

According To The Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

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*"Now I make known unto you brethren, the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye received, wherein also ye stand, by which also ye are saved, if ye hold fast the word which I preached unto you, except ye believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which also I received: that Christ died for our sins **according to the scriptures**; and that he was buried; and that he hath been raised on the third day **according to the scriptures**"*

- ▶ John 5:39-40 *"**Search the Scriptures**; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye may have life."*
- ▶ 2 Timothy 3:15 *"And that from a babe thou **hast known the sacred writings** which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."*

What Scriptures?

- ▶ Luke 24:27 *"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them **in all the Scriptures** the things concerning himself."*
- ▶ Luke 24:44 *"These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, **which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms**, concerning me."*
- ▶ The Old Testament Scriptures ...

Prophecy Versus Prediction

- ▶ **Prediction** is a guess, a speculation, based upon circumstances and logical reasoning from past facts and recognized trends.
- ▶ **Prophecies** do not rest upon deduction or probability.
 - A predictor understands what he predicts or forecasts.
 - The prophets of God did not necessarily comprehend what they spoke. (**1 Peter 1:9-12**)

Probability

- ▶ According to Henry Liddon there are 332 prophecies fulfilled in Christ.
 - The words of Christ in the Old Testament are no accident.
 - They are not placed there for us to marvel.

Bible Prophecies Unlikely

All came to pass. (cf. Acts 3:18)

- ▶ The probability of all 332 prophecies happening by chance is 84×10^{123}
- ▶ For example: who would predict that a lowly, poor man who died as a criminal with criminals would be buried with the rich?
- ▶ No one would so **"predict,"** but that is what Isaiah prophesied. (Isaiah 53:2-3,8-9)

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The Prophecies Of Christ May Be Categorized:

- ▶ Prophecies of His birth ... fulfillment.
- ▶ Prophecies of His character ... fulfillment.
- ▶ Prophecies of His ministry ... fulfillment.
- ▶ Prophecies of His betrayal, trial, and crucifixion ... fulfillment.
- ▶ Prophecies of His resurrection and exaltation ... fulfillment.

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Prophecies Of Christ's Birth And Their Fulfillment

- ▶ He would be the **"seed of woman."** (Genesis 3:15; cf. Galatians 4:4; 3:16)
 - This prophecy was narrowed in the promises to the Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
 - Not only is he to be born of woman, but He will be the seed of Abraham. (Genesis 12:1-3; 22:17-18)

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Prophecies Of Christ's Birth And Their Fulfillment

- ▶ The Savior shall be of the **"tribe of Judah."** (Genesis 49:8-9)
- ▶ The Christ would be of the lineage of David. (Psalms 132:11; cf. 2 Samuel 7:11-14)

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Prophecies Of Christ's Birth And Their Fulfillment

- ▶ His sex is named ... **"A son is given"** (Isaiah 9:6)
- ▶ **"A son"** is prophesied, but **born of "a virgin,"** of a woman who had never known a man. (Isaiah 7:14)
- ▶ So said Isaiah the prophet and so it occurred (cf. Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:26-35)

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Prophecies Of Christ's Birth And Their Fulfillment

- ▶ **Micah reveals the place.**
- ▶ Micah 5:2 **"But thou, Beth-lehem Ephrathah, which art little to be among the thousands of Judah, out of thee shall one come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."** cf. Matthew 2:1-6

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Prophecies Of Christ's Character And Fulfillment

- ▶ **"Lowly" ...** Isaiah 42:1-4; 53:7; Zechariah 9:9; cf. Matthew 21:1-5
 - "I am meek and lowly in heart." Matthew 11:29
 - cf. Our attitude. Philippians 2:5; 2 Corinthians 8:9

Prophecies Of His Ministry... And Fulfillment.

There would be a forerunner.

- John the Baptist, was set forth as one "that crieth in the wilderness," preparing "the way of the Lord." (Isaiah 40:3-5; Matthew 3:3; cf. John 1:19ff)
- The prophets said in fact and in effect, "Before the Savior comes, one will come who will tell you that He shortly will come." (cf. Malachi 3:1; 4:5; Matthew 11:7-15; Mark 9:11-13; Luke 1:17)

Prophecies Of His Ministry ... And Fulfillment.

Specific prophecies of His ministry.

- ▶ Jesus' service to the down trodden. **Isaiah 42:5-7; Luke 4:18**
- ▶ His ministry to the Gentiles. **Isaiah 42:1-4; Matthew 12:21**
- ▶ He would teach in parables. **Psalms 78:2; Mark 4:33-34**
- ▶ God had prepared through prophecy His right to be received as "That Prophet of God." cf. **Deuteronomy 18:18**

Prophecies Of His Betrayal, Trial

Many specific prophecies.

- ▶ He was to be betrayed by a friend. **Psalms 41:9; 55:13**
- ▶ Sold for 30 pieces of silver. **Zechariah 11:12-13; Matthew 27:3-10**
- ▶ He would be deserted by his disciples. **Zechariah 13:7; Matthew 26:56**
- ▶ He would be mocked and insulted. **Psalms 35:15-16**
- ▶ He would remain silent. **Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-14, 39, 41, 43**

Prophecies Of His Death

Many specific prophecies of His death ...

- ▶ His hands and feet were to be pierced. **Psalms 22:16; Luke 23:33; John 21:25, 27**
- ▶ He was to be given vinegar and gall to drink. **Psalms 69:21; Matthew 27:34**
- ▶ He was to die with the wicked. **Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:38**

Prophecies Of His Death

- ▶ He was to be nailed to the cross, but no bones were to be broken. **Psalms 22:16; 34:20; John 19:36; cf. Exodus 12:46; I Corinthians 5:7**
- ▶ His garments to be parted and lots cast. **Psalms 22:18; John 19:24**
- ▶ He was to cry, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" **Psalms 22:1; Matthew 27:46**
- ▶ His side to be pierced. **Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34, 37**
- ▶ To be buried in a rich man's tomb. **Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60**

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Prophecies Of His Resurrection And Coronation

- ▶ Perhaps no greater example than the application of David's **Psalms 16:8ff and Psalms 110:1 in Acts 2.**
- ▶ *Luke 24:44-46 "And he said unto them, These are my words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must needs be fulfilled, which are written in the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their mind, that they might understand the scriptures; and he said unto them, **Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer, and rise again from the dead the third day.**"*

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Conclusion:

- ▶ They could recognize Him who was to deliver them if they would but "**search the Scriptures.**" (**John 5:39**)
- ▶ Paul "**reasoned from the Scriptures, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead.**" **Acts 17:2-3, 11-12**
- ▶ This proves that the prophecies were designed to draw men to Jesus.
- ▶ That is how the apostle used them ... **Acts 3:13-24; 13:23-27**

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Conclusion:

- ▶ Jesus rebuked the disciples on the day of His resurrection:
- Luke 24:25-26, "O fools and slow of heart to believe all the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory?"**

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