

A LOOK AT FULFILLED PROPHECY

(Statistics and information from Evidence Demands a Verdict by Josh McDowell were used for this article.)

Every person has an “address” that is unique to him or her. For this article, an “address” is defined as your entire family background, everything you have done in your life, and even information about what other people have done to you. There is no one else in the world who would have your address. It is unique to you and describes only you.

Let’s pretend you made a list describing all the details of your unique address –your background, family history, everything you have done in your life, and what your friends have done to you. Now let’s pretend that you haven’t been born yet and that everything on that list is prophecy as to the coming of you. People would be looking for the person to fulfill that address. Let’s say there’s a person who comes along who really wants to be the one the list is referring to, so he picks something off your list, like maybe “rode on a horse.” He then does that specific activity and then declares he is the one. Well, the problem with that is that the person who said he rode on a horse also has to have done everything else on your list. He can’t just fulfill one or two or three of the things in your address. He has to fulfill all of them. And only you can do that because that address is yours and yours alone.

So now let’s look at Old Testament prophecy concerning the coming of the Messiah. There are 322 things in the “address” (OT prophecy) that are unique to the Messiah so He can be recognized when He comes. Only the man who can fulfill all 322 of the items in the address is the Messiah. It is unique to Him. We’ll just look at 61 of the major prophecies.

1. Born of the seed of woman
2. Born of a virgin
3. Son of God
4. Seed of Abraham
5. Son of Issac
6. Son of Jacob
7. Tribe of Judah
8. Family line of Jesse
9. House of David
10. Born at Bethlehem
11. Presented with gifts
12. Herod kills children
13. His pre-existence
14. He shall be called Lord
15. Shall be Immanuel
16. Shall be prophet
17. Priest
18. Judge
19. King
20. Special anointment of Holy Spirit
21. Zeal for God

22. Preceded by messenger
23. Ministry to begin in Galilee
24. Ministry of miracles
25. Teacher of parables
26. To enter the temple
27. To enter Jerusalem on donkey
28. Stumbling stone to Jews
29. Light to Gentiles
30. Resurrection
31. Ascension
32. Seated at right hand of God
33. Betrayed by a friend
34. Sold for 30 pieces of silver
35. Money to be thrown in God's house
36. Price given for Potter's field
37. Forsaken by his disciples
38. Accused by false witnesses
39. Not speak before accusers
40. Wounded and bruised
41. Smitten and spit upon
42. Mocked
43. Fell under the cross
44. Hands and feet pierced
45. Crucified with thieves
46. Made intercession for his persecutors
47. Rejected by his own people
48. Hated without a cause
49. Friends stood afar
50. People shook their heads
51. Stared upon
52. Garments parted and lots cast
53. To suffer thirst
54. Gall and vinegar offered Him
55. His forsaken cry
56. Committed Himself to God
57. Bones not broken
58. Heartbroken
59. His side pierced
60. Darkness over the Land
61. Buried in rich man's tomb

No. 4, Seed of Abraham – This eliminates every race in the world but the Hebrew race.

No. 5, Son of Isaac – This eliminates one-half of the lineage of Abraham.

No. 6, Son of Jacob – This eliminates one-half of the lineage of Isaac.

No. 7, Tribe of Judah, means that out of Jacob's 12 sons, who became the 12 tribes of Israel, God has now eliminated 11/12s of the tribes.

No. 9, House of David – This eliminates all of Jesse's eight sons except one, David.

No. 10, Born at Bethlehem – This eliminates all the cities in the world, save one, for the entrance of His Son.

You can see how this narrows down and narrows down and narrows down the odds of who could fulfill this prophecy.

Say there is a man who wants to be the One, and he knows about No. 27, riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, so he does it and then declares he is the Messiah. Well, it doesn't work that way because this same man who rides into Jerusalem on the donkey also has to be from the seed of Abraham, a son of Isaac, a son of Jacob, the tribe of Judah, the family line of Jesse, the house of David, etc. He has to fulfill all the other 321 prophecies in the "address" to be the One. You can see the impossibility of this except for the actual One that the prophecy is foretelling. It is His address and His alone.

A large number of these prophecies were fulfilled by other people in regards to Jesus or were fulfilled after Jesus' death, which shows how a person could not manipulate circumstances to have fulfilled these prophecies. Look at Nos. 33 through 36. These prophecies were fulfilled by Judas, who betrayed Jesus, even down to the detail that he would "throw" the money down in the temple and not place it or set it down.

Let's look at Nos. 40 through 45. These prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus' enemies, who crucified Him. I mean, they crucified Him for His blasphemy of being the Son of God, yet they fulfilled to the detail every prophecy that proves He is exactly who He claimed to be. Note the irony that His enemies, who wanted to destroy and discredit Jesus, were actually proving His Lordship over all mankind for eternity.

No. 60, darkness over the land, is an act of God. So now we have God Himself fulfilling prophecy to show that Jesus is the Messiah.

No. 44, hands and feet pierced – This was prophesied hundreds of years before the Jewish people even knew crucifixion as a form of punishment.

What is even more amazing is that prophecies 33 through 61 are comprised of 29 prophecies which speak of the betrayal, trial, death, and burial of Jesus. They were spoken of at various times by different people during five centuries from 1000-500 B.C., and yet all of them were literally fulfilled in Jesus in one 24-hour period of time.

When you look at the life of Jesus, He fulfills all 322 of the prophecies in the Old Testament about the coming of the Messiah. It is His "address" and His alone. The odds of just 8 of the major prophecies (Nos. 10, 22, 27, 33-35, 39, 44) being fulfilled by one person is 1 in 10 to the 17th power, or 1,000,000,000,000,000,000. And this is only 8 of them! To help illustrate the odds of this, it would be like taking 10 to the 17th power of silver dollars and laying them on the surface of Texas. They would cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can go anywhere he wants, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? The same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man. Can you imagine what the odds would be for all 322 prophecies being fulfilled by one man? It would be astronomical.

This "address" belongs to Jesus Christ and Him alone. He is the promised Messiah.

“He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces, He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.” Isaiah 53:2-5

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