The Inspired Word of God

Appendix F

Mathematical Probabilities of Fulfilled Prophecies

**Adapted from *'Evidence that Demands a Verdict'*
by Josh McDowell, 1979 edition, pages 166,167**

Number of details in a prophecy	Chance of fulfillment
1 detail = 1 chance in	2
2 details = 1 chance in	4
3 details = 1 chance in	8
4 details = 1 chance in	16
5 details = 1 chance in	32
6 details = 1 chance in	64
7 details = 1 chance in	128
8 details = 1 chance in	256
9 details = 1 chance in	512
10 details = 1 chance in	1,024
11 details = 1 chance in	2,048
12 details = 1 chance in	4,096
13 details = 1 chance in	8,192
14 details = 1 chance in	16,348
15 details = 1 chance in	32,768
16 details = 1 chance in	65,536
17 details = 1 chance in	131,072
18 details = 1 chance in	262,144
19 details = 1 chance in	524,288
20 details = 1 chance in	1,048,576
21 details = 1 chance in	2,097,152
22 details = 1 chance in	4,194,304
23 details = 1 chance in	8,388,608
24 details = 1 chance in	16,777,216
25 details = 1 chance in	33,544,432
26 details = 1 chance in	67,108,864
27 details = 1 chance in	134,217,728
28 details = 1 chance in	268,435,456
29 details = 1 chance in	536,870,912
30 details = 1 chance in	1,013,741,824
31 details = 1 chance in	2,147,483,648

32 details	= 1 chance in	....	4,294,967,296
33 details	= 1 chance in	....	8,589,934,592
34 details	= 1 chance in	....	17,179,869,184
35 details	= 1 chance in	....	34,359,738,368
36 details	= 1 chance in	....	68,719,476,736
37 details	= 1 chance in	....	137,438,953,472
38 details	= 1 chance in	....	274,877,906,944
39 details	= 1 chance in	....	549,755,813,888
40 details	= 1 chance in	.....	1,099,511,627,776
41 details	= 1 chance in	.....	2,199,023,255,552
42 details	= 1 chance in	.....	4,398,046,511,104
43 details	= 1 chance in	.....	8,796,093,022,208
44 details	= 1 chance in	...	17,592,186,044,416
45 details	= 1 chance in	...	35,184,372,088,832
46 details	= 1 chance in	...	70,368,744,177,664
47 details	= 1 chance in	..	140,737,488,355,328
48 details	= 1 chance in	..	281,474,976,710,656
49 details	= 1 chance in	..	562,949,953,421,312
50 details	= 1 chance in		1,125,899,906,842,624
51 details	= 1 chance in		2,251,799,813,685,248
52 details	= 1 chance in		4,503,599,627,370,496
53 details	= 1 chance in		9,007,199,254,740,992
54 details	= 1 chance in		18,014,398,509,481,984
55 details	= 1 chance in		36,028,797,018,963,968

Throughout this eBook, I have discussed the mathematical probability factor of a series of events occurring in the life of one person; however, the significance rests on the calculation of statistical probabilities. In the scientific world, anything with a probability of odds greater than 1 in 150-billion is acknowledged as impossible by chance or random act. In one article we demonstrated the mathematical probability that Yeshua's fulfillment of just these 61 prophecies proves with absolute certainly that Yeshua, and only Yeshua, is the Messiah of Israel. Even using as few as eight prophecies, it is possible to prove mathematically that Jesus is the Messiah.

A common objection to using fulfilled prophecy to demonstrate that Yeshua is the Messiah is that *"you could find at least some of these prophecies fulfilled in Kennedy, King, Nasser, etc."*

While it may be true that you could find one or two prophecies fulfilled in other men, you most certainly could not find more than a few. In this eBook we will conclusively demonstrate that you absolutely, positively will not find any man except Yeshua who has fulfilled all these 61 major prophecies. (We won't bother to extrapolate the mathematical probability of any one man fulfilling 324 prophecies; the number is beyond the capacity of the human mind to comprehend.) In fact, if you can find someone other than Yeshua, either living or dead, who can fulfill only half of the predictions concerning Messiah that are given in *Messiah in Both Testaments* by Fred John Meldau, the Christian Victory Publishing Company of Denver is ready to give you a $1,000 reward. There are a lot of men in the universities who

could use some extra cash, but the offer has been standing for nearly 30 years without a single taker!

