

PROVING THE CLAIMS OF JESUS

The statistical odds of Jesus being in the right place at the right time and just happening to fulfill even some of the prophecies are off the scale (10^{157} for just 48 of the prophecies). He fulfilled them all. Norman Geisler stated that what rules out this theory is the moral impossibility of an all-powerful and all-knowing God letting things get so out of control so that all His plans for prophetic fulfillment are ruined by someone who just happens to be in the right place at the right time.

Significant Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled from *When Skeptics Ask* by Norman Geisler

1. Born of a woman (Gen 3:5, Gal 4:4)
2. Born of a virgin (Isa 7:14, Matt 1:21)
3. He would be cut off 483 years after the declaration to reconstruct the temple in 444 B.C. (Dan 9:24)
4. Of the seed of Abraham (Gen 12:1-3, 22:18, Matt 1:1, Gal 3:16)
5. Of the tribe of Judah (Gen 49:10, Luke 3:23, 33, Heb 7:14)
6. Of the house of David (2 Sam 7:12, Matt 1:1)
7. Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, Matt 2:1, Luke 2:4-7)
8. Anointed by the Holy Spirit (Isa 11:2, Matt 3:16-17)
9. Heralded by a messenger of the Lord (John the Baptist) (Isa 40:3, Mal 3:1, Matt 3:1-2)
10. Would perform miracles (Mal 3:1, Matt 21:12)
11. Would cleanse the temple (Mal 3:1, Matt 21:12)
12. Rejected by Jews (Ps 118:22, 1 Peter 2:7)
13. Die a humiliating death (Ps 22, Isa 53) involving
 - a) Rejection (Isa 53:3, John 1:10-11, 7:5, 48)
 - b) Silence before His accusers (Isa 53:7, Matt 27:12-19)
 - c) Being mocked (Ps 22:7-8, Matt 27:31)
 - d) Piercing His hands and feet (Ps 22:16, Luke 23:33)
 - e) Being crucified with thieves (Isa 53:12, Matt 27:38)
 - f) Praying for His persecutors (Isa 53:12, Luke 23:43)
 - g) Piercing His side (Zech 12:10, John 19:34)
 - h) Buried in a rich man's tomb (Isa 53:9, Matt 27:57-60)
 - i) Casting lots for His garments (Ps 22:18, John 19:23-24)
14. Would rise from the dead (Ps 16:10, Mark 16:6, Acts 2:31)
15. Ascend into heaven (Ps 68:18, Mark 16:6, Acts 2:31)
16. Would sit at the right hand of God (Ps 110:1, Heb 1:3)

These prophecies were written hundreds of years before Jesus was born and many of them could not have been arranged, let alone the improbability of being fulfilled by only one man.

The Origin of the Christian Faith

1. Where did the resurrection come from?
 - A. Not from Christianity . it didn't exist yet
 - B. Not from Pagan influences . no parallels
 - C. Not from Jewish influences . the Jewish belief in resurrection meant the end of history, the end of the age
2. Sabbath moved to Sunday
3. Jesus' utter failure led to the Christian church, the greatest single organization the world has ever known

Once one gives up the prejudice against miracles, it's hard to deny that the resurrection of Jesus is the best explanation of the facts, +William Lane Craig.

Who do you say that Jesus was? A good person? A good moral teacher? He couldn't have been because he said that he was God. A good person would not assert such a thing. (A lie?) A megalomaniac would. So he was either a liar and a lunatic, or He really was the Son of God. . paraphrased from C.S. Lewis

This is a powerful way to remove the safe middle ground from the minds of most unbelievers. They are now faced with a choice

(Technically, this is flawed logic. It does not address alternate theories such as the legend theory, but this can be addressed later and most people you run across will not know enough about logic to refute it on that basis.)
