

Prophecies Fulfilled
In
Jesus Christ



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Prophecies Fulfilled

As I have met with many believers and nonbelievers who deny Jesus Christ's deity; and as I have read few conventional books most of which are casting doubts on the Deity of Christ and some even denying it, and some others who are debating whether He is the real Messiah to come; I thought it is my duty to write about this subject, hoping to clarify the mixing up of some minds about who is Christ.

A prophecy cannot be counted as such unless it is fulfilled. For, if anyone can say what he likes and say it is a prophecy, then no body will know what the truth of the matter is.

I can come one day and announce that I have seen a vision of an angel repeating to me the date September 29, 2005, and then I say I prophesy that the end of the world will be on that day. And I may convince some followers. Now how can we know that what I said is true?

The only way to know is to wait and see if the world will really end on September 29, 2005 or not. If it does not end on that day, then what I said was not a prophecy.

And that is the point which I want to prove in this article.

There are several prophecies mentioned in the Old Testament concerning the Messiah. We cannot consider them as prophecies unless they have been fulfilled; otherwise we will be reaching for the mirage, or catching the wind.

So, what I will do here is to state each prophecy and find out if it has been fulfilled and record the reference. Now since this is a biblical study, I am not going to quote any reference outside the Holy Scripture itself, because as believers, we believe in the accuracy of every word of it.

Let us start with His birth:

The Holy Scripture says that:

(1) He will be born of a virgin: (IS. 7:14) *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel"*

* This was fulfilled in: (Luke 1:26,27, 30,31) *"Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. Then the angel said to her, do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus."*

P.S. Immanuel (Theanthropos in Greek) literally means God-man which could indicate "God was manifested in the flesh" (1st Tim. 3:16), or it could also mean "God with us" (Matt. 1:23).

Jesus means savior which is one of the several names given to the Messiah. After all, He cannot save us unless He takes the Human form first. So as we see, the two words compliment each other.

(2) He will be born in Bethlehem: (Micah 5:2) *"But you Bethlehem Ephrathah Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to me, the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are of old, from everlasting"*

* This was fulfilled in: (Luke 2:4-7) *“Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary his betrothed wife who was with child. So it was that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn”*

Let us move now to His lineage:

The Holy Scripture says that:

(3) He is the seed of a woman: (Gen. 3:15) *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Gal. 4:4) *“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.”*

(4) He is the seed of Abraham: (Gen. 12:2,3) God here is talking to Abraham : *“I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Matt. 1:1) *“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.”*

(5) He is the seed of Isaac: (Gen. 17:19) *“Then God said No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant and with his descendants after him.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Matt. 1:2) *“Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.”*

(6) He is the seed of Jacob: (Num. 24:17) *“I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and batter the brow of Moab, and destroy all the sons of tumult.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Matt. 1:2) mentioned above.

(7) He is the seed of the Tribe of Judah: (Gen. 49:10) *“The Scepter shall not depart from Judah.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Luke 3:33) *“The son of Amminadab, The son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah.”*

(8) He is heir to the throne of David: (Is. 9:7) *“Of the increase of His government and peace, there will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His Kingdom.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Luke 1:32,33) *“The son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattathah, the son of Nathan, the son of David.”*

Let us now move to what happened during His Infancy:

The Holy Scripture recoded :

(9) Slaughter of the Innocent: (Jer. 31:15) *“A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Matt. 2:16-18) *“Then Herod when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet saying: a voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”*

(10) The flight to Egypt: (Hosea 11:1) *“And out of Egypt I called My Son.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Matt. 2:14,15) *“When he (Joseph) arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt, and was there till the death of Herod that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: out of Egypt I called my Son.”*

Let us now look into His ministry:

The Holy Scripture stated that:

(11) The Messiah will come 7 weeks and 62 weeks from the command to restore and build Jerusalem: (Daniel 9:25) *“Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until **Messiah** the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty two weeks.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Luke 2:1,2) *“And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria..”*

According to Josephus the well known and reliable Jewish historian, this happened about late 5 or early 4 B.C. So, Jesus was not born at 0 year where the B.C. turned to be A.D.

