

“I Told You So”

“On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity” (Zechariah 13:1) ¹

One of the most frequent and most popular activities on planet earth is the attempt to know the future. In fact, I suspect that nearly every one of us engages in some sort of effort to know the future every single day.

We check our computers, phones, and papers for news of the stock market, and we'd love to know which stocks are going to go up . . . or down. We do a lot of checking on forecasts of upcoming weather. Interspersed with these more routine daily efforts at discerning the future are periodic announcements by self-proclaimed prophets of the impending end of the world.

According to *The Futurist* magazine, here are several of the worst predictions ever made:

- The announcement by a Roman engineer in A.D. 100 that “Inventions have long since reached their limit, and I see no hope for further developments.”
- The announcement by Queen Victoria’s surgeon in 1873 that “The abdomen, the chest, and the brain will forever be shut from the intrusion of the wise and humane surgeon.”
- A journalist’s announcement in 1893 that “Law will be simplified [over the next century]. Lawyers will have diminished, and their fees will have been vastly curtailed.”
- And finally, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles’s announcement in 1954 that “The Japanese don’t make anything the people in the U.S. would want.”²

I’m sure you know that the Bible is no stranger to prophecy and prediction. J. Barton Payne’s *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy* catalogs literally thousands of biblical predictions and their fulfillment,³ and Alfred Edersheim’s *Life & Times of Jesus the Messiah* points out that the rabbi’s recognized 456 predictions related to the Messiah alone.⁴

A prediction, of course, is an announcement about the future. Some predictions, such as about the weather or about the stock market, are projections made on the basis of extensive information about historical trends combined with sophisticated understanding of particular kinds of causes and effects.

Other predictions, such as the various predictions of the end of the world, claim to be miracles of knowledge, declarations of something future that is beyond the power of human wisdom to discern or to calculate. Of course, anyone can make forecasts and predictions; but since God alone actually knows the future, only God can declare what is actually going to be, and the Bible contains the only predictions and prophecies that have been authorized by Management.

Of the Bible’s 31,124 verses, 8,352 (27%) contain predictive material of some sort. Some prophecies are unconditional, meaning that they will be fulfilled no matter what, while others are based on fulfillment of divinely-prescribed conditions. Examples of God-inspired prediction are not restricted to those books written by specifically-named prophets, and appear throughout the Bible.

¹ A sermon by Dr. David C. Stancil, delivered at the Columbia Baptist Fellowship of Columbia, Maryland on December 7, 2014.

² *The Futurist*, September/October 2000, 20-25.

³ J. Barton Payne, *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy: The Complete Guide to Scriptural Predictions and Their Fulfillment* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1980).

⁴ Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah* in two volumes, eighth edition, revised (New York: Longman, Green & Co., 1912), vol. 2, p. 710.

From the Bible's viewpoint, it is the predictions that prove the prophet (Jeremiah 28:9), and unfulfilled predictions are proof that the prophet did not speak for God (Deuteronomy 18:22). Peter wrote that *"You must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretations of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit"* (2 Peter 1:20-21).

Through Isaiah, God said, *"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come"* (Isaiah 46:9b-10a). One of the prophets whose predictions have the most bearing on Advent is Zechariah.

Zechariah was a priest, a member of a prominent priestly family that returned to Jerusalem from the Babylonian exile with Zerubbabel about 538 B.C. (Nehemiah 12:4). He began his prophetic ministry about twenty years later, in 520 B.C., shortly after Haggai had begun his prophetic work.

The occasion for the prophecies of both Haggai and Zechariah was the discouraging situation in Jerusalem after the return from exile. Although the foundation for the rebuilt Temple had been laid in 536 B.C., sixteen years had now passed, and the city of Jerusalem remained in disrepair and the Temple remained unrebuilt. Haggai and Zechariah exhorted the people to get going on these projects, promising God's blessing upon their work.

