

What Are the Odds

Christmas truly is *the most wonderful time of the year*. More than presents, lighted trees and time with loved ones, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Christ. It's a holy season for Christians—a time to bask in God's glory shown to us through His Son Jesus Christ.

Yet, even with the splendor and joy of Christmas all around, you or someone you know may be convinced Jesus was just another man, possibly a prophet, but certainly not the Messiah—the promised One.

Jesus is in fact unique. There are numerous things that set Him apart from other religions and their leaders, such as biblical prophecy and the proof to back up each of them.

From the very beginning, God had a plan. And through hundreds of prophecies in the Old Testament, God prepared the world for the coming of His Son. Jesus really 'did live to die' for the sins of humanity.

The Word of God say:

It is true that He was chosen and foreordained (destined and foreknown for it) before the foundation of the world, but He was brought out to public view (made manifest) in these last days (at the end of the times) for the sake of you.

(1 Peter 1:20 AMPC)

Let us take some time today to examine what are the chances of Jesus being who He claimed to be. To do this I want to examine what the odds are for this to be true and how some events today could be compared with those odds.

What are the odds of you:

Getting struck by lightning

The U.S. Weather Service places a person's odds of being struck by lightning in a given year at 1 in 1,222,000 people, based on population. That probability climbs significantly when we look at the odds of being struck by lightning in your lifetime—1 in 15,300—averaging that lifetime to be 80 years. Stuningly, the odds

Anyone can make predictions. Having those prophecies fulfilled is vastly different. In fact, the more statements made about the future, and the more the detail, then the less likely the precise fulfillment will be.

Some scholars believe there are more than 300 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. These prophecies are specific enough that the mathematical probability of Jesus fulfilling even a handful of them, let alone all of them, is staggeringly improbable—if not impossible.

Peter Stoner, Chairman of the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena College, was passionate about biblical prophecies. With 600 students from the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Stoner looked at eight specific prophecies about Jesus. They came up with extremely conservative probabilities for each one being fulfilled, and then considered the likelihood of Jesus fulfilling all eight of those prophecies.

The conclusion to his research was staggering. The prospect that anyone would satisfy those eight prophecies was just 1 in 10^{17} . In his book, 'Science Speaks', he described it like this:

“Let us try to visualize this chance. If you mark one of ten tickets, and place all of the tickets in a hat, and thoroughly stir them, and then ask a blindfolded man to draw one, his chance of getting the right ticket is one in ten. Suppose that we take 10^{17} 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 using their own wisdom.”

The Old Testament described the awaited Messiah's birth in detail.

In particular, the prophets foretold that the Savior would be born of a woman and would defeat Satan to redeem humanity for Satan's deception of our First Parents, Adam and Eve.

Prophecy:

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring; He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel. (Genesis 3:15 AMPC).

Fulfillment:

⁸ [But] *he who commits sin [who practices evildoing] is of the devil [takes his character from the evil one], for the devil has sinned (violated the divine law) from the beginning. The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible) was to undo (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) the works the devil [has done]. (1 John 3:8 AMPC)*

Further, the Savior would come from the line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the nations will be blessed through Abraham's lineage.

The Prophecy:

¹ *Now [in Haran] the Lord said to Abram, Go for yourself [for your own advantage] away from your country, from your relatives and your father's house, to the land that I will show you.*

² *And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you [with abundant increase of favors] and make your name famous and distinguished, and you will be a blessing [dispensing good to others].*

³ *And I will bless those who bless you [who confer prosperity or happiness upon you] and curse him who curses or uses insolent language toward you; **in you will all the families and kindred of the earth be blessed [and by you they will bless themselves]. (Genesis 12:1-3 AMPC)***

This was fulfilled Acts 3:25-26:

²⁵ *You are the descendants (sons) of the prophets and the heirs of the covenant which God made and gave to your forefathers, **saying to***

Abraham, And in your Seed (Heir) shall all the families of the earth be blessed and benefited.

²⁶ It was to you first that God sent His Servant and Son Jesus, when He raised Him up [provided and gave Him for us], to bless you in turning every one of you from your wickedness and evil ways.

