

NICK GUY & THE CHILD OF BETHLEHEM AFFAIR

NICK GUY, VOLUME 3

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THEME: Jesus fulfilling Old Testament Prophecies concerning the coming Messiah.

NOTES: The Old Testament contains 61 major prophecies concerning the Messiah, detailing such things as His birth, His life and the manner of incidents surrounding His death, burial and resurrection. When combined with people, things and events that were a foreshadow of the Messiah, the total comes to over 300 Old Testament references.

OBJECTION #1 - JESUS SELF-FULFILLED PROPHECIES: It is amazing how many times raised objections to many Christian beliefs sound, at first, quite reasonable. Yet, upon further examination they are exposed as being incredibly improbable. For example, the first objection to the claim that Jesus fulfilled the Messianic Old Testament prophecies is that He did it deliberately. In other words, He orchestrated fulfilling them. This objection sounds plausible until it is considered that many of the prophecies concerned things about which Jesus would have had no control. So many, in fact, that self-determining their fulfillment becomes impossible.

Jesus would have had no control over the place (Micah 5:2), time (Daniel 9:25; Genesis 49:10) or manner (Isaiah 7:14) of His birth. He would have no control over being betrayed by a friend (Psalm 55:12-14) or in the manner of His death (Psalm 22:6). The reaction of those who witnessed His crucifixion (Psalm 22:7,8), or His disciples (Zechariah 13:7) would be out of his control as well.

OBJECTION #2 - JESUS FULFILLING PROPHECIES WAS

COINCIDENTAL: Some may argue that these prophecies could be interpreted to show their fulfillment in any number of other historical figures. This boast may sound good, and one could possibly find a few of the prophecies that could be applied to others, but not all 61. In fact, Fred John Meldau of the Christian Victory Publishing Company has offered a \$1,000 reward to anyone who can find someone, other than Jesus, either living or dead, who can fulfill only half of the predictions concerning the Messiah found in the Old Testament. So far, no reward money has been handed out.

Peter Stoner, in his book *Science Speaks*, shows, by the science of probability, that coincidence can be ruled out in explaining how Jesus was able to fulfill Old Testament prophecy. Stoner took eight prophecies (1 - Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, 2 - His being preceded by a messenger, 3 - His entering Jerusalem on a donkey, 4 - His being betrayed by a friend, 5 - His being sold out for 30 pieces of silver, 6 - the 30 pieces of silver being thrown in the Temple and then used to buy a potter's field, 7 - Jesus' silence before His accusers, and 8 - His being crucified) and determined the probability of someone fulfilling them by coincidence. Of his results he wrote: "...We find that the

chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 1,017." That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. To better illustrate how staggering this probability is, Stoner described it as taking "1,017 silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all 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?"

This is only taking 8 of the 61 major Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. If one considered 48 of them, the odds would grow to 1 in 10,157. To illustrate these odds, Stoner wrote: "The electron is about as small an object as we know of. It is so small that it will take 2.5 times 10¹⁵ 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 10²¹ years.

"With this introduction, let us go back to our chance of 1 in 10157. 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."

It takes more faith to believe that Jesus is not the Messiah than to believe that He is.

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES WHICH WERE LITERALLY FULFILLED IN CHRIST: Following is a list of 332 distinct Old Testament predictions that were literally fulfilled in Christ:

His first coming - Genesis 3:15; Deuteronomy 18:15; Psalms 89:20; Isaiah 9:6; 28:16; 32:1; 35:4; 42:6; 49:1; 55:4; Ezekiel 34:24; Daniel 2:44; Micah 4:1; Zechariah 3:8.

His Diety - Psalms 2:7,11; 43:6,7,11; 72:8; 102:24-27; 89:26,27; 110:1; Isaiah 9:6; 25:9; 40:10; Jeremiah 23:6; Micah 5:2; Malachi 3:1.

His Humanity - Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 21:12; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14; 49:10; II Samuel 7:14; Psalms 18:4-6,50; 22:22,23; 89:4; 29:36; 132:11; Isaiah 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15.