The first eight chapters of Zechariah contain nine visions that have to do primarily with the work at hand, while the last six chapters foretell the coming of Jerusalem's Messianic King.⁵ The Bible's prophecies are frequently first given in very general terms, becoming more specific in the course of God's progressive revelation. For example, Genesis 3:15, the first hint of the coming Messiah, is a tiny bud that eventually becomes an extraordinary bouquet, and several of its most familiar flowers are found in Zechariah's prophetic "garden." I expect that you'll recognize them:

- ⁹ *Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9).*
- ¹² *I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. ¹³ And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the LORD (Zechariah 11:12-13).*
- *They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son (Zechariah 12:10). And finally, today's text:*
- ¹ *On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity (Zechariah 13:1).*

Those prophecies were spoken more than 500 years before their fulfillment, and they were given as signs so that the Messiah might be recognized when He came. Because the Messiah would be very different from what the people were expecting, God gave many indicators ahead of time that

⁵ "The book of Zechariah is densely mined for quotations by the NT, whose authors discerned in it several prophecies concerning the Messiah's coming. The clearest instances come from [Zechariah 8:16](#) (in [Ephesians 4:25](#)), [Zechariah 9:9](#) (in [Matthew 21:5](#) and [John 12:15](#)), [Zechariah 11:12-13](#) (in [Matthew 27:9-10](#)), [Zechariah 12:10](#) (in [John 19:37](#)), and [Zechariah 13:7](#) (in [Matthew 26:31](#) and [Mark 14:27](#)). In addition to these are numerous allusions, which are sometimes difficult to assess; one estimate, however, finds about 54 passages from Zechariah echoed in about 67 different places in the NT, with the lion's share of these found in the book of Revelation" (*ESV Study Bible* introduction to Zechariah, Crossway, 2008).

would be keys to the Messiah's identity.⁶ The online version of this sermon will have a table that catalogues sixty-seven messianic prophecies with their fulfillments—fulfillments so statistically improbable that divine action was required for their completion. You may want to check that out this afternoon.⁷

I've called this sermon "I Told You So," partly because of the nature of biblical prophecy in general, and more particularly because of the many prophecies that have to do with the identification of the promised Messiah. I've also called this sermon "I Told You So" as an encouragement to all of us to claim the many promises God has made to us in the Bible, promises that will help us to persevere and to flourish as we make our way through the days allotted to us on earth.

While literally hundreds of promises are available to us, I'm going to mention just a few, using the categories "Storms," "Guidance," "Forgiveness," and "Hope." The online version of this message will include many more such promises.

STORMS: Getting through the Toughest Times. God has given us many promises that can anchor us in the storms of life. Here are a few of them:

² *As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore* (Psalm 125:2).

³ *You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you* (Isaiah 26:3).

¹⁰ *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"* (Isaiah 41:10).

² *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze"* (Isaiah 43:2).

²⁷ *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid"* (John 14:27).

⁶ The traditional date for the completion of what we call the Old Testament is 450 B.C. We know that the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, was completed c. 250 B.C., so the Hebrew text has to be at least that old, and parts of it are hundreds and hundreds of years older. This means that the minimum distance between these Messianic prophecies and their fulfillment was 250 years, with that distance being more commonly nearly 600 years, and in some cases 1,500 years or more.

The ancient Synagogue found references to the Messiah in many more passages of the Old Testament than those to which we generally appeal. Ancient Rabbinic writings unquestionably held that the Messiah would be pre-existent, would be elevated above Moses, and even above the angels, would represent the nation, would suffer and die a violent death for his people, would restore Israel and establish his Kingdom. But they had no real conception of sin as being so serious as to require blood redemption.

The Rabbis taught that religion was a matter of pleasing God by external works, overlooking the inner dimension of the motives of the heart. Judaism required only study of the Law and good works, and desired only national restoration and glory. Everything else was but means to these ends; the Messiah Himself only the grand instrument in attaining them. Thus viewed, the picture presented would be of Israel's exaltation rather than of the salvation of the world. In such a picture there was neither room nor occasion for a Messiah-Savior.

⁷ You might also want to check out the film, *The Star of Bethlehem*, which unlocks the mystery of the world's most famous star. Acclaimed by NASA's former Chief of Planetary Astronomy and the Technical Editor for *Sky & Telescope* as "well-researched and reasonable," and described as "a compelling explanation" by NASA's Chief Engineer for the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station, this hour-long film uses the best of faith-full scholarship to illumine the spine-tingling wonder of the star that announced our Savior's birth. The film shows how the star not only fulfilled nine specific prophecies, but also how it had been engineered into the very fabric of creation. Neither Jesus' birth nor His death and resurrection were happenstance events! www.bethlehemstar.net, www.bethlehemstarmovie.com

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).⁸

GUIDANCE: Finding a Way Forward ⁹

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6).

