

The Bible Can Accurately Predict the Future

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When it comes to the claims in the Bible, everyone is placing a bet. We are betting our souls that it is either true or not true, and you will either be right or wrong. Since we are asked to believe in a God who is invisible to us, is it too much to ask for a little proof that He really exists and that the Bible is true?

Your wish has been granted. God has provided indisputable proof that He exists, knows what will happen in the future, and can control events taking place on earth. The evidence is found in the numerous predictions recorded in the Scriptures by the biblical prophets and their fulfillment in history.

You don't need to have your every question answered before you can believe in God. A jury doesn't need to have every question answered before it can reach a verdict. It's highly unlikely that the members of a jury will see a video recording of the accused person committing the murder. They just need to examine the evidence (such as the defendant's fingerprints were at the crime scene) to convince them beyond a reasonable doubt. Even though the jury wasn't there to witness the crime, they can "figure out" that the accused was there because he left behind indisputable evidence through his fingerprints.

God has also left us with some indisputable evidence that He exists. The Old Testament prophets, who wrote certain books of the Bible, prophesied about specific events that would take place hundreds of years in the future. How is it possible for anyone to predict the future when it has not yet occurred? The prophets claimed that they received their information directly from God, who told them what would happen. Each prediction of the future is called a prophecy, and the Bible records hundreds of prophecies.

The prophets wrote down numerous predictions in the Scriptures, which came to pass hundreds of years later exactly as they prophesied. Bible prophecies that have already been fulfilled provide proof that God knows the future, can control earthly events, and that the Bible is true. Jesus prophesied to His disciples about His own crucifixion and resurrection so they would believe after it came to pass. He said, "I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He" (John 13:19;14:29). In other words, God made prophecies, which are recorded in the Bible, and brought them to pass to give us evidence so we would believe in Him.

The prophets would die long before most of their predictions would come to pass, and time has proven them to be correct. Today, thanks to the meticulous work of scribes who carefully copied and preserved their predictions, we can look back on history and see that their prophecies were fulfilled exactly as they had proclaimed. This gives us proof that the Bible is inspired by God and we can therefore trust what it says.

[For further study on fulfilled prophecies, read "Seven Factors Necessary for a Prophecy to Be Fulfilled" in chapter 3 of [The Sure Cure for Worry](#) by Kent Crockett, Chosen Books, 2013]

Some Biblical Prophecies of the Future

The prophet **Daniel** gave some amazing details about how the future would unfold. In Daniel's prophecy of the Seventy Weeks (Daniel 9:24–27), he prophesied both the first and second comings of Christ. He also predicted that four world empires would successively arise over the span of hundreds of years—Babylon, then Medo-Persia, followed by Greece, and finally Rome (Daniel 2:31–45; 7:1–28). In Daniel 11:29–31, he predicted a king would arise and desecrate the temple in Jerusalem. This was fulfilled when Antiochus Epiphanes slaughtered a pig on the altar of the Jewish temple and erected an altar to the god Zeus in 168 BC.

The prophet **Micah** lived over 700 years before Christ. God communicated a specific future event to this prophet, which was recorded in the Hebrew Bible: "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity" (Micah 5:2). Out of all the cities in the world, Micah predicted that Bethlehem would be the location where the Messiah would be born. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, fulfilling the prophecy.

The prophet **Zechariah** predicted the Messiah would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver, which was fulfilled when Judas betrayed Jesus. The prophet accurately described the exact number of pieces (30, not 29) and that the money would be of silver, not gold. He foretold that the money would be thrown in the sanctuary (not somewhere else), and used to buy a potter's field (Zech. 11:12–13; Matt. 27:3–7). He also prophesied that He would be pierced, which was fulfilled when the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear (Zech. 12:10; John 19:34).

The prophet **Isaiah**, writing 700 years before Christ, predicted the Messiah would be scourged (Isaiah 53:5; John 19:1) and buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9; Matt. 27:60).

In Psalm 22, 1,000 years before Christ was born, King **David** described the crucifixion of Jesus, saying that His hands and feet would be pierced (Psalm 22:16; Luke 24:39), including the fact that they would cast lots for his garments, which was fulfilled when the soldiers cast lots for His outer garments and tunic (Psalm 22:18; John 19:23–24). David also predicted that the Messiah would be betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9; John 13:18), not a bone would be broken (Psalm 34:20; John 19:36), and He would rise from the dead (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:31–32).

We have not begun to scratch the surface of all the biblical prophecies and their fulfillments. The fulfillment of each prophecy tells us that God oversaw the people and circumstances so that everything came together at just the right time. The fact that hundreds of Bible prophecies have been fulfilled exactly as foretold is irrefutable evidence that God not only exists, but that He is controlling history!

The prophecies below were made hundreds of years before Jesus was born and were fulfilled as foretold.

