Is the Bible as God’s Word Trustworthy: How Jesus Fulfills the OT?

Zanesville, OH | February 17, 2019 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** Lk. 24:25-27, 44-48

**Intro**:

* Jesus Christ is the most important character in all of human history. He is the most important character in the bible (both OT and NT). For this reason, skeptics, atheists and opposers of Christianity and Jesus seek to diminish His role and His existence. If there is even a slight chance that Jesus never existed, or if He did, that He wasn’t the Christ, or if He was the Christ and He didn’t rise from the dead, then we have no basis to be here to worship God and live for Him. There is no reason that we should entrust our allegiance to someone or something that is false, untrue and unreliable. However, there is more than enough evidence to suggest Jesus is indeed exist, He was the Christ and that He died and rose from the dead! The events culminating in the NT find its origins in the beginning of God’s word in the OT. **How does Jesus fulfill the OT, and does it show we can trust the bible as God’s word?**

**The Internal Evidence**

1. **The NT purports that Jesus fulfills OT** 
   1. There are numerous instances where both the NT authors as well as Jesus Himself boldly claim that He fulfills the OT:
      1. NT Authors: Matthew 1:22-23; 2;15; 2:23; 8:17; 12:17; 13:35; Jn. 12:38-40; Acts 2:16, 25-28; 3:18, 24-25; 7:52; 10: 43; 13:27; 17:2-3; 26:22-23; 28:23; Rom. 1:2-4; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Gal. 3:8; 1 Pet. 1:10-12.
      2. Jesus:Matt. 5:17; Lk. 24:25-27, 44-48
   2. The authors and writers of the NT appeal to their audience time and time again that Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of all things spoken of in the OT. This was not something new but something that God had planned from the beginning (See Charts for details more details).
   3. Jesus fulfilling the OT rested ultimately in His death and resurrection! Without that everything else would crumble and be a complete waste of time!
2. **Areas where Jesus fulfills OT**
   1. Typologies
      1. There are a couple ways Jesus is illustrated to be the complete fulfillment of the OT. One of them is various typologies observed in the OT and the antitypes which occur in the NT. Typologies may not necessarily be obvious.
      2. Typology of typologies simply refer to the concept of foreshadowing. As such the faithful bible student will realize Jesus is foreshadowed by numerous characters in the OT including Isaac, Joseph, Moses, David etc.
      3. The idea of a type is that it points to something or someone who is greater than itself or himself. Thus, Jesus is not just like these men, but He is far greater than they ever were (Isa. 9:6-7; Matt. 12:42; 17:5; Jn. 1:14, 18; Heb. 1:1-4).
   2. Prophecies and Scriptures
      1. Unlike typologies, what is spoken of by the prophets in the scriptures are more direct. They clearly demonstrate the coming of a Savior/Messianic figure. Prophets such as Isaiah and Ezekiel are excellent illustrations of this (Isa. 7:13-14; 9:6-7; 52:13-53:12; Ezek. 34:11-31; 37:24-28).
      2. Besides the prophets and men of God who spoke of the Messiah and the Kingdom to come, there are many other scriptures that look ahead to the coming of Jesus and in particular His death and resurrection (Gen. 3:15; Psa. 2; 16; 22; 110).
      3. The OT never states Jesus as this figure, but it clearly illustrates this via the various prophecies and scriptures He fulfills in the NT. Jesus is the completion of what everyone in the OT spoke of.
3. **Does this show we can trust the Bible as God’s word?**
   1. The reality that Jesus fulfilled upwards of 300 prophecies and scriptures in the OT is astonishing and in human eyes clearly impossible. That Jesus would be able to accomplish such a feat not only shows He is God, but it also shows how reliable the OT is!
   2. **Here is an illustration put together by Sawyer using excerpts from Stoner:**
   3. **\*(Begin Quote)** The following probabilities are taken from Peter Stoner’s work in Science Speaks to show that coincidence is ruled out by the science of probability. The analysis is concerned with the following eight prophecies:

1. Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; fulfilled in Matt. 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).

* 1. Stoner says that by applying the modern science of 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 1017.” That would be one in 100,000,000,000,000,000. In order for us to be able to comprehend this staggering probability, Stoner illustrates it by supposing that: “… we take 1017 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 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 1017 of having them come true in any man, but they all came true in Christ. “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 1017 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 10157. “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 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 or 6.9 times 1021 years. “With that 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.” [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 Jesus fulfilled not just 48 prophecies, not just 61 prophecies, but more than 300 individual prophecies that the Prophets wrote concerning the Messiah. **\*(End Quote).**
  2. This illustration by Sawyer in citing Stoner demonstrates that it is impossible that the scriptures and prophecies be fulfilled unless they came from God. It shows perfection, coherence, unity and absolute organization to a degree unfathomable to the human mind! This can only mean one thing: **The Bible came from God!**

**Sources**

Sawyer, R. L. (n.d.). *Mathematical Probabilities of Fulfilled Prophecies*. Retrieved February 15, 2019, from http://www.dannychesnut.com/Bible/Prophecy/Mathematical Probabilities of Fulfilled Prophecies.html.

Stoner, P. W., & Newman, R. C. (1976). *Science Speaks: Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible*. Chicago: Moody Press.