²¹ Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it” (Isaiah 30:21).

¹¹ “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).¹⁰

FORGIVENESS: Securing Release from the Past

¹⁴ If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14).

¹⁸ “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool” (Isaiah 1:18).

²⁵ “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more” (Isaiah 43:25).

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (Hebrews 4:15-16).

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

HOPE: Both for This Life and for the Life to Come

³¹ But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint (Isaiah 40:31).

⁸ See also Psalm 23, 40:1-3, 139:1-12; Isaiah 41:13; Matthew 11:28-30; Mark 4:40-41; John 14:1, 26-27; Romans 5:3-4.

⁹ A prayer for guidance that has been most helpful to me over the years is this one by Thomas Merton: “My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone” (Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude* [New York: Farrar, Straus, and Cudahy, 1976], p. 83).

¹⁰ See also Romans 8:26; Ephesians 1:3-10.

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26).

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).

¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure (Hebrews 6:19).

~~~~~

- <sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9).
- <sup>1</sup> On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity (Zechariah 13:1). <sup>11</sup>

Zechariah 13:1 became the inspiration for the hymn of promise that we will sing as testimony to God’s faithfulness, forgiveness, and Hope; but first, we come to the Table of the Lord.

There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel’s veins;  
and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day;  
and there, may I, though vile as he, wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood shall never lose its pow’r  
till all the ransomed church of God be saved, to sin no more.

E’er since by faith I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply,  
redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> See also Matthew 5:3-12; John 10:27-28; Ephesians 1:16-23; Philippians 4:13.

<sup>12</sup> William Cowper (1731-1800), *There Is a Fountain*, tune is an early American melody.

# PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS & THEIR FULFILLMENT

Before we begin, you'd want to know that the traditional date for the completion of what we call the Old Testament is 450 B.C. We know that the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, was completed c. 250 B.C., so the Hebrew text has to be at least that old, and parts of it are hundreds and hundreds of years older. This means that the minimum distance between these Messianic prophecies and their fulfillment was 250 years, with that distance being more commonly nearly 600 years, and in some cases 1,500 years or more. So put on your seat belt and let's launch into a survey of some of the more prominent predictions of the coming Savior.

|     | <b>Prophecy</b>                                              | <b>"He" = "the Messiah"</b>                                                | <b>Fulfillment</b>                                                                     |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | The Messiah will have a Human Mother                         | Genesis 3:15                                                               | Matthew 1:20;<br>Galatians 4:4                                                         |
| 2.  | She will become pregnant while still a Virgin                | Isaiah 7:14                                                                | Matthew 1:18, 24-25;<br>Luke 1:26-35                                                   |
| 3.  | He will be the Son of God                                    | 2 Samuel 7:12-16;<br>1 Chronicles 17:11-14;<br>Psalm 2:7; Mark 3:11        | Matthew 3:17, 16:16;<br>Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35, 22:70;<br>John 1:34, 49;<br>Acts 13:30-33 |
| 4.  | Although He will be born in time, He existed before all time | Psalm 102:25; Proverbs 8:22-23; Isaiah 9:6-7, 41:4, 44:6, 48:12; Micah 5:2 | John 1:1-2, 8:58, 17:5, 24;<br>Colossians 1:17;<br>Revelation 1:17, 2:8, 22:13         |
| 5.  | He will Be Called Lord                                       | Psalm 110:1;<br>Jeremiah 23:6                                              | Luke 2:11, 20:41-44                                                                    |
| 6.  | He will Be Immanuel ( <i>God with Us</i> )                   | Isaiah 7:14                                                                | Matthew 1:23; Luke 7:16                                                                |
| 7.  | He will be a Judge                                           | Isaiah 33:22                                                               | John 5:30; 2 Timothy 4:1                                                               |