Counting these seven and sixty two weeks, may look like a jig saw puzzle. But to solve this puzzle one has to put the pieces together. So to start, one has to go back to Nehemiah 2:1-8 where the Holy Scripture tells us that king Artaxerxes commanded that Nehemiah can go to Judea to restore and build Jerusalem, and if one goes to the history books and references, he will find that that was about 457 B.C. And we already said that Jesus was born about late 5 or early 4 B.C., but He was not anointed by the Holy Spirit till He began His public ministry (at age 30) when He was baptized by John the Baptist. So, He was not officially the **Messiah**, till the year 26 A.D.

So if we add $26 + 457 = 483$

which is exactly the 69 week years which Daniel talked about. ($69 \times 7 = 483$)

(12) He was preceded by a forerunner: (Is. 40:3 & Mal. 3:1) *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for God”. “Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me.”*

* This was fulfilled in : (Luke 7:27) Here Jesus speaks about John the Baptist: *“This is he of whom it is written: Behold I sent My messenger before Your face, who will prepare your way before you.”*

(13) He was the prophet to come: (Deut.18:15) *“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren, Him you shall hear.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Acts 3:20,22) *“And that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before.....For Moses truly said to the fathers: The Lord your God will raise up for you, a prophet like me from your brethren, Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.”*

(14) He was declared the Son of God: (Ps. 2:7) *“I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, You are My Son, today I have begotten You.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Matt. 3:16,17) *“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water, and behold the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him, and suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, this is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased..”*

(15) His Galilean ministry: (Is. 9:1,2) *“The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali....By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who walked in darkness, have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Matt. 4:13-17) *“He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulon and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; the people who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death, light has dawned. From that time Jesus began to preach”*

(16) Came to heal the brokenhearted: (Is. 61:1,2) *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Luke 4:18,19) *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”*

Let us now look into the week of sorrows and sufferings:

The Holy Scripture recorded:

(17) His triumphant entry to Jerusalem: (Zech. 9:9) *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold your king is coming to you: He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Mark 11:7,9,11) *“Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloths on it and He sat on it. Then those who went before and those who followed cried out saying: Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord! And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple.”*

(18) Rejected by His own people, the Jews: (Is. 53:3) *“He is despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised and we did not esteem Him.”-*

* This was fulfilled in: (John 1:11) *“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.”*

(19) He was hated without a reason: (Ps. 35:19) *“Let them not rejoice over Me who are wrongfully my enemies; nor let them wink with the eye who hate Me without a cause.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (John 15:24,25) *“If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word may be fulfilled which is written in their law, they hated Me without cause.”*

(20) He was sold for thirty pieces of silver: (Zech. 11:12,13) *“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.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Matt. 26:14,15) *“Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests, and said, what are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you? And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.”*

(21) He was betrayed by a friend: (Ps. 41:9) *“Even My own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate My bread, has lifted his heel against Me.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Luke 22:47,48) *“And while he was still speaking, behold, a multitude, and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. But Jesus said to him: Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”*

(22) He was accused by false witnesses: (Ps. 35:11) *“Fierce witnesses rise up: they ask Me things that I do not know.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Mark 14:57,58) *“Then some rose up and bore false witness against Him, saying: we heard Him say, I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days, I will build another made without hands/”.*

(23) He was silent to accusations: (Is. 53:7) *“He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His Mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth,”*

* This was fulfilled in (Mark 15:3-5) *“And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing, Then Pilate asked Him again saying: do you answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You! But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled.”*

(24) He was spat upon and smitten: (Is. 50:6) *“I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Matt. 26:67) *“Then they spat in His face and beat Him, and others struck Him with the palms of their hands.”*

(25) They bought the potter’s field with the thirty pieces of silver: Zech. 11:12,13) *“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."

