)	1 in 1000
Will be given gall & wine (Psalm 69:20,22)	1 in 10

Messianic Prophecies

The cumulative probability of all these prophecies randomly coming true in one person would be one chance in 10^{110} . This would be like winning about 16 lotteries a row. What if a skeptic believed that the calculations were not conservative enough. What if the estimates are off by a factor of a trillion trillion! They would still result in the "impossible odds of all the prophecies coming true in one man - Jesus - one chance in 10^{86} . These are just 30 of the prophecies anywhere close to Edersheim's 456 prophecies regarding the first coming of the Jewish Messiah

Messianic Prophecies

JESUS PREDICTED HIS DEATH AND
RESURRECTION SEVERAL TIMES

Matthew 12:40; 16:21; 17:22,23; 20:17-19; 26:6
27:40; 27:63.

Mark 8:31; 9:30-32; 10:32-34; 14:58; 15:29,30.

Luke 9:21,22, 44-45; 18:31-34.

John 2:13-22; 3:14-16; 12:32-34.

Messianic Prophecies

ed just on the Statistical Proofs we have
nined, what logical, rational conclusion
ld a person come to regarding the identity
s of Nazareth?

gend - Liar - Lunatic - or LOR