| 8.  | He will be a Prophet like Moses                              | Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19                                                   | Matthew 21:11; Luke 7:16;<br>John 4:19, 6:14, 7:40                                     |
| 9.  | He will be a Priest like Melchizedek                         | Psalm 110:4                                                                | Hebrews 3:1, 5:5-6, 6:20, 7:15-16, 10:21                                               |
| 10. | He will be a King                                            | Psalm 2:6; Zechariah 9:9;<br>Jeremiah 23:5                                 | Matthew 21:5, 27:37;<br>John 18:33-38                                                  |
| 11. | He will be Descended from Abraham                            | Genesis 12:2-3, 18:18, 22:18 <sup>1</sup>                                  | Matthew 1:1; Acts 3:25;<br>Galatians 3:16                                              |
| 12. | He will be the Son of Isaac                                  | Genesis 17:19, 21:12 <sup>2</sup>                                          | Matthew 1:2;<br>Luke 3:23, 34                                                          |
| 13. | He will be the Son of Jacob                                  | Numbers 24:17;<br>Genesis 35:10-12 <sup>3</sup>                            | Matthew 1:2;<br>Luke 1:33, 3:23, 34                                                    |
| 14. | He will be from the Tribe of Judah                           | Genesis 49:10 <sup>4</sup> ; Micah 5:2                                     | Matthew 1:2;<br>Luke 3:23, 33;<br>Hebrews 7:14                                         |

<sup>1</sup> This is the only time that God swears by Himself in His relationship with the patriarchs.

<sup>2</sup> Abraham had two sons, Isaac and Ishmael. Now God eliminates one half of the descendants of Abraham.

<sup>3</sup> Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau. Now God eliminates one-half of the descendants of Isaac.

<sup>4</sup> Jacob had twelve sons and each became a tribe of the Hebrew nation. Now God eliminates eleven-twelfths of the descendants of Jacob.

|     |                                                |                                                                    |                                                                                                              |
|-----|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15. | He will be Descended from Jesse                | Isaiah 11:1, 10                                                    | Matthew 1:6;<br>Luke 3:23, 32                                                                                |
| 16. | He will be from the House of David             | 2 Samuel 7:12 – 16;<br>Psalm 132:11;<br>Jeremiah 23:5 <sup>5</sup> | Matthew 1:1, 9:27;<br>Mark 9:10, 10:47-48;<br>Luke 3:23, 31, 18:38-39;<br>Acts 13:22-23;<br>Revelation 22:16 |
| 17. | He will be Heir to David's Throne              | Isaiah 9:7                                                         | Matthew 1:1                                                                                                  |
| 18. | He will be Born at Bethlehem                   | Micah 5:2 <sup>6</sup>                                             | Matthew 2:1-6, 4-8;<br>Luke 2:4-7; John 7:42                                                                 |
| 19. | He will be Presented with Gifts                | Psalm 72:10; Isaiah 60:6                                           | Matthew 2:1, 11                                                                                              |
| 20. | He will Flee into Egypt                        | Hosea 11:1                                                         | Matthew 2:14                                                                                                 |
| 21. | A King will try to kill Him                    | Jeremiah 31:15                                                     | Matthew 2:16                                                                                                 |
| 22. | He will be preceded by God's Messenger         | Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1                                           | Matthew 3:1-2, 3:3, 11:10;<br>Luke 1:17; John 1:23                                                           |
| 23. | He will begin His Ministry in Galilee          | Isaiah 9:1                                                         | Matthew 4:12-13, 17                                                                                          |
| 24. | He will have Extraordinary Spiritual Power     | Psalm 45:7;<br>Isaiah 11:2, 42:1, 61:1-2;                          | Matthew 3:16-17, 12:17-21;<br>Mark 1:10-11;<br>Luke 2:52, 4:15 -21, 43;<br>John 1:32                         |
