

Supplement to Week 1: GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Dr. Victor Pearce made an interesting observation:

“Remember that the Bible believer on his knees can see farther than the Bible sceptic on his tiptoes!”

So far, we have been looking solely at messianic prophecies leading up to the birth of Jesus, so that we can better understand the Nativity Narratives. We could sum these up as “the Who, the When and the Where” but we also need to consider the prophecies referring to the events of Easter

Josh McDowell in his book, “Evidence that demands a verdict” lists 61 major prophecies.

- 1. Born of the Seed of a Woman (Gen.3:15)**
- 2. Born of a Virgin (Isaiah 7:14)**
- 3. Son of God (Psalm 2:7; see also 1 Chron.17;11-14; 2 Sam.7:12-16)**
- 4. Seed of Abraham (Gen.22:2,3)**
- 5. Son of Isaac (Gen.21:12)**
- 6. Son of Jacob (Numbers 24:17; Gen.36:10-12)**
- 7. Tribe of Judah (Gen.49:10; Micah 5:2)**
- 8. Family line of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1, 10)**
- 9. House of David (Jer.23:5; 2 Sam.7:12-16; Psalms 132:11)**
- 10. Born at Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)**
- 11. Presented with Gifts (Psalm 72:10; Isaiah 60:6)**
- 12. Herod Kills Children (Jeremiah 31:15)**

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13. His pre-existence (Micah 5:2;Isaiah 9:6,7;41:4,6;48:12; Psalm 102:25;Prov.8:22,23)
14. He shall be called Lord (Psalm 116:1; Jer.23:6)
15. Shall be Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14)
16. Shall be a Prophet (Deut.18:18)
17. Priest (Psalm 110:4)
18. Judge (Isaiah 33:12)
19. King (Psalm 2;6; Zech.9;9;Jer.23:5)
20. Special Anointing of Holy Spirit
(Is.11:2;43:1;61:1,2;Psalm 45:7)
21. Zeal for God (Psalm 69:9)
22. Preceded by Messenger (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3;1)
23. Ministry begins in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1; fulfilled Matt. 4:12,13,17)
24. Ministry of Miracles (Isaiah 35:5,6a; 32:3,4)
25. Teacher of Parables (Psalm 78:2)
26. Enters Temple (Malachi 3:1)
27. Enters Jerusalem on Donkey (Zechariah 9:9)
28. “Stone of Stumbling” to Jews (Psalm 118:22; Isaiah.8:14;28:16)
29. “Light to Gentiles” (Isaiah 60:3; 49:6)
30. Resurrection (Psalm 16:10;30:3;41:10;118:17; Hosea 6:2)
31. Ascension (Psalm 68:18a)
32. Seated at Right hand of God (Psalm 110:1)

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- 33. Betrayed by a Friend (Psalm 41:9;55:12-14)**
- 34. Sold for 30 Pieces of Silver (Zechariah 11:12)**
- 35. Money to be thrown in Temple (Zech.11:13b)**
- 36. Price Given for Potter's Field (Zech.11:13b)**
- 37. Forsaken by His Disciples (Zech.13:7)**
- 38. Accused by False Witnesses (Psalm 35:11)**
- 39. Dumb before Accusers (Isaiah 53:7)**
- 40. Wounded and Bruised (Isaiah 53:5; Zech.13:6)**
- 41. Smitten and Spat Upon (Isaiah 50:6; Micah 5:1)**
- 42. Mocked (Psalm 22:7,8)**
- 43. Fell under Cross (Psalm 109:24,25)**
- 44. Hands and Feet Pierced (Psalm 22:16; Zech.12:10)**
- 45. Crucified with Thieves (Isaiah 53:12)**
- 46. Interceded for His Persecutors (Isaiah 53:12)**
- 47. Rejected by His Own People (Is.53:3;Ps.69:8;118:22)**
- 48. Hated Without a Cause (Psalm 69:4;Isaiah 49:7)**
- 49. Friends Stood Afar Off (Psalm 38:11)**
- 50. People Shook their Heads (Psalm 109:25;22:7)**
- 51. Stared Upon (Psalm 22:17)**
- 52. Garments Divided and Lots Cast (Psalm 22:18)**
- 53. Suffered Thirst (Psalm 69:21; 22:15)**
- 54. Gall and Vinegar Offered to Him (Psalm 69:21)**
- 55. His Forsaken Cry (Psalm 22:1)**
- 56. Committed Himself to God (Psalm 31:5)**
- 57. Bones not Broken (Psalm 34:20)**

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- 58. Heart Broken (Psalm 34:20) (The blood and water which came out of his pierced side showed that the cause of death was that the heart had literally burst)
- 59. His Side Pierced (Zechariah 12:10)
- 60. Darkness Over the Land (Amos 8:9)
- 61. Buried in a Rich Man's Tomb (Isaiah 53:19)

Did these 61 prophecies fully confirm Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God?

There are 2 main objections by sceptics:

- 1) Fulfilled Prophecy in Jesus was Deliberate

BUT : Eight main events were totally beyond the human control of Jesus: 1) place of birth; 2) time of birth; 3) manner of birth (born of a virgin); 4) betrayal; 5) manner of death; 6) people's reactions (mocking, spitting staring etc); 7) piercing by spear; 8) burial in rich man's tomb.

- 2) Fulfilled prophecy applied to Jesus could also have been applied to other people.

BUT : You might find just possibly one or two fulfilled in other men, but not all 61!!

The Christian Victory Publishing Company in Denver has offered \$1,000 to anyone who can claim to fulfil just 50% of the prophecies. Just think: there a lot of impoverished Bible

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Students who could use some extra cash (myself included)!

It has been calculated that the probability of anyone living or dead who could have fulfilled just 8 of the major prophecies are 1 in 100.000,000,000,000,000.

In our list : 1) no.10; 2) no.22; 3) no.27; 4) nos.33 & 44; 5) no.34; 6) nos. 35&36; 7) no.39; 8) nos.44 & 45 (crucifixion)

If we take that number of silver dollars and lay them on the state of Texas, they would cover the state two feet deep in coins. We mark one of these dollars and stir all these dollars thoroughly and get a blindfolded man to pick just one coin and state that this is the right one, then it would be possible for anyone else, other than Jesus, living or dead to have fulfilled these 8 major prophecies!!!

The probability of someone else fulfilling 48 of these prophecies would be 1 chance in 10¹⁰ What that would be like, well.... you really wouldn't want to go there!!!

Sceptics tell us that bible believing Christians are wishful thinkers who are willing to believe almost anything...maybe they should do the maths!!!

Isn't it strange that the real thinkers are the Christians and the real wishful thinkers are the sceptics? Not really: "Remember

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that the Bible believer on his knees can see farther than the Bible sceptic on his tiptoes!” Dr. Victor Pierce.