** This was fulfilled in: (Matt. 27:3-7) "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 in 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."*

Let us now come to the cross:

Before we innumerate all the prophecies about crucifixion, allow me to put here a very important prophecy about the Priesthood of the Messiah. I hear someone asking why is it so important? The reason is, Jesus the Messiah has offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. I guess we all agree to that. Offering sacrifices cannot be performed by no body but the priest. The Messiah was from the tribe of Judah as we mentioned above (please review # 8), So He was not a Levite, much less nor was He from Aaron's descendents which is the branch of Priesthood as the Lord commanded. Ah, but God granted Him a much higher Priesthood than Aaron's. Not only that, but it was given by Oath and forever. Listen to the prophecy.

(26) He is a priest after the order of Melchizedec: (Ps. 110:4) *"The Lord has sworn and will not relent, You are a Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedec."*

** The Holy Scripture alluded to that in: (Heb. 5:5,6) "So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He Who said to Him: You are My Son, today I have begotten You. As He also says in another place; You are a Priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedec."*

So, now let us discuss the Sacrifice on the cross:

The Holy Scripture stated that:

(27) He was and is a vicarious Sacrifice: (Is. 53:5) *"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."*

** The Holy Scripture alluded to that in: (Rom. 5:8) "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

(28) He was crucified with transgressors: (Is. 53:12) *"And He was numbered with the transgressors."*

** This was fulfilled in: (Mark 15 :27,28) "With Him, they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. So the Scripture was fulfilled which says: and He was numbered with the transgressors."*

(29) His hands were pierced: (Zech. 12:10) *“Then they look on Me whom they pierced.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (John 20:27) *“Then He said to Thomas, reach your finger here, and look at My hands ; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side, Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”*

(30) He was scorned and mocked: (Ps. 22:7,8) *“All those who see Me ridicule Me, They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Luke 23:35,36) *“ And the people stood looking on, but even the rulers with them sneered, saying, He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the Chosen of God. The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine.”*

(31) He was given vinegar and gall: (Ps. 69:21) *“They also gave Me gall for My food, And for My thirst, they gave Me vinegar to drink.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Matt. 27:34) *“They gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.”*

(32) He prayed for His enemies: (Ps. 109:4) *“In return for My love they are My accusers. But I give Myself to prayer.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Luke 23:34) *“Then Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”*

(33) They gambled for His cloths: (Ps. 22:18) *“They divide My Garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Matt. 27:35) *Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.”*

(34) His bones were not broken: (Ps. 34:20) *“He guards all His bones; not one of them is broken.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (John 19:32,33,36) *“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. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled: Not one of His bones shall be broken.”*

(35) His side was pierced: (Zech. 12:10) *“Then they will look on Me Whom they pierced.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (John 19:34) *“But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.”*

(36) He was buried with the rich: (Is. 53:9) *“And they made His grave with the wicked – but with the rich at His death.”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Matt. 27:57-60) *“Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.”*

When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock, and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb and departed.”

And now, let us discuss His resurrection and His Ascension:

The Holy Scripture stated that:

(37) He rose from the dead: (Ps. 16:10 & 49:15) *“For You will not leave My soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”*

“But God will redeem My soul from the power of the grave, for He shall receive Me.”

* This was fulfilled in: (Mark 16:6,7) *“But he (the Angel) said to them, do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is raised! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples- and Peter- that He is going before you into Galilee, there you will see Him as He said to you.”*

(38) He ascended to God’s right hand: (Ps. 68:18) *“You have ascended on high. You have led captivity captive. You have received gifts among men, even from the rebellious, that the Lord God might dwell there..”*

* This was fulfilled in: (Mark 16:19) *“So then, after the Lord Had spoken to them, He was received up into Heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.”*

Dear reader, As we approach the end of this article, I would like to mention that what is recorded here, is not all the evidence that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of God who came in the flesh for one purpose only and that is for our redemption and salvation. But I do believe that all the Old Testament refers to Him in every way, just read and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance.