H. Harold Hartzler, of the American Scientific Affiliation, Goshen College, the foreword of Peter Stoner's book, *'Science Speaks'*, writes: *"The manuscript for Science Speaks has been carefully reviewed by a committee of the American Scientific Affiliation members and by the Executive Council of the same group and has been found, in general, to be dependable and accurate in regard to the scientific material presented. The mathematical analysis included is based upon principles of probability which are thoroughly sound and Professor Stoner has applied these principles in a proper and convincing way."*

The following probabilities are taken from Peter Stoner's work in *'Science Speaks'* to show that **coincidence is ruled out by the science of mathematical probability**. The analysis is concerned with the following eight prophecies:

1.	Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2; fulfilled in Matthew 2:1-7; John 7:42; Luke 2:47
2.	Messiah is to be preceded by a Messenger	Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1; fulfilled in Matthew 3:1-3; 11:10; John 1:23; Luke 1:17
3.	Messiah is to enter Jerusalem on a donkey	Zechariah 9:9; fulfilled in Luke 35-37; Matthew 21:6-11
4.	Messiah is to be betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9; 55:12-14; fulfilled in Matthew 10:4; 26:49-50; John 13:21
5.	Messiah is to be sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12; fulfilled in Matthew 26:15; 27:3
6.	The money for which Messiah is sold is to be thrown "to the potter" in God's house	Zechariah 11:13; fulfilled in Matthew 27:5-7
7.	Messiah is to be silent before His accusers	Isaiah 53:7; fulfilled in Matthew 27:12
8.	Messiah is to be executed by crucifixion as a thief	Psalm 22:16; Zechariah 12:10; Isaiah 53:5, 12; fulfilled in Luke 23:33; John 20:25; Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27, 28

Stoner says that by applying the modern science of statistical probability to just these eight prophecies, *"… We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10^{17}."* That would be <u>one in 100,000,000,000,000,000</u>. In order for us to be able to comprehend this staggering probability, Stoner illustrates it by supposing that:

"… we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will 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 travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting that right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come

true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote in their own wisdom.

"Now these prophecies were either given by inspiration of God or the prophets just wrote them as they thought they should be. In such a case the prophets had just one chance in 10^{17} of having them come true in any man, but they all came true in Christ [Mashiach].

"This means that the fulfillment of these eight prophecies alone proves that God inspired the writing of those [eight] prophecies to a definiteness which lacks only one chance in 10^{17} of being absolute." [Stoner, Peter W. Science Speaks. Chicago: Moody Press, 1963, pp 100-107.]

Stoner considers 48 prophecies and says, *"… We find the chance that any one man fulfilled all 48 prophecies to be 1 in 10^{157}.*

"This is a really large number and it represents an extremely small chance. Let us try to visualize it. The silver dollar, which we have been using, is entirely too large. We must select a smaller object. The electron is about as small an object as we know of. It is so small that it will take 2.5 times 10^{15} of them laid side by side to make a line, single file, and one inch long. If we were going to count the electrons in this line one inch long, and counted 250 each minute, and if we counted day and night, it would take us 19,000,000 years to count just the one-inch line of electrons. If we had a cubic inch of these electrons and we tried to count them it would take us, counting steadily 250 each minute, 19,000,000 times 19,000,000 times 19,000,000 [nineteen million times nineteen million times nineteen million] or 6.9 times 10^{21} years.

"With that introduction, let us go back to our chance of 1 in 10^{157}. Let us suppose that we are taking this number of electrons, marking one, and thoroughly stirring it into the whole mass, then blindfolding a man and letting him try to find the right one. What chance has he of finding the right one? What kind of a pile will this number of electrons make? They make an inconceivably large volume." [ibid., pp 109,110]

The chances of finding the correct electron out of the pile of electrons that Stoner uses for this last illustration is something on the order of picking one single correct electron out of all of the electrons in all the known mass of the entire known universe.

Such is the chance of any one man fulfilling any 48 prophecies. Yet Yeshua Ha'Natseret fulfilled not just 48 prophecies, not just 61 prophecies, but more than 324 individual prophecies that the Prophets wrote concerning the Mashiach. Professor Stoner was one of the earliest scientists to demonstrate through statistical probability that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. The mathematics is irrefutable and the outcome is not even debatable. Those who cannot accept the results simply lack the mathematical ability to understand the implications of mathematics and statistical probabilities.

The notation 10^{157} is the representation of the number 1 followed by 157 zeros, and it looks like this:

10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,

000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,

000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,

000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.

This is approximately the total number of electrons in all the mass of the known universe!

Maranatha,

Pastor Bob
EvanTeachr@aol.com