| 25. | He will be passionate about God's Kingdom      | Psalm 69:9                                                         | John 2:15-17                                                                                                 |
| 26. | He will do many Miracles                       | Isaiah 35:5-6a, 32:3-4                                             | Matthew 9:32, 33, 35, 11:4-6;<br>Mark 7:33-35; John 5:5-9,<br>9:6-11, 11:43, 44, 47                          |
| 27. | He will teach using Parables                   | Psalm 78:2                                                         | Matthew 13:34                                                                                                |
| 28. | He will Enter the Temple                       | Malachi 3:1                                                        | Matthew 21:12                                                                                                |
| 29. | He will Enter Jerusalem in Triumph on a Donkey | Zechariah 9:9                                                      | Matthew 21:1-11;<br>Luke 19:35, 36-37a;<br>John 12:12-16                                                     |
| 30. | He will be a stumbling block to the Jews       | Psalm 118:22;<br>Isaiah 8:14, 28:16 <sup>7</sup>                   | Romans 9:32-33;<br>1 Peter 2:7                                                                               |
| 31. | He will be a "Light" to the Gentiles           | Isaiah 49:6, 60:3                                                  | Acts 13:47-48a, 26:23, 28:28                                                                                 |
| 32. | He will be Betrayed by a Friend                | Psalm 41:9, 55:12-14                                               | Matthew 10:4, 26:14-16,<br>49-50; Mark 14:10;<br>Luke 22:19-23;<br>John 13:21                                |
| 33. | He will be Rejected by His own People          | Psalm 69:8, 118:22;<br>Isaiah 53:1-3                               | Matthew 21:42-43, 26:3-4;<br>John 1:11, 7:5, 48, 12:37-43;<br>Acts 4:1-12                                    |
| 34. | He will be Hated without a Cause               | Psalm 69:4; Isaiah 49:7                                            | John 15:23-25                                                                                                |
| 35. | He will be Betrayed for 30 Pieces of Silver    | Zechariah 11:12                                                    | Matthew 26:15, 27:3                                                                                          |

<sup>5</sup> Jesse had *at least* eight sons (1 Samuel 16:10-11). Now God eliminates all of Jesse's sons except one, David.

<sup>6</sup> God now eliminates all the cities in the world, except one, for the birth of His Son.

<sup>7</sup> Remember, all of this was foretold at least 250 years ahead of time. Some of it goes all the way back to Genesis!

|     |                                                              |                                  |                                                                                              |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 36. | The Betrayal Money will be Thrown in God's House             | Zechariah 11:13b                 | Matthew 27:5a                                                                                |
| 37. | The Betrayal Money will Buy the Potter's Field               | Zechariah 11:13b                 | Matthew 27:6-7                                                                               |
| 38. | His Disciples will abandon Him                               | Zechariah 13:7                   | Matthew 26:31;<br>Mark 14:27, 50                                                             |
| 39. | He will be Tried & Condemned                                 | Isaiah 53:8                      | Matthew 27:1-2;<br>Luke 23:1-25                                                              |
| 40. | He will be accused by lying Witnesses                        | Psalms 27:12, 35:11              | Matthew 26:59-61                                                                             |
| 41. | He will say nothing in court in His own defense              | Isaiah 53:7                      | Matthew 26:62-63,<br>27:12-19; Mark 15:3-4;<br>Luke 25:8-10                                  |
| 42. | He will be Wounded and Bruised                               | Isaiah 53:5; Zechariah 13:6      | Matthew 27:26                                                                                |
| 43. | He will be Beaten and Spit on                                | Isaiah 50:6; Micah 5:1           | Matthew 26:67, 27:30;<br>Mark 14:65; Luke 22:63                                              |
