

Prophecies about Jesus Christ



Probability of Fulfillment 1:10¹⁷

*Lieber Andreas!**

Today, I am writing to you about three remarkable prophecies. At the end, I will go into greater detail about the probability for eight messianic prophecies, according to human wisdom, being 1:10¹⁷.

1. About the clothes of the crucified One: partially divided and partially lots were cast for it.
2. No bone would be broken. The Roman soldiers ignored the command and did what was foretold in the prophecies, without knowing it.
3. Betrayal for 30 pieces of silver – with 8 details.

The Prophecy about the Clothing of the Crucified One

King David of Israel, who was also a prophet, said in God's name about a 1000 years before Christ what they would do with the clothes of the crucified:

Prophecy:

"They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." Psalm 22:18 NKJV

How was this prophecy fulfilled a 1000 years later? The apostle John tells about it in John 19: 23-24 NKJV:

Fulfillment:

"Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which

* This name was selected to remind us of the biblical Andrew, who led his brother Peter to Jesus. (John 1:40-42)

says: *‘They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.’ Therefore the soldiers did these things.”*

Remarkable details are related here. Jesus’ clothes were supposed to be dealt with in various manners:

1. they divide my garments among them
2. they cast lots for my clothing

There was a sentinel of four guards beneath the cross. They divided Jesus’ clothing amongst themselves. Each of them got a piece. But one piece remained: the outer garment. They wanted to divide it into four parts, so that each person got a piece. But they noticed that it was woven out of one piece of cloth. That was valuable. The soldiers thought that if they cut it up, each person would only have a piece of cloth. Its real value would be destroyed. And so they said: “It is better is one person gets the outer garment, rather than just a piece of cloth.” How did they solve this problem? They cast lots. It happened just like it had been prophesied a thousand years beforehand.

Observe the exact fulfillment
of the biblical prediction.

The number of soldiers beneath the
cross was the same as the number
of pieces of clothing Jesus had.
Only one was left over.

And the soldiers divided up the pieces
in just the way that it was foretold.

Could we foretell a thousand years beforehand what would happen to a certain person? Would we know how many pieces of clothing he would be wearing? And how many soldiers would be there? David couldn’t have possessed this knowledge himself. There is only one possibility: God revealed it to him.

The prophecy that no bone would be broken of the crucified one

The first reference was given by Moses about 1,300 years beforehand.

First Prophecy:

*“In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, **nor shall you break one of its bones.**”* 2. Mose (Exodus) 12,46

This text is talking about the institution of the Passover feast just before the exodus from Egypt. It is referring to the Passover lamb. This lamb was a symbol for the coming redeemer. Remember that when Jesus came to John the Baptist to be baptized by immersion in the Jordan, that John said:

“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29 NKJV

Second Prophecy:

The next reference in this context was given by King David about 300 years later. This was still a 1000 years before it was fulfilled.

David was acquainted with the writings of Moses. But he said that what Moses said about the lamb was about a person, a righteous person:

“He guards all his bones; not one of them is broken.” Psalm 34:20 NKJV

Fulfillment:

“Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.” John 19:31-33 NKJV

The preparation day, which is mentioned here, is the day before Sabbath (Saturday) – so Friday. It is called the preparation day in the Bible, because the preparations for the Sabbath were made on this day. In this case, it is the day we call Good Friday today. It is the day that Jesus was crucified.

The Jews requested something from Pilate. The people that were crucified shouldn't hang on the crosses on the Sabbath. That is why they asked for their legs to be broken so that they would die more quickly.

Pilate granted their request. This contradicted what the Bible had prophesied: Not one of His bones would be broken.

Assuming that you had been in Jerusalem on this occasion and had known about the prophecy, would you have cared a straw if it was fulfilled? The Roman soldiers were ordered to break the legs. They started their job. First, they broke the legs of one of the men that had been crucified and then the legs of the one on the other side of Jesus. It was odd that they went around Jesus. Were they maybe hesitant? Did they have a hunch who Jesus was?

When they came to Jesus, they found that He was already dead. Hence, the execution of the command became redundant. And so contrary to the order, Jesus' thighbones were not broken. Why? What had God said through David a thousand years beforehand and through Moses over 1300 years beforehand?