One other thing, I would like to stress on. Please use this material in an apologetic way and defend your faith and what you whole heartedly believe in.

During my long blessed life which God has graciously bestowed on me, I met with many of those, whom I call enemies of the faith, whether they were of whom they call themselves Christians, or those who overtly claim that there is no God, or those who believe there is God, but they believe in some other religions. Each one of them had something to say against Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The one whom I vividly remember, said that Jesus spent all his years before His ministry, studying thoroughly everything that is mentioned in the Old Testament about the coming Messiah, then He claimed that He is that one, and started to react accordingly and cleverly made everything fitting into Him.

To this person, I wish I could have been prepared with something like this to discuss it with him and defend my faith, but Alas! I was not prepared.

Now, let us sit together and assume that he may be right in what he claims, though as we all know that the law of chances does not accept 100% of fulfilled prophecies or incidents, as chances or co-incidents!!!

1- Let us look together into the first 9 prophecies concerning His birth and lineage, How could have He controlled something to happen at His birth while He is not yet born? Or how could He have controlled in His age of 30, something that had already happened 30 years before? Isn't that unwarranted false accusation?

2- Now let us look in the next 2 prophecies of His infancy, it is very obvious that the first one was totally in the hands of Herode, and the second was totally in the hands of Joseph. So, he has no control in these at all.

3- Now let us look in the next 5 prophecies of His ministry. At least, He had no control in two of them, and these are the forerunner and the other on His baptism where he was declared to be the Son of God.

4- Now let us look into the next 8 prophecies of the week of sufferings. Yes, He Could have arranged for His triumphant entry to Jerusalem as it was implied in the 3 hour prime time T.V. program of Peter Jennings. But how could anyone arrange to be rejected by His own people, or hated without a reason, or sold for thirty pieces of silver (at least he would have bargained for more!), or to be betrayed by a friend, or to be accused by false witnesses, or to be spat upon and smitten or for the potter's field to be bought by the returned silver pieces?

5- Now let us look into the next 11 prophecies of His sacrifice on the cross. First of all, why would anybody arrange to be crucified? Suppose someone says that He cannot claim what he claimed without dying. Fine, I may agree to that, but how could He arrange for transgressors to be crucified with Him, or to be scorned and mocked at, or to be given vinegar and gall, or for the soldiers to gamble on His cloths, or His legs would not be broken (they certainly broke the legs of the others!), or to have His side pierced, or to be buried with a rich? Even a politician with all the authority he has nowadays, cannot arrange for all that!!!

6- The last 2 prophecies of His resurrection and ascension are self evident, that no one but the real Messiah can do that, because these have to be arranged with God Himself and not with humans.

What I wrote above was for those who say that Jesus Christ was so knowledgeable about the prophecies on the Messiah and that He was so clever to fit Himself in these prophecies, and we already showed how wrong they are.

Now, there are others who do not believe what is written neither in the Old nor in the New Testament. For those, I confront them with what is written in the History books:-

1- Cornelius Tasius (55 AD): an atheist Historian who was acclaimed as the most reliable Historian in Rome. He recorded the story of Christ's crucifixion in great detail in one of his eighteen volumes.

2- Josephus (37-97 AD): A famous Jewish Historian who wrote twenty volumes about the history of his own people. Commissioned by Pontius Pilate, he also recorded in great detail, the life of Jesus Christ, His teachings, His miracles, His crucifixion, and His live appearance to His disciples on the third day..

3- Lucian The Greek: He was also a famous Historian, who wrote about Christ's crucifixion and about the Christians who faced death for their faith in Christ.

4- Pontius Pilate, The Roman Governor: He sent a complete and detailed report to Tiberius Caesar about Christ's crucifixion. This was one of the documents which Tortillianus used for his famous defense for the Christians.

5- The Talmud: which is one of the Jewish Holy books. In it, is recorded that Jesus who is called Christ was crucified on the Passover evening. Page 42 of The Amsterdam Edition 1943.

My dear friend, I hope that this article will be of benefit to you.