God's covenant with Isaac's ancestors

Prophecy:

*But God said, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son indeed, and **you shall call his name Isaac** [laughter]; **and I will establish My covenant** or solemn pledge **with him for an everlasting covenant and with his posterity after him.** (Genesis 17:19 AMPC)*

Fulfillment:

*And they are not all the children of Abraham because they are by blood his descendants. No, [the promise was] **Your descendants will be called and counted through the line of Isaac** [though Abraham had an older son]. (Romans 9:7 AMPC)*

The nations will be blessed through Jacob's offspring

Prophecy:

*¹³ And behold, the Lord stood over *and* beside him and said, I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father [forefather] and the God of Isaac; I will give to you and to your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ *And your offspring shall be as [countless as] the dust or sand of the ground, and you shall spread abroad to the west and the east and the north and the south; and by you and your Offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed and bless themselves.* (Genesis 28:13-14 AMPC)*

Fulfillment: Jacob is part of Jesus' genealogy.

³⁴ The son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, (Luke 3:34 AMPC)

The scepter will come through Judah

Prophecy:

¹⁰ The scepter or leadership shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh [the Messiah, the Peaceful One] comes to Whom it belongs, and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.
(Genesis 49:10)

Fulfillment: Judah is part of Jesus' genealogy.

The son of Aminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, (Luke 3:33 AMPC)

What is the likelihood of a person predicting today the exact city in which the birth of a future leader would take place, well into the 22nd century?

Hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, there were prophets predicting the Savior would be born in an insignificant place, but the prophet Micah actually named the town 700 years before the Messiah.

Jesus was to be born in Bethlehem.

Biblical prophecy:

But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, you are little to be among the clans of Judah; [yet] out of you shall One come forth for Me Who is to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth have been from of old, from ancient days (eternity).
(Micah 5:2 AMPC)

Prophecy fulfilled:

After Christ's birth, King Herod gathered the chief priests and scribes to ask them where the Messiah would be born. They responded by citing the Old Testament prophecy revealing that Christ would be born in Bethlehem:

⁵ They replied to him, In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ And you Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are not in any way least or insignificant among the chief cities of Judah; for from you shall come a Ruler (Leader) Who will govern and shepherd My people Israel.
(Matthew 2:5-6 AMPC)

Also, John 7:42 (AMPC) says,

⁴² Does not the Scripture tell us that the Christ will come from the offspring of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?

Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judah just as Micah predicted in 735 B.C. He left His home in heaven and all of the power and glory that comes with it so He could be born as a baby in an obscure village.

The prophet Isaiah prophesied Jesus would be born of a virgin was written 735 B.C. and that she would call Him *Immanuel*.

Biblical prophecy:

Isaiah 7:14 (AMPC) says,

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, the young woman who is unmarried and a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel [God with us].

Notably, Isaiah declared that the Messiah would be called by many names in addition to *Immanuel*,

*For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Of the increase of His government and peace
There will be no end, (Isaiah 9:6)*

This prophecy was fulfilled in 30 A.D.:

²⁰ But as he was thinking this over, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary [as] your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of (from, out of) the Holy Spirit.

²¹ She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus [the Greek form of the Hebrew Joshua, which means Savior], for He will save His people from their sins [that is, prevent them from failing and missing the true end and scope of life, which is God].

²² All this took place that it might be fulfilled which the Lord had spoken through the prophet,

²³ Behold, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel—which, when translated, means, God with us. (Matthew 1:20-23)

And also in Luke 1:35:

³⁵ Then the angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you [like a shining cloud]; and so the holy (pure, sinless) Thing (Offspring) which shall be born of you will be called the Son of God.

Just as Isaiah said, the virgin Mary did indeed conceive and have a Son who is called Immanuel. Jesus being born of a virgin and the prophecy of this event show God's infinite power and knowledge. He defied nature to bring His Son to the earth.

The Messiah would be an heir to King David's throne and would reign for eternity.

¹² And when your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will set up after you your offspring who shall be born to you, and I will establish his kingdom.

¹³ He shall build a house for My Name [and My Presence], and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
(2 Samuel 7:12-13) written 1000 years before.

*Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.* Isaiah 9:6 written 735 years before.

⁵ Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch (Sprout), and He will reign as King and do wisely and will execute justice and righteousness in the land. (Jeremiah 23:5) Written 600 B.C.

This was fulfilled in 30 A.D.

The book of the ancestry (genealogy) of Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed), the son (descendant) of David, the son (descendant) of Abraham. (Matthew 1:1)

²³ Jesus Himself, when He began [His ministry], was about thirty years of age, being the Son, as was supposed, of Joseph, the son of Heli,

³¹ The son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, (Luke 3:23, 31)

What Are the Prophecies about the Messiah's Early Life?

The Old Testament revealed that the Messiah would spend time in Egypt during His youth and would then leave Egypt.

When Israel was a child, then I loved him and called My son out of Egypt. (Hosea 11:1). 740 B.C.

Jesus' Early Life Fulfills the Prophecies about the Messiah's Early Life

As prophesied, Jesus spent His early years in Egypt to escape the Massacre of the Innocents perpetrated by King Herod

¹³ Now after they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, Get up! [Tenderly] take unto you the young Child and His mother and flee to Egypt; and remain there till I tell you [otherwise], for Herod intends to search for the Child in order to destroy Him.

¹⁴ And having risen, he took the Child and His mother by night and withdrew to Egypt

¹⁵ And remained there until Herod's death. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, Out of Egypt have I called My Son. (Matthew 2:13-15).

Also as predicted, once Herod died, Jesus and His family left Egypt and settled in Nazareth

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt

²⁰ And said, Rise, [tenderly] take unto you the Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead.

²¹ Then he awoke and arose and [tenderly] took the Child and His mother and came into the land of Israel.

²² But because he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in the place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being divinely warned in a dream, he withdrew to the region of Galilee.

*²³ He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled: He shall be called a Nazarene [Branch, Separated One].
(Matthew 2:19-23).*

The prophecies also foretold of a messenger in the wilderness who'd prepare the way for the Messiah so that the glory of God would be revealed:

³ A voice of one who cries: Prepare in the wilderness the way of the Lord [clear away the obstacles]; make straight and smooth in the desert a highway for our God!

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted and filled up, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked and uneven shall be made straight and level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory (majesty and splendor) of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it. (Isaiah 40:3-5).

Behold, I send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me. And the Lord [the Messiah], Whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; the Messenger or Angel of the covenant, Whom you desire, behold, He shall come, says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 3:1 Written 500 B.C.

The foreshadowed messenger in the wilderness preparing the way for the Lord was John the Baptist, who prepared the Messiah's way by preaching a message of baptism and repentance of sins was fulfilled in 27 A.D.

¹ *In those days there appeared John the Baptist, preaching in the Wilderness (Desert) of Judea*

² *And saying, Repent (think differently; change your mind, regretting your sins and changing your conduct), for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.*

³ *This is he who was mentioned by the prophet Isaiah when he said, The voice of one crying in the wilderness (shouting in the desert), Prepare the road for the Lord, make His highways straight (level, direct). (Matthew 3:1-6).*

²⁶ *John answered them, I [only] baptize in (with) water. Among you there stands One Whom you do not recognize and with Whom you are not acquainted and of Whom you know nothing. (John 1:26)*

It was also foretold that Jesus would be rejected by His own people.

In biblical times, building foundations were built from stone, starting with a single stone placed in the corner as a guide for the entire structure. The cornerstone was essential to the structure of the building and ensured each wall would be balanced, straight and solid.

God's Word tells us Jesus was sent to be the cornerstone for the world but, He would be rejected in the process.

Biblical prophecy:

²² *The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.*

²³ *This is from the Lord and is His doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. (Psalm 118:22-23 AMPC)*

Prophecy fulfilled:

Later in the book of Matthew, there's a conversation in which Jesus uses David's words from Psalm 118 to remind the religious leaders who He was:

⁴² *Jesus asked them, Have you never read in the Scriptures: The very Stone which the builders rejected and threw away has become the Cornerstone; this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?*

⁴³ I tell you, for this reason the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce the fruits of it. —Matthew 21:42-43 (AMPC)

Jesus performed miracles.

