

ISAIAH



THE SUFFERING SERVANT – PART 1

ISAIAH 51

THE CASE FOR JESUS THE MESSIAH—*mathematical probability and biblical prophecy*. Here are 8 of the **44 specific Messianic prophecies** in **Isaiah 52-53**, which we will study in the next two chapters.

- 1. Isaiah 52:4-5**—He suffered vicariously. **Mark 15:3, 4, 27, 28; Luke 23:1-25, 32-34**
- 2. Isaiah 52:7**—He came to publish good tidings of peace. **Luke 4:14, 15**
- 3. Isaiah 52:14**—The Servant is shockingly abused. **Luke 18:31-34; Matt. 26:67, 68**
- 4. Isaiah 52:15**—Nations would be startled by His message. **Romans 15:18-21**
- 5. Isaiah 52:15**—His blood would be shed to make atonement for all sin. **Rev. 1:5**
- 6. Isaiah 53:1**—His own people would not believe Him. **John 12:37, 38**
- 7. Isaiah 53:2a**—He would grow up in a poor family. **Luke 2:7**
- 8. Isaiah 53:2b**—He would have the appearance of an ordinary man. **Phil. 2:7, 8**

MATHEMATICS AND THE MESSIAH

Does the science of statistical probability consider these fulfilled prophecies essentially proof of the existence of God?

Anyone can make occasional accurate predictions . . . that is fairly easy.

- Having them fulfilled with 100% accuracy with each tied to the one preceding it is another story entirely.
- **Law of compound probability:** The more statements you make about the future and the greater the detail, the better the chances are that you will be proven wrong.
- Compound probability is equal to the *probability of the first event multiplied by the probability of the second event*, and each additional event multiplies by the previous. For instance, compound probabilities are used by insurance underwriters to assess risks and assign premiums to almost all insurance products.

EXAMPLES

Think of how difficult it would be for someone to predict the exact city in which the birth of a future U.S. President would take place in the year 2710 A.D.; 1 chance in the total number of cities on earth . . . 1/2.5 million.

- But that's what the prophet Micah did 700 years before the Messiah.
- On the other hand, if you did think up 44 specific prophecies about a single man in the future you will never meet, how difficult do you think it would be for that one man to fulfill all 44 of your predictions?
- How hard would it be for him if 25 of those predictions were about what other people would do to him and were completely beyond his control?
- Enter WWII traitor David Greenglass and his 6 specific signs.

THE GREENGLASS EXAMPLE

1. Once in Mexico City, Greenglass was to write a note to the Russian secretary, signing as "I. Jackson"—1 out of 10s of millions of possible names.
2. After three days, he was to go to the Plaza de Colon in Mexico City out of 100s of plazas in Mexico City and 1000s of cities in Mexico.
3. Stand before the statue of Columbus—of the over 650 statues in Mexico City on plazas.
4. With his right middle finger placed in a guidebook—1 of 8 choices.
5. When he was approached, he was to say it was a magnificent statue out of millions of possible comments,
6. and that he was from Oklahoma—1 of 50 states.

Total odds: 1/10 to the 50th—1/in **one hundred quindecillion**.

Get all six and it's mathematically impossible that you don't have David Greenglass.

HOW IMPORTANT IS MESSIANIC PROPHECY?

- The Bible contains 485 specific pieces of information about the coming Messiah, some of which were written more than 1000 years before His birth.
- All of which are found in the Dead Sea Scrolls recorded *well before His birth*, many dated to 212 BC by secular archeologists.

If we assume all 485 Messianic prophecies are fulfilled in one person (Jesus the Christ), what does the science of probability say about this?

- In brief, it says if accurate predictions were made about a future Messiah *and fulfilled hundreds of years later by one person*, this is solid mathematical proof that there is a being outside of our time domain (*who calls himself Yahweh, I AM, God Almighty*) *who authored the words* and sent the *man who fulfills them*.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS WESTMONT COLLEGE, DR. PETER STONER

Calculated the probability of one man fulfilling the major biblical prophecies concerning the Messiah found in the Bible—primarily from Isaiah.

- The estimates were worked out by twelve different classes, involving more than 600 college students.
- The students carefully weighed all the factors, discussed each prophecy at length, and examined the various circumstances which might indicate that men had conspired together to fulfill a particular prophecy; they made their estimates very conservative.
- He also encouraged other skeptics or scientists to make their own estimates to see if his conclusions were more than fair.
- Finally, he submitted his figures for review to a committee of the American Scientific Affiliation, which concurred with his mathematical calculations.

RESULTS

After examining 8 different prophecies, they conservatively estimated that the chance of one man fulfilling all 8 prophecies was one in 10 to the 17th power—equivalent to the state of Texas being covered two feet deep in silver dollars and finding a single, marked one.

- In another calculation, Dr. Stoner used the 44 prophecies found in only Isaiah 52-53 (even though he could have used 485/6 which is the total in the whole Old Testament) and arrived at the extremely conservative estimate that the probability of 44 prophecies being fulfilled in one person is one in 10 to the 157th.
- If you used electrons with no space between them—assuming that is even possible—it is a space larger than the estimated size of the known universe! Paint one red and go find it blindfolded in a spaceship.
- This means it is impossible for the 44 prophecies in **Isaiah 52** and **53** to be fulfilled by chance by one person. In other words, Jesus Christ is Messiah.

ISAIAH CHAPTER 50:1-11

Here in **chapter 50**, we have an incredible prophecy of Jesus Christ and of the humiliation and harm that He would receive from His own people.

- The Jewish people had turned from God, the fountain of living water. They worshipped other gods and they sold themselves into bondage.
- We can also see Jesus came to His own, and His own received Him not.
- Messiah called to them; they would not respond.
- Here the Lord Jesus Christ is speaking as the servant, or *Doulos*, and as the obedient servant of the Father. **John 5:30**
- Jesus Messiah voluntarily submitted Himself to the Father's will. It's a beautiful picture of the submission of Jesus Christ unto the Father, even to the death on the cross.
- His trust was in the Father. He had committed Himself unto God and to the will of God completely. *That's my Jesus!*