

## Lesson Two

# The Divinity of the Bible

Has anyone ever asked you, "why do you believe what you believe" ? Or maybe you have asked someone that question yourself. Have you ever received this kind of response " Because the Bible says so" ? Now, to a Christian that may be a sound answer but to the skeptic or the Atheist it sounds a bit silly. What do you mean because the Bible says so, who cares what the Bible says. That is a very reasonable and logical response so if you will, allow me, to attempt to explain why you should care what the Bible says.

One day Jim was walking in the mall when a complete stranger approached him. Sir, Yes, said Jim, "Tomorrow at 12 noon your neighbor to the left of you, his house will burn to the ground, the following day the neighbor to the right of you, his house will burn to the ground, and finally on the third day your house will burn to the ground as well". Your crazy, replied Jim, this stranger didn't look like much in fact he was kind of freaky looking. So Jim a little spooked just dismissed him as the stranger turned and walked away.

The next day at noon Jim's neighbors house to the left of him burned down to the ground. Jim was freaking out about now, but he thought OK. It's just a coincidence, no big deal. Until the following day at noon Jim's neighbors house to the right of him burned down as well. It was just as that crazy stranger had said. Jim got in his car a drove to the mall as fast as he could to try and find that strange man to see if there was something he could do to prevent this third event from taking place. Why do you think Jim would believe some crazy stranger concerning his house his family and their lives and safety ? Jim didn't know this man, he had no idea where he came from or anything else about him. And Yet, because of this mans accuracy in his predictions thus far, Jim had to take this stranger and his word seriously. If you were Jim, what would you do? Probably the same thing, I know I would .

There are twenty five hundred prophecies in the Bible, two thousand of them have already come to pass. Not only have they come to pass but they all happened within the time frame the Bible said they would, and exactly the way the Bible said they would. The remaining five hundred prophecies yet to be fulfilled deal with future events yet to take place.

The odds of this happening by chance is less than one in  $10^{2000}$  (that is 1 with 2000 zeros written after it)! <sup>1</sup>. Seeing as how the Bible has a 100% accuracy rating in it's previous predictions, I think the probability of the remaining five hundred or so prophecies coming to pass has to be considered highly likely.

There are three hundred or so messianic prophecies found in the Bible, if you simply took the following eight prophecies, What is the probability that one single individual since the beginning of time could fulfill all eight of the following conditions? 2.

1. Come from Bethlehem: 1 in 10,000
  
2. A messenger will prepare the way for him and then the Lord will come to His Temple: 1 in 1,000
  
3. Ride on a donkey into Jerusalem and be declared as a righteous king having salvation: 1 in 10,000
  
4. Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver: 1 in 1,000
  
5. Silver returned, thrown into the Temple and used for the Potters field: 1 in 100,000
  
6. No defense though innocent: 1 in 1,000
  
7. Crucified (predicted before it was invented): 1 in 10,000
  
8. Bones not broken: 1 in 100

If you multiplied this out it would be 1 in 10 to the 28th power.

To be fair, this could have been fulfilled by anyone who has lived since the time of these prophecies which would include 8.8 billion people. (Of course the Temple must be standing, so we could slice 2/3 of history off this exponential number if we wanted to, but we won't.) Therefore the odds of these eight prophecies happening by chance to one particular man within that time frame is found by dividing 10 to the 28th power by 10 to the 10th power, which gives us 10 to the 18th power.

Let's pretend that you had 10 to 18th power silver dollars. Do you know how many that is? It is enough to fill an area two feet deep. Now the question is; how big of an area? How about the size of your church? If we filled your church two feet deep in silver dollars is that large enough to hold these silver dollars? Nope!

How about the size of your city? I don't even care what city you live in, if we filled your city two feet deep in silver dollars, would it be large enough to hold 10 to the 18th power silver dollars? Nope, but I bet the city folks would love to see it though. How about the county that you live in? Is that big enough to hold the number that we are talking about? Nope.