Prophecies and Fulfillments

Prophecies in the Old Testament about the Messiah	Approximate date prophesied	Fulfillment in the New Testament
He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)	740-680 BC	Matt. 1:18–25
He would be the Son of God (Psalm 2:7)	1,000 BC	Matt. 3:17
He would be a descendant of Abraham (Genesis 12:3, 22:18)	1,400 BC	Matt. 1:1
The Messiah would be a descendant of Isaac (Genesis 21:12)	1,400 BC	Matt. 1:2; Luke 3:34
The Messiah would be a descendant of Jacob (Numbers 24:17)	1,400 BC	Matthew 1:2; Luke 3:34
He would be from tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10)	1,400 BC	Matthew 1:2; Luke 3:33
He would be from the family of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1)	740–680 BC	Matthew 1:6; Luke 3:32
The Messiah would be from house of David (Jeremiah 23:5)	627–580 BC	Matthew 1:1; Luke 3:31
He would be raised up as a prophet like Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18)	1,400 BC	Acts 3:22; 7:37

Prophecies in the Old Testament about the Messiah	Approximate date prophesied	Fulfillment in the New Testament
The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)	722 BC	Matthew 2:1
After He was born, babies would be killed in Bethlehem (Jeremiah 31:15)	627–580 BC	Matthew 2:16–18
He would be called Immanuel, meaning “God with us” (Isaiah 7:14)	740–680 BC	Matthew 1:23
He would be called out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1) (Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt with Jesus)	720 BC	Matthew 2:15
The Messiah would come from Galilee (Isaiah 9:1–2)	740–680 BC	Matthew 4:13–16
The Spirit of the Lord would be upon Him (Isa. 61:1)	740–680 BC	Luke 4:16–21; Matt. 12:17–18
He would be preceded by a messenger (Malachi 3:1)	430 BC	Matt. 11:10
He would do miracles (Isaiah 35:5–6)	740–680 BC	Matt. 11:2–5
Israel’s king would ride into Jerusalem on donkey (Zechariah 9:9)	470 BC	Matt. 21:5–9; John 12:14–15
The Messiah would be welcomed with “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” (Psalm 118:26)	1000 BC	John 12:13
He would be hated for no reason (Psalm 35:19; 69:4)	1,000 BC	John 15:25
He would be rejected by the religious rulers (Psalm 118:22)	1000 BC	Matthew 21:42
He would be rejected by His own brothers (Psalm 69:8)	1,000 BC	John 7:5
He would be betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9)	1,000 BC	Matt. 10:4
His betrayer would eat bread with Him (Psalm 41:9)	1,000 BC	John 13:18, 26; Mark 14:18
He would be betrayed for money—30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12)	470 BC	Matthew 26:15
Predicted exactly 30 pieces (not 29 or 31). The coins would be silver, not gold.	470 BC	Matthew 26:15

Prophecies in the Old Testament about the Messiah	Approximate date prophesied	Fulfillment in the New Testament
The money would be returned (Zechariah 11:12–13)	470 BC	Matthew 27:3
The money would be thrown in the house of the Lord (Zechariah 11:13)	470 BC	Matthew 27:5
The betrayal money would pay for a Potter's field (Zechariah 11:13)	470 BC	Matthew 27:7
He would be forsaken by the disciples (Zechariah 13:7)	470 BC	Matthew 26:31, 56
He would be silent before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7)	740–680 BC	Matthew 26:62–63
The Messiah would be mocked (Isa. 53:3)	740–680 BC	Matt. 27:29
He would be beaten with a rod (Mic. 5:1)	722 BC	Mark 15:19
He would be spat upon in the face (Isa. 50:6)	740–680 BC	Mark 14:65
The Messiah would be wounded, bruised (Isaiah 53:5)	740–680 BC	Matt. 27:30; Luke 22:63
The Messiah would be scourged on His back (Isaiah 50:6, 53:5)	740–680 BC	John 19:1
His hands and feet would be pierced (Psalm 22:16)	1,000 BC	John 20:25
His garments would be divided (Psalm 22:18)	1,000 BC	John 19:23
They would cast lots for His clothing (Psalm 22:18)	1,000 BC	John 19:24
The Messiah would die with criminals (Isaiah 53:12)	740–680 BC	Mark 15:28; Luke 22:37
Those watching the crucifixion would wag their heads (Psalm 22:7; 109:25)	1,000 BC	Mark 15:29; Matt. 27:39
Those watching the crucifixion would mock Him for not saving Himself (Ps. 22:8)	1,000 BC	Matthew 27:41–43
He would pray for those crucifying Him (Isaiah 53:12)	740–680 BC	Luke 23:34
He would be given vinegar to drink (Ps. 69:21)	1,000 BC	Matt. 27:34
"Why hast thou forsaken me?" (Ps. 22:1)	1,000 BC	Matt. 27:46