| 44. | He will be Mocked & Insulted                                 | Psalms 22:6-8                    | Matthew 27:31, 39-44;<br>Luke 23:11, 35                                                      |
| 45. | He will Die as a Sacrifice for Sin                           | Isaiah 53:5-12                   | John 1:29, 11:49-52;<br>Acts 10:43, 13:38-39;<br>Hebrews 1:3, 2:14-15, 9:27-28,<br>10:12, 18 |
| 46. | He will Die by Crucifixion                                   | Psalms 22:14-17                  | Matthew 27:31;<br>Mark 15:20, 25                                                             |
| 47. | He will collapse as He carries His Cross                     | Psalms 109:24-25                 | Matthew 27:31-32;<br>Luke 23:26; John 19:17                                                  |
| 48. | His Hands and Feet will be Pierced                           | Psalms 22:16;<br>Zechariah 12:10 | Luke 23:33;<br>John 20:25, 27                                                                |
| 49. | He will be Crucified with Thieves                            | Isaiah 53:12                     | Matthew 27:38;<br>Mark 15:27-28                                                              |
| 50. | He will Pray for those who kill Him                          | Isaiah 53:12, Psalm 109:4        | Luke 23:32-34                                                                                |
| 51. | His Friends will watch His Death at a Distance               | Psalms 38:11                     | Matthew 27:55-56;<br>Mark 15:40; Luke 23:49                                                  |
| 52. | People will shake their heads at what happens to Him         | Psalms 22:7, 109:25              | Matthew 27:39                                                                                |
| 53. | People will stare at Him as He Dies                          | Psalms 22:17                     | Luke 23:35                                                                                   |
| 54. | Soldiers will gamble for His Clothes                         | Psalms 22:18                     | Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24;<br>John 19:23-24                                                  |
| 55. | He will be thirsty as He dies                                | Psalms 22:15; 69:21              | John 19:28                                                                                   |
| 56. | Sour Wine (Gall) and Vinegar will be Offered to Him to Drink | Psalms 69:21                     | Matthew 27:34;<br>John 19:28-30                                                              |
| 57. | He will Cry Out in abandonment as He dies                    | Psalms 22:1                      | Matthew 27:46                                                                                |
| 58. | He will commit Himself to God as He dies                     | Psalms 31:5                      | Luke 23:46                                                                                   |
| 59. | His Bones will not be Broken                                 | Exodus 12:46; Psalms 34:20       | John 19:31-36                                                                                |

|     |                                                   |                                             |                                                             |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 60. | But His Heart will be Broken                      | Psalm 22:14                                 | John 19:34                                                  |
| 61. | His Side will be Pierced                          | Zechariah 12:10                             | John 19:34                                                  |
| 62. | Unnatural Darkness will cover the land as He dies | Amos 8:9                                    | Matthew 27:45                                               |
| 63. | He will be Buried in a Rich Man's Tomb            | Isaiah 53:9                                 | Matthew 27:57-60                                            |
| 64. | Judas will be Replaced Among the 12               | Psalm 109:7-8                               | Acts 1:18-20                                                |
| 65. | He will Rise from the Dead                        | Psalm 16:10, 30:3, 41:10, 118:17; Hosea 6:2 | Matthew 28:6-10; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:46; Acts 2:22-32, 13:33 |
| 66. | He will Ascend back to Heaven                     | Psalm 8:3, 68:18a                           | Acts 1:9, 18-20                                             |
| 67. | Where He will be Seated at God's Right Hand       | Psalm 110:1                                 | Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-51; Acts 2:34-35; Hebrews 1:3        |