Biblical prophecy:

Isaiah 35:5-6 (AMPC) says,

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

⁶ Then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Prophecy fulfilled:

Some 700 years after Isaiah, this was written in John 11:47 (AMPC):

⁴⁷ So the chief priests and Pharisees called a meeting of the council (the Sanhedrin) and said, What are we to do? For this Man performs many signs (evidences, miracles).

And Luke 7:21 (AMPC):

²¹ In that very hour Jesus was healing many [people] of sicknesses and distressing bodily plagues and evil spirits, and to many who were blind He gave [a free, gracious, joy-giving gift of] sight.

The Messiah would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.

¹² And I said to them, If it seems just and right to you, give me my wages; but if not, withhold them. So they weighed out for my price thirty pieces of silver. ¹³ And the Lord said to me, Cast it to the potter [as if He said, To the dogs!]—the munificently [miserable] sum at which I [and My shepherd] am priced by them! And I [Zechariah] took the thirty pieces of silver and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord. (Zechariah 11:12-13) **Written 487 B.C.****

They gave Judas thirty pieces of silver.

Fulfilled 30 A.D.

And said, What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you? And they weighed out for and paid to him thirty pieces of silver [about twenty-one dollars and sixty cents]. (Matthew 26:15)

⁶ But the chief priests, picking up the pieces of silver, said, It is not legal to put these in the [consecrated] treasury, for it is the price of blood.

⁷ So after consultation they bought with them [the pieces of silver] the potter's field [as a place] in which to bury strangers.

⁸ Therefore that piece of ground has been called the Field of Blood to the present day.

⁹ Then were fulfilled the words spoken by Jeremiah the prophet when he said, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of Him on Whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel,

¹⁰ And they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me. (Matthew 27:6-10)

Prophecies about Jesus' death and resurrection

The death and resurrection of Christ are the most significant events in human history. It's no surprise that there would be plenty of Old Testament prophecies pointing to this remarkable event.

Christ will be our Passover Lamb

Prophecy:

²¹ Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said to them, Go forth, select and take a lamb according to your families and kill the Passover [lamb].

²² And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood in the basin, and touch the lintel above the door and the two side posts with the blood; and none of you shall go out of his house until morning.

²³ For the Lord will pass through to slay the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood upon the lintel and the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to slay you.

²⁴ You shall observe this rite for an ordinance to you and to your sons forever.

²⁵ When you come to the land which the Lord will give you, as He has promised, you shall keep this service.

²⁶ When your children shall say to you, What do you mean by this service?

²⁷ You shall say, It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for He passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when He slew the Egyptians but spared our houses. And the people bowed their heads and worshiped. (Exodus 12:21-27)

Fulfillment:

Purge (clean out) the old leaven that you may be fresh (new) dough, still uncontaminated [as you are], for Christ, our Passover [Lamb], has been sacrificed. (1 Corinthians 5:7)

Jesus suffered with (and for) sinners

Biblical prophecy:

¹² Therefore will I divide Him a portion with the great [kings and rulers], and He shall divide the spoil with the mighty, because He poured out His life unto death, and [He let Himself] be regarded as a criminal and be numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore [and took away] the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors (the rebellious). Isaiah 53:12 (AMPC)

Prophecy fulfilled:

³⁸ At the same time two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right hand and one on the left. Matthew 27:38 (AMPC)

²⁷ And with Him they crucified two robbers, one on [His] right hand and one on His left. Mark 15:2 (AMPC)

³² *Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be executed with Him.*

³³ *And when they came to the place which is called The Skull [Latin: Calvary; Hebrew: Golgotha], there they crucified Him, and [along with] the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. (Luke 23:32-33 AMPC)*

Isaiah, whose name means “salvation of the Lord,” is known as one of the greatest prophets in the Bible. The coming of Christ is foretold throughout the book of Isaiah, with Isaiah 53 explaining just how much Jesus would suffer during His sacrifice for our sins.

The Messiah would have his hands and feet pierced.

Written 1000 B.C.

For [like a pack of] dogs they have encompassed me; a company of evildoers has encircled me, they pierced my hands and my feet. Psalm 22:16

This was Fulfilled in 30 A.D.

