## **Probability of Christ Fulfilling Prophecy**

The focus of this topic is to look at the probability of Christ fulfilling the prophecies in the Old Testament.

So, what is *probability*? **Probability**, also known as "**odds**", is a branch of mathmematics that measures the likelihood that a given event will occur. To begin, let's look at some interesting "odds":

- Being struck by lightning in a year = 7 x 10<sup>5</sup> or 1 in 700,000
- Being killed by lightning in a year =  $2 \times 10^6$  or 1 in 2,000,000
- Becoming president =  $1 \times 10^7$  or 1 in 10,000,000
- A meteorite landing on your house =  $1.8 \times 10^{14}$  or 1 in 180,000,000,000,000
- You will eventually die =

As you can see, the probability of being struck or killed by lightning, becoming president, or having a meteorite land on your house, progressively increases, given the event; however, someone somewhere will be that 1 in 10<sup>x</sup>, and that someone could be you.

Now, let's look at one of the most amazing probablity studies to be conducted. **Dr. Peter Stoner**, author of <u>Science Speaks</u>, applied the principle of probablity, which states that if the chance of one thing happening is "1 in M", and the chance of another independent thing happening is "1 in N", then the chance that they shall both happen is "1 in M x N", as it pertains to fulfillment of Biblical prophecies.

The Bible is full of prophecies, either events that have happened or events that will happen in the future. In <u>Science Speaks</u>, Dr. Stoner looks at the probability that one man, Jesus Christ, could have fulfilled even 8 of the 300 prophecies that pertain to Him in the Bible. Let's look at these eight prophecies from the Old Testament pertaining to Christ, their fulfillment by Christ in the New Testament, the probability of one man fulfilling each prophecies of the Old Testament and the New Testament fulfillment is hundreds, even thousands of years.

Old Testament Prophecy	New Testament Fulfillment	Probability
Christ to be born in Bethlehem ( <u>Micah 5:2)</u>	And Herod asked where Christ had been born they answered Bethlehem (Matt 2:4-6)	2.8 x 10 <sup>5</sup> or 1 in 280,000
Forerunner of Christ <u>(Malachi 3:1)</u>	John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ ( <u>Mark 1:2-8)</u>	1 x 10 <sup>3</sup> or 1 in 1,000
Christ to enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey (Zech 9:9)	Christ enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey (Matt 21:4-11)	1 x 10 <sup>2</sup> or 1 in 100
Christ to be betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9)	Judas betrayed Jesus <u>(Luke 22:21)</u>	1 x 10 <sup>3</sup> or 1 in 1,000
Christ to be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zech 11:12)	Judas sold out Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (Matt 26:15)	1 x 10 <sup>3</sup> or 1 in 1,000
30 pieces of silver casted down and used to buy a potter's field (Zech 11:13)	30 pieces of silver used to buy a potter's field (Matt 27:3-10)	1 x 10 <sup>5</sup> or 1 in 100,000
Although innocent, Christ kept silent when on trial ( <u>Isaiah 53:7)</u>	Jesus kept silent when questioned ( <u>Mark 14:60-61)</u>	1 x 10 <sup>3</sup> or 1 in 1,000
Christ crucified (Psalm 22:16)	Jesus was crucified (John 19:17, 18)	1 x 10 <sup>4</sup> or 1 in 10,000

To answer the question what is the probability of one man fulfilling all eight prophecies, the principal of probability is applied. Therefore, multiplying all eight probabilities together (1 times  $2.8 \times 10^5 \times 10^3 \times 10^2 \times 10^3 \times 10^5 \times 10^3 \times 10^4$ ) gives us  $2.8 \times 10^{28}$ , or for simplicity sake  $1 \times 10^{28}$  or 1 in 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. Given this and the time span between the writings of the Old Testament and the fulfillment by Christ in the New Testament, the prophecies were either given to the prophets by God, or the prophets just wrote them down as they thought they should be. With Christ fulfilling all eight prophecies, what are the odds the prophets were just guessing? Source : <u>http://www.goodnewsdispatch.org/</u>