| 68. | Until He Comes Again!                             | Matthew 24:26-27, 25:31                     | Luke 21:28; Romans 13:11<br>Stay Tuned . . . .              |

“We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled [even] eight prophecies is 1 in  $10^{17}$ .” That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. In order to help us comprehend this staggering probability, Stoner illustrates it by supposing “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 the 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 them in their own wisdom.”

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 really a 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, 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 years or 6.9 times  $10^{21}$  years.

“With this 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 a chance has he of finding the right one? What kind of pile will this number of electrons make? They make an inconceivably large volume.”<sup>8</sup>

*Such is the chance of any one man fulfilling 48 prophecies, much less 67!*

*How will you respond to this Promised One? Will you make Jesus LORD of your life?*

---

<sup>8</sup> Peter W. Stoner, *Science Speaks* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1969), p. 109.

# Scripture Passages for Special Needs

## **Anxiety**

Philippians 4:6-7  
2 Timothy 1:7  
Hebrews 13:6  
1 John 4:18-19

## **Bitterness**

Psalms 27:13-14  
Psalm 37:5-7  
Mark 11:25  
Hebrews 12:12-15

## **Broken Relationships**

Psalms 55  
Matthew 5:23-24  
Matthew 18:15-17

## **Comfort**

Isaiah 26:3  
Isaiah 41:13  
John 14:1  
1 Corinthians 10:13

## **Confidence**

Psalms 31:23  
Habakkuk 3:17-18  
Matthew 5:6  
John 15:7  
2 Corinthians 5:7  
2 Corinthians 9:8  
Philippians 4:13  
Colossians 3:23  
Hebrews 11:1

## **Courage**

Joshua 1:1-9  
2 Timothy 1:7

## **Death**

Psalms 6  
Psalm 102  
Psalm 139  
John 10:27-28  
John 11:25-26  
John 14:6  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

## **Death Desired**

Job 6:8-11  
Job 7:1-3, 15-16

## **Discouraged**

Psalms 27:13-14  
Psalm 37:5-7  
Mark 11:25  
Hebrews 12:12-15

## **Doubt**

Matthew 14:31  
John 20:25-29  
Romans 15:13

## **Failure**

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

## **Faith**

Psalms 31:24  
Habakkuk 3:17-18  
Matthew 5:6  
John 15:7  
2 Corinthians 5:7  
2 Corinthians 9:8  
Philippians 4:13  
Colossians 3:23  
Hebrews 11:1

## **Fear**

Psalms 27  
Psalm 91:1-2  
Psalm 125:2  
Mark 4:40-41  
John 12:42  
John 14:26-27  
2 Corinthians 4:16-18  
Romans 8:38-39  
Philippians 4:5-7  
Hebrews 12:1-2  
1 Peter 1:13, 21

## **Forgiveness**

Matthew 18:21-35  
Luke 17:1-4

## **Frustration**

Psalms 23  
Psalm 37:4

## **Grief**

Psalms 90

## **Guidance**

Proverbs 3:5-6  
Isaiah 30:21

## **Guilt**

Psalms 25:18  
Psalm 51:1-3  
Isaiah 1:18  
Isaiah 43:25  
Matthew 9:13  
Matthew 11:28-30  
John 3:16  
John 5:24  
John 8:11, 31  
Romans 5:1  
Romans 8:26  
2 Corinthians 12:9  
Hebrews 4:15-16  
1 John 1:8-9  
1 John 3:1-3, 19-20

## **Happiness**

Matthew 5:3-12  
John 15:11-17

## **Hate**

Ephesians 4:31  
1 John 2:9  
1 John 3:15

## **Hope**

Psalms 42:5  
Jeremiah 29:11  
Romans 8:28  
Hebrews 12:11-12  
1 Peter 5:7

## **Loneliness**

Psalms 139  
Jeremiah 23:24  
Matthew 28:20  
Romans 8:38-39

## **Old Age**

Psalms 71

## **Patience**

James 1:3-4, 19  
1 Peter 2:19-23

## **Prayer**

Matthew 6:9-13  
Romans 15:5-6, 13  
2 Corinthians 1:3-7  
2 Corinthians 12:14  
Galatians 1:3-5  
Ephesians 1:3-10, 16-23  
Ephesians 3:14-21  
Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

## **Resentment**

Philippians 4:6-7  
2 Timothy 1:7  
Hebrews 13:6  
1 John 4:18-19

## **Security**

Isaiah 26:3  
Isaiah 41:13  
John 14:1  
1 Corinthians 10:13

## **Self-Discipline**

Psalms 141:3  
Proverbs 16:32  
2 Corinthians 10:5  
Philippians 4:8-9  
James 1:19-20

## **Suffering**

Psalm 40  
John 15:18-25  
Romans 5:3-4  
2 Corinthians 1:3-7  
Hebrews 4:14-16

## **Terminal Illness**

Psalm 41

## **Unanswered Prayer**

Luke 11:5-12

## **Uncertainty**

Psalm 42

## **Weakness**

Psalm 18:1-3  
Psalm 121  
Isaiah 40:31  
Isaiah 41:10  
Colossians 1:11

## **Weariness**

Deuteronomy 33:27  
Psalm 16  
Psalm 20  
Isaiah 40:31  
Matthew 11:28

## **Worry**

Psalm 37  
Mark 4:25-26  
John 14:27-31  
Philippians 4:6-7  
2 Timothy 1:7  
Hebrews 13:6  
1 John 4:18-19

## **Other Promises**

Deuteronomy 31:8  
2 Chronicles 7:14  
Psalm 33:18-19  
Psalm 34:19  
Psalm 84:11  
Isaiah 40:31  
Isaiah 43:2  
Isaiah 65:24  
Jeremiah 33:3  
Matthew 11:28  
Matthew 28:20  
Mark 11:24  
John 8:12  
John 10:27-30  
John 16:33  
Romans 8:28  
Romans 8:38-39  
1 Corinthians  
10:13  
Galatians 6:9  
Ephesians 3:20  
Philippians 4:13  
Philippians 4:6-7  
2 Timothy 1:12  
2 Timothy 1:12  
Hebrews 6:18-19  
Hebrews 13:5  
1 John 1:9  
1 John 4:4  
1 Peter 1:7