“They came to a place called The Skull. All three were crucified there—Jesus on the center cross, and the two criminals on either side.” Luke 23:33

³⁶ *For these things took place, that the Scripture might be fulfilled (verified, carried out), Not one of His bones shall be broken;*

³⁷ *And again another Scripture says, They shall look on Him Whom they have pierced. (John 19:36-37)*

Like the Passover Lamb, none of the Christ’s bones will be broken.

Prophecy:

⁴⁶ *In one house shall it be eaten [by one company]; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house; neither shall you break a bone of it. (Exodus 12:46)*

Fulfillment:

³¹ *Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from hanging on the cross on the Sabbath—for that Sabbath was a very*

solemn and important one—the Jews requested Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away.

³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first one, and of the other who had been crucified with Him.

³³ But when they came to Jesus and they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came (flowed) out.

³⁵ And he who saw it (the eyewitness) gives this evidence, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he tells the truth, that you may believe also.

³⁶ For these things took place, that the Scripture might be fulfilled (verified, carried out), Not one of His bones shall be broken; (John 19:31-36)

The Messiah's blood will be spilled for atonement

Prophecy:

For the life (the animal soul) is in the blood, and I have given it for you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement, by reason of the life [which it represents]. (Leviticus 17:11)

Fulfillment:

For this is My blood of the new covenant, which [ratifies the agreement and] is being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Matthew 26:28

Christ's resurrection prophesied

Prophecy:

²³ Oh, that the words I now speak were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book [carved on a tablet of stone]!

²⁴ That with an iron pen and [molten] lead they were graven in the rock forever!

²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer and Vindicator lives, and at last He [the Last One] will stand upon the earth.

²⁶ And after my skin, even this body, has been destroyed, then from my flesh or without it I shall see God,

²⁷ Whom I, even I, shall see for myself and on my side! And my eyes shall behold Him, and not as a stranger! My heart pines away and is consumed within me. (Job 19:23-27)

Fulfillment:

²⁴ I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the person whose ears are open to My words [who listens to My message] and believes and trusts in and clings to and relies on Him Who sent Me has (possesses now) eternal life. And he does not come into judgment [does not incur sentence of judgment, will not come under condemnation], but he has already passed over out of death into life.

²⁵ Believe Me when I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the time is coming and is here now when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear it shall live.

²⁶ For even as the Father has life in Himself and is self-existent, so He has given to the Son to have life in Himself and be self-existent.

²⁷ And He has given Him authority and granted Him power to execute (exercise, practice) judgment because He is ^[a]a Son of man [very man].

²⁸ Do not be surprised and wonder at this, for the time is coming when all those who are in the tombs shall hear His voice,

²⁹ And they shall come out—those who have practiced doing good [will come out] to the resurrection of [new] life, and those who have done evil will be raised for judgment [raised to meet their sentence]. (John 5:24-29)

The Messiah's resurrection predicted

Prophecy:

In Psalm 118:17 it says,

¹⁷ I shall not die but live, and shall declare the works and recount the illustrious acts of the Lord.

Then in Luke 24:5-7 we see the fulfillment:

⁵ *And as [the women] were frightened and were bowing their faces to the ground, the men said to them, Why do you look for the living among [those who are] dead?*

⁶ *He is not here, but has risen! Remember how He told you while He was still in Galilee*

⁷ *That the Son of Man must be given over into the hands of sinful men (men whose way or nature is to act in opposition to God) and be crucified and on the third day rise [from death].*

The Messiah will judge the world justly

Prophecy:

King David told of this in Psalm 9:7-10,

⁷ *But the Lord shall remain and continue forever; He has prepared and established His throne for judgment.*

⁸ *And He will judge the world in righteousness (rightness and equity); He will minister justice to the peoples in uprightness.*

⁹ *The Lord also will be a refuge and a high tower for the oppressed, a refuge and a stronghold in times of trouble (high cost, destitution, and desperation).*

¹⁰ *And they who know Your name [who have experience and acquaintance with Your mercy] will lean on and confidently put their trust in You, for You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek (inquire of and for) You [on the authority of God's Word and the right of their necessity].*

We see the fulfillment of this in Acts 17:31,

Because He has fixed a day when He will judge the world righteously (justly) by a Man Whom He has destined and appointed for that task, and He has made this credible and given conviction and assurance and evidence to everyone by raising Him from the dead.