We would need to take the whole state of Texas and cover it with silver dollars to a depth of two feet. How big is Texas? You would have to add together the sizes of Ohio, Indiana, all of New England as well as all the Middle Atlantic states combined. Finally we would have a big enough area to hold that quantity. This area is 268,581 square miles and remember that it is filled two feet deep with silver dollars. That is an unbelievable amount of silver dollars. <sup>3</sup>

Now stick with me, because we aren't done yet. The next step is to make one of them gold plated, drop it by helicopter somewhere in the state of Texas and then mix all of the silver dollars up thoroughly. Finally we would need to take a blindfolded man or women, and let the blindfolded person go anywhere in the state and pick up one coin. The likelihood of that person picking up that gold plated silver dollar on the first try is the same as the odds of these eight prophecies coming true in one man without divine intervention. <sup>4</sup>

**A man with an experience is never subject to a man with a theory.**

You may scoff, even dismiss the Bible, you may ignore its teachings, and it's warnings, You may choose to live your life alternatively to it. But if you step back and take a look at the sheer accuracy of the Biblical text and the probability of it all being a simple chance occurrence. Any fair minded, logical, individual, must come to the sane conclusion, that the Bible is like no other book ever written, in that, based upon it's stunning accuracy it must be in fact, of a Divine nature.

## “Further Biblical accuracy revealed”

In approximately 700 B. C. the prophet Micah named the tiny village of Bethlehem as the birthplace of Israel's Messiah (Micah 5:2).

The fulfillment of this prophecy in the birth of Christ is one of the most widely known and widely celebrated facts in history. (Probability of chance fulfillment=1 in  $10^5$ . 5.

In the fifth century B. C. a prophet named Zechariah declared that the Messiah would be betrayed for the price of a slave--thirty pieces of silver,

according to Jewish law--and also that this money would be used to buy a burial ground for Jerusalem's poor foreigners (Zechariah 11:12-13). Bible writers and secular historians both record thirty pieces of silver as the sum paid to Judas Iscariot for betraying Jesus, and they indicate that the money went to purchase a "potter's field," used--just as predicted--for the burial of poor aliens (Matthew 27:3-10). (Probability of chance fulfillment=1 in  $10^{11}$ .) 6.

Some 400 years before crucifixion was invented, both Israel's King David and the prophet Zechariah described the Messiah's death in words that perfectly depict that mode of execution. Further, they said that the body would be pierced and that none of the bones would be broken, contrary to customary procedure in cases of crucifixion (Psalm 22), (Psalm 34:20), (Zechariah 12:10). Again, historians and New Testament writers confirm the fulfillment: Jesus of Nazareth died on a Roman cross, and his extraordinarily quick death eliminated the need for the usual breaking of bones. A spear was thrust into his side to verify that he was indeed, dead. (Probability of chance fulfillment=1 in  $10^{13}$ ). 7.

The prophet Isaiah foretold that a conqueror named Cyrus would destroy seemingly impregnable Babylon and subdue Egypt along with most of the rest of the known world. This same man, said Isaiah, would decide to let the Jewish exiles in his territory go free without any payment of ransom (Isaiah 44:28), (Isaiah 45:1), (Isaiah 45:13). Isaiah made this prophecy 150 years before Cyrus was born, 180 years before Cyrus performed any of these feats (and he did, eventually, perform them all), and 80 years before the Jews were taken into exile. (Probability of chance fulfillment=1 in  $10^{15}$ .) 8.

Mighty Babylon, 196 miles square, was enclosed not only by a moat, but also by a double wall 330 feet high, each part 90 feet thick. It was said by unanimous popular opinion to be indestructible, yet two Bible prophets declared its doom. These prophets further claimed

that the ruins would be avoided by travelers, that the city would never again be inhabited, and that its stones would not even be moved for use as building material (Isaiah 13:17-22), (Jeremiah 51:26,43). The description is, in fact, the well-documented history of the famous citadel. (Probability of chance fulfillment= $1$  in  $10^9$ .) 9.