“He (God) guards all his bones; not one of them is broken.” Psalm 34:20 NKJV

This prophecy was precisely fulfilled. But now comes something surprising. The soldiers did something without any orders. And what they did without any orders was prophesied about 500 years beforehand by the prophet Zechariah. Let's read further in John 19:34-37:

Third Prophecy:

“But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen [this was the disciple John] has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, ‘Not one of His bones shall be broken.’ (Exodus 12:46) And again another Scripture says, ‘They shall look on Him whom they pierced. (Zechariah 12:10)”

Without an order, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus in the side to make sure He was really dead. The soldiers determined that He was dead, because the blood had already decomposed.

Bear in mind was happened here:

Three prophets made predictions, which were fulfilled to the letter. Moses 1,300 years beforehand, David 1,000 beforehand and Zechariah 500 years beforehand. These three men, who were separated by centuries and didn't know each other, made congruent predictions.

How did they know that? Was it a probability calculation? Was it a coincidence? There is only one reasonable conclusion: The revelations that they received all came from the same source. And this One was always there throughout these centuries. God is from everlasting to everlasting. He revealed it to them. There is no other conclusion.

Prophecy: Christ would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.

First Prophecy:

“Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.” (Prophesied by David about 1,000 years beforehand in Psalm 41:9 NKJV.)

The following prophecy was made by the prophet Zechariah about 500 years before it was fulfilled. It is found in Zechariah 11:12-13.

Second Prophecy:

“Then I said to them, ‘If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.’ So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter’ – that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.”

It is reported in Matthew 10:4 and Matthew 27:1-10 what took place 1,000 or 500 years later.

Fulfillment:

“... Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.”
“When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor. Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.’ And they said, ‘What is that to us? You see to it!’ Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, ‘It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.’ And they consulted together and bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, ‘And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord directed me.’”

All eight details were fulfilled, although it was impossible from a human perspective:

1. Christ would be betrayed.
2. He would be betrayed by a friend.
3. The traitor’s wages would be 30 pieces of silver.
4. The “princely price” was the price for a foreign slave.
5. The money pieces were of silver.
6. They would be thrown, not laid down somewhere or given to someone.
7. The place they would be thrown would be the temple.
8. The money wouldn’t be left there, but rather would be given to a craftsman (to buy a field).

There were so many possibilities by every single point. God in His omniscience knew thousands of years beforehand what would happen. He foretold these things so that we could see His hand in the fulfillment and our trust in Him would be strengthened.

Professor Stoner's Results

The scientist, Peter Stoner, looks at eight messianic prophecies in his book *Science Speaks* and shows "that according to mathematical probability calculations a coincidence is impossible". He says: "... we can therefore see that the chance of eight prophecies being fulfilled about a random person (from then till now) is 1:10¹⁷". That is a one with 17 zeros = 1:100,000,000,000,000,000.

(Die Bibel im Test, Josh McDowell, CLV 2002, Seite 250-1)

Stoner continues: "These prophecies were either given through God's inspiration or the prophets wrote them at their own discretion.

In such a case, the prophets would have only had one chance in 1:10¹⁷, that all these things would be fulfilled with one person; but they were all fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

This means that the fulfillment alone of these

eight prophecies proves that God with certainty inspired the writings of these prophets, which misses absoluteness with only a chance in 1:10¹⁷."

Stones then takes into account 48 prophecies and says: "...we see that the chance of fulfillment of all 48 prophecies with one person comes to 1:10¹⁵⁷."

I am so glad that you are so interested in studying proof of the divine inspiration of the Bible.

With warm greetings,

Helmut

Further Letters to Andrew about prophecies. You will enjoy learning about them.

Letter to Andrew 1: Christian faith put to the test

› Everything hinges on answering three questions.

Letter to Andrew 6: What does the future hold?

› The shortest world history was written 2,600 years ago.

It shows us "what will be in the latter days".

› Of the six predictions, five have already been fulfilled.

› Will Europe achieve political unity? What is still to come?

Letter to Andrew 9: Prophecies about four cities

› Which were literally fulfilled although the mathematical probability is 1:200 trillion.

– The Golden Gate of Jerusalem

– The strange rock city of Petra

– The legendary Babylon

– The rise and fall of Tyre.