There is more than 300 prophecies Jesus fulfilled with 100 percent accuracy—something no psychic, medium, or other religion can guarantee. God promised He'd send a Savior for the world. And He did.

Richard Halverson was the Chaplain of the United States Senate from February 2, 1981, until March 11, 1995. He said this about Jesus Christ:

“The fact is, the birth, crucifixion, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ are celebrated worldwide by folk of every race, language, and color, every year. And believing in Jesus, they have been delivered from the most evil, disastrous, frustrating, debilitating habits and life forms possible. The real problem with Jesus Christ is not that folk *can't* believe in Him—but that they *won't* believe in Him.”

Do you know my Jesus? Have you made Him the Lord of your life?

You can have real, lasting peace today through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

God's Purpose: Peace and Life

God loves you and wants you to experience peace and eternal life.

The Bible tells us that:

Therefore, since we are justified (acquitted, declared righteous, and given a right standing with God) through faith, let us [grasp the fact that we] have [the peace of reconciliation to hold and to enjoy] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). (Romans 5:1 AMPC)

So, God the Father and God the Son made a covenant, a contract to make that happen.

¹⁶ For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.

¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world in order to judge (to reject, to condemn, to pass sentence on) the world, but that the world might find salvation and be made safe and sound through Him. John 3:16-17 AMPC

So, why did Jesus come?

¹⁰ The thief (Satan) comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I (Jesus) came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows). (John 10:10 AMPC)

What keeps us from having the life God planned for us?

The Problem is we are Separation from God

God created us in His image. He gave us a will and the freedom of choice; we choose to disobey Him and go our own way—which is called sin. This separates us from God.

The Bible says:

²³ Since all have sinned and are falling short of the honor and glory which God bestows and receives.

(Romans 3:23 AMPC)

We are unworthy to be in His presence. And because of our sin there is a price to pay.

²³ For the wages which sin pays is death, but the [bountiful] free gift of God is eternal life through (in union with) Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23 AMPC)

Our choice to sin separates us from God. People have tried many ways to bridge this gap between themselves and God.

The Bible says:

¹² There is a way which seems right to a man and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way of death.

(Proverbs 14:12)

² But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2)

No bridge reaches God... except one.

God's Bridge is The Cross

Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave. When He did, He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between us and God.

The Bible says:

⁵ *For there [is only] one God, and [only] one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, (1 Timothy 2:5)*

¹⁸ *For Christ [the Messiah Himself] died for sins once for all, the Righteous for the unrighteous (the Just for the unjust, the Innocent for the guilty), that He might bring us to God. In His human body He was put to death, but He was made alive in the Spirit, (1 Peter 3:18)*

God has provided the only way back to Him. You must make a choice.

Our Response: Receive Christ

We must trust and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

The Bible says:

¹² *But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name— (John 1:12)*

⁹ *Because if you acknowledge and confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and in your heart believe (adhere to, trust in, and rely on the truth) that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)*

Which side are you on? The side with Christ or without Him?

Here is how you can accept Christ into your life today:

- First, admit your need of a Savior. *(I am a sinner)*
- Second, you must be willing to turn from your sins. *(Repent-do a 180-walk away from your old lifestyle)*
- Third, believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross, rose from the grave and now sits in Heaven praying for you. *(Be saved by faith in this work)*
- Lastly, through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to take control of your life through the Holy Spirit. *(Receive Him as Lord and Savior)*

If He is not your Lord and Savior, you can accept Him right now by simply praying this prayer from your heart and meaning it.

"Dear Father God, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that You raised Him to life. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do Your will. I thank You for hearing my prayer and for making me Your child and I accept Your forgiveness today. I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen."

If you prayed that prayer with me, I say welcome my friend to the family of God. Please let us know of your decision to make Jesus your Lord. We would like to encourage you and help guide you in the next step of your new Christian walk.