The Coming of His Forerunner - Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1; 4:5

His Birth and Early Years - Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Jeremiah 31:22

The Place of His Birth - Numbers 24:17,19; Micah 5:2

Adoration by Magi - Psalms 72:10,15; Isaiah 60:3,6.

Flight into Egypt - Hosea 11:1
Massacre of the Innocents - Jeremiah 31:15

His Mission - Genesis 12:3; 49:10; Numbers 24:19; Deuteronomy 18:18,19; Psalms 21:1; Isaiah 59:20; Jeremiah 33:16.

His Priestly Order - Psalms 110:4.

His Being a Prophet like Moses - Deuteronomy 18:15

The Conversion of the Gentiles - Isaiah 11:10; Deuteronomy 32:43; Psalms 18:49; 19:4; 117:1; Isaiah 42:1; 45:23; 49:6; Hosea 1:10; 2:23; Joel 2:32.

His Ministry in Galilee - Isaiah 9:1,2.

His Miracles - Isaiah 35:5,6; 42:7; 53:4

His Spiritual Graces - Psalms 45:7; Isaiah 11:2; 42:1; 53:9; 61:1,2.

His Preaching - Psalms 2:7; 78:2; Isaiah 2:3; 61:1; Micah 4:2.

His Purification of the Temple - Psalms 69:9

His Rejection by Jews and Gentiles - Psalms 2:1; 22:12; 41:5; 56:5; 69:8; 118:22,23; Isaiah 6:9,10; 8:14; 29:13; 53:1; 65:2

His Persecution - Psalms 22:6; 35:7,12; 56:5; 71:10; 109:2; Isaiah 49:7; 53:3

His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem - Psalms 8:2; 118:25,26; Zechariah 9:9

His Betrayal by a Friend - Psalms 41:9; 55:13; Zechariah 13:6

His Betrayal for Thirty Pieces of Silver - Zechariah 11:12.

His Betrayer's Death - Psalms 55:15,23; 109:17

The Purchase of a Potter's Field - Zechariah 11:13.

His Being Abandoned by His Disciples - Zechariah 13:7.

His Being Falsely Accused - Psalms 27:12; 35:11; 109:2; Psalms 2:1,2.

His Silence Before His Accusers - Psalms 38;13; Isaiah 53:7.

The Mocking of the People - Psalms 22:7,8,16; 109:25.

His Suffering Insults, Buffeting, Spitting and Scourging - Psalms 35:15,21; Isaiah 50:6.

His Patience Under Suffering - Isaiah 53:7-9.

His Crucifixion - Psalms 22:14,17

Being Offered Gall and Vinegar - Psalms 69:21.

His Prayer for His Enemies - Psalms 109:4.

His Words from the Cross - Psalms 22:1; 31:5.

His Death in the Prime of Life - Psalms 89:45; 102:24.

His Crucifixion Alongside of Malefactors - Isaiah 53:9,12.

Death Attested by Convulsions of Nature - Amos 5:20; Zechariah 14:4,6.

Casting Lots for His Garments - Psalms 22:18.

His Bones not Being Broken - Psalms 34:20.

The Piercing of His Side - Psalms 22:16; Zechariah 12:10; 13:6.

His Death Being Voluntary - Psalms 40:6-8

His Substitutionary Suffering - Isaiah 53:4-6,12; Daniel 9:26.

His Burial With the Rich - Isaiah 53:9.

His Resurrection - Psalms 16:18-10; 30:3; 41:10; 118:17; Hosea 6:2.

His Ascension - Psalms 16:11; 24:7; 68:18; 110:1; 118:19

His Second Coming - Psalms 50:3-6; Isaiah 9:6,7; 66:18; Daniel 7:13,14; Zechariah 12:10; 14:4-8.

The Universal and Everlasting Nature of His Kingdom - I Chronicles 17:11-14; Psalms 72:8; Isaiah 9:8; Daniel 7:14; Psalms 2:6-8; 8:6; 110:1-3; 45:6,7.

RESOURCES: One of the best resources on this topic is Josh McDowell's *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*. He also deals a bit more in depth in his book *The Resurrection Factor*. www.josh.org or <http://www.angelfire.com/sc3/myredeemer/Evidencep27.html>