

“The Hero Arrives” – Part 2

Prepared by Patrick J. Griffiths © 2008 - pastorpat@waukeshabible.org
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FROM SHADOW TO FULFILLMENT



For thousands of years those who believed in God lived with expectancy. All of the types and shadows pointed to something or someone more. “For the faithful Jew, one of the most important events described by God in the Old Testament is the coming of the Messiah to assert God’s authority on earth, to redeem His chosen to Himself. Most Jewish scholars see this described in the Old Testament in two ways. There is **outright prophecy**, a description of some attribute the Messiah will have or some fact which will be true of Him. There are **also pictures** in advance, or ‘types’ where events in history act as analogies to some truth about Messiah.” <http://www.bprc.org/topics/fulfill.html>

It was by means of prophecies and types that God foretold and visualized the arrival of the hero in the story He wrote. It is safe to say, “The OT was preparing the way for Christ, anticipating him, pointing to him, leading up to him.” (D.A. Carson, “Matthew,” in *EBC*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelin [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984], 8:28).

With the foretelling and imaging, the future part would have to correspond exactly to what was foretold and imaged. “For Jesus to truly be the Messiah described in the Old Testament, He would have to fulfill *every* Messianic prophecy.” <http://www.bprc.org/topics/fulfill.html>

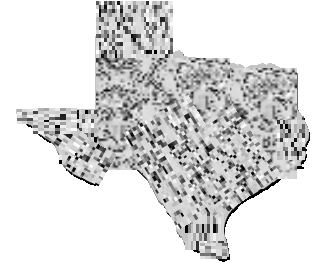
Most conclude that there are at least three hundred prophecies and types of the story’s hero in the Old Testament record. Because of the amount of previous information, the hero’s arrival should be notable and noticeable. In light of the biblical evidence this can lead us to only one conclusion. Jesus **is** the Messiah. He claimed it. It was claimed by others of Him. But more importantly, He demonstrated it by His fulfillment of every messianic prophecy we know of, leaving no room for doubt. The mathematical probability that a single person could fulfill the prophecies listed is astronomical, yet Jesus did it. To get a feel for the probabilities involved, consider this:

Professor Peter Stoner (1888-1980) was Chairman of the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena City College until 1953, and Chairman of the Science Division of Westmont College from 1953 to 1957. Stoner calculated the probability of one man fulfilling only a handful of the over 300 Messianic prophecies. In 1944, he published his research results in *Science Speaks: Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible*. Stoner concluded that the probability of one person fulfilling just eight of the specific prophecies

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was one chance in 10^{17} (one followed by 17 zeros). This is equivalent to covering the entire state of Texas with silver dollars two feet deep, marking one of them, mixing them all up and having a blind-folded person select the marked one at random the first time.

<http://www.bprc.org/topics/fulfill.html>



How about one person fulfilling just 48 of the over 300 prophecies? Stoner calculated these odds at one chance in 10^{157} -- way beyond statistical impossibility! (Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks: Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible*, 1944, 109-10.)

The American Scientific Affiliation gave Stoner's work their stamp of approval: "The manuscript for *Science Speaks* has been carefully reviewed by a committee of the American Scientific Affiliation members and by the Executive Council of the same group and has been found, in general, to be dependable and accurate in regard to the scientific material presented. The mathematical analysis included is based upon principles of probability which are thoroughly sound and Professor Stoner has applied these principles in a proper and convincing way. (American Scientific Affiliation, H. Harold Hartzler, Ph.D., Secretary-Treasurer, Goshen College, Ind. [Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks: Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible*, 1944, Foreword]).

Fellow believers, this is what we are working with from the Old Testament Picture to the New Testament Presence. It is for this reason we can join the innumerable host of past, present, and future believers in the reciting of the ancient creed.

[I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He arose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

God's person, His hero has arrived, and He has initiated the culmination of God's purpose for the creation of all things. It is with longing we wait for His next physical and visible return. All who love God wait with expectancy for the One Anointed Hero who will save them from their sin both individually and nationally. May we awaken from our lethargy and with passion pursue Him in love.