The exact location and construction sequence of Jerusalem's nine suburbs was predicted by Jeremiah about 2600 years ago. He referred to the time of this building project as "the last days," that is, the time period of Israel's second rebirth as a nation in the land of Palestine (Jeremiah 31:38-40). This rebirth became history in 1948, and the construction of the nine suburbs has gone forward precisely in the locations and in the sequence predicted. (Probability of chance fulfillment= $1$  in  $10^{18}$ .) 10.

The prophet Moses foretold (with some additions by Jeremiah and Jesus) that the ancient Jewish nation would be conquered twice and that the people would be carried off as slaves each time, first by the Babylonians (for a period of 70 years), and then by a fourth world kingdom (which we know as Rome). The second conqueror, Moses said, would take the Jews captive in ships, selling them or giving them away as slaves to all parts of the world. Both of these predictions were fulfilled to the letter, the first in 607 B.C. and the second in 70 A.D. God's spokesmen said, further, that the Jews would remain scattered throughout the entire world for many generations, but without becoming assimilated by the peoples of other nations, and that the Jews would one day return to the land of Palestine to reestablish for a second time their nation (Deuteronomy 29), (Isaiah 11:11-13), (Jeremiah 25:11), (Hosea 3:4-5), (Luke 21:23-24). This prophetic statement sweeps across 3500 years of history to its complete fulfillment--in our lifetime. (Probability of chance fulfillment= $1$  in  $10^{20}$ .) 11.

Jeremiah predicted that despite its fertility and despite the accessibility of its water supply, the land of Edom (today a part of Jordan) would become a barren, uninhabited wasteland (Jeremiah 49:15-20), (Ezekiel 25:12-14). His description accurately tells the history of that now bleak region. (Probability of chance fulfillment= $1$  in  $10^5$ .) 12.

Joshua predicted that Jericho would be rebuilt by one man. He also said that the man's eldest son would die when the reconstruction began and that his youngest son would die when the work reached completion (Joshua 6:26). About five centuries later this prophecy found its fulfillment in the life and family of a man named Hiel (1 Kings 16:34). (Probability of chance fulfillment= $1$  in  $10^7$ .) 13.

The day of Elijah's supernatural departure from Earth was predicted unanimously--and accurately, according to the eye-witness account-- by a group of fifty prophets (2 Kings 2:3-11). (Probability of chance fulfillment=1 in 10.) 14.

Jahaziel prophesied that King Jehoshaphat and a tiny band of men would defeat an enormous, well-equipped, well-trained army without even having to fight. Just as predicted, the King and his troops stood looking on as their foes were supernaturally destroyed to the last man (2 Chronicles 20). (Probability of chance fulfillment=1 in 10<sup>8</sup>.) 15.

One prophet of God (unnamed, but probably Shemiah) said that a future king of Judah, named Josiah, would take the bones of all the occultic priests (priests of the "high places") of Israel's King Jeroboam and burn them on Jeroboam's altar (1 Kings 13:2), (2 Kings 23:15-18). This event occurred approximately 300 years after it was foretold. (Probability of chance fulfillment=1 in 10<sup>13</sup>.) 16.

#### References:

1 [www.believers.org/hughross.htm](http://www.believers.org/hughross.htm)

2 <http://www.garyharbo.com/He%20Gave%20Us%20His%20Word/He%20Gave%20Us%20His%20Word%20%20Chapter%204.html>

3 *Science Speaks* by Peter W. Stoner ISBN 978-0802476302 Publisher: Moody Pr (June 1958)

4. "ibid"

5. [www.bellievers.org/hughross.htm](http://www.bellievers.org/hughross.htm)

6. "ibid"

7. "ibid"

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10. "ibid"

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14. "ibid"

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16. "ibid"