

Thursology 74: Astronomical Messianic Mathematics: The Stunning Improbability of Fulfilling JUST TEN Prophecies

(Thursology Live! 3/24/22)

--Introduction: A scientific study:

--Finding #1: A multi-year study of "Ten best psychics in the world" showed that ____% of their predictions were dead _____

--Finding #2: The ____% that could be considered "close" or "correct" were phenomenally _____

--Key Concept #1: _____ faith is also _____ upon _____ claims

--Key Concept #2: The _____ claims of Jesus of Nazareth are _____!!!

--A sad irony in the modern church: In a culture where the _____ to verify Christ's claims is _____...the ability of believers to defend the faith...is _____!!!

--The Claims Of Jesus:

--Claim #1: I am...The _____!!! **John 8:23-24, 51-53, 57-59**

--Claim #2: I AM the _____

--John 18:33, 36-37: Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"...Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

--Luke 1:1-4: Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

--Key Concept #1: _____ prophecy is the _____ for any would-be Messiah!!!

--Key Concept #2: _____ prophecy is the hallmark of sovereignty...because it proves that He is not constrained by _____!!!

--Key Concept #3: Any and all apparent _____ between Jesus' life and the Messianic prophecies must be _____...or the entire foundation of Christianity _____!!!

--Luke 24:44: He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

--CS Lewis: I am trying to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Jesus: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not bring any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

--What logic demands from the Messianic claims of Jesus: He raised the bar so high that He is either a _____...a _____ or...He is _____!!!

--The Fulfillment of Prophecy By Jesus of Nazareth:

- Prophecy #1: The Passover Lamb was taken out of the flock on Nisan ____ to be ____
- Exod 12:1-3: Now the Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers' households, a lamb for each household.
- Prophecy #2: The Lamb was ____ by Israel on Nisan ____
- Exod 12:5-6: Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight.
- Prophecy #3: ____ of the ____ date of the Triumphal Entry
- Dan 9:24-25: Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks...
- From: The issuing of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem: Nisan 1, ____ BC
- Until: The Triumphal Entry: Nisan 10, ____ AD
- Prophecy #4: Messiah had to ____...and it had to happen ____ the destruction of the Temple in AD ____
- Dan 9:26: Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.
- Prophecy #5: Gen 49:1-2: Then Jacob summoned his sons and said, "Assemble yourselves that I may tell you what will befall you in the days to come. "Gather together and hear, O sons of Jacob; and listen to Israel your father.
- Gen 49:10: "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes..."
- What does Prophecy #5 mean? The ____ of Peace had to be born ____ the scepter was taken away from Israel
- The historical meaning of this prophecy: The Messiah had to be born... ____ AD ____
- Prophecy #6: Messiah had to be born in ____
- Micah 5:4-5: And He will arise and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will remain, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth. 5 This One will be our peace.
- V. 2: "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."
- Luke 2:1-6: Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son...
- Prophecy #7: ____ would be cast for His ____
- Psa 22:18: They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

--Luke 23:33-34: When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

--Prophecy #8: Exactly _____ shekels of _____ would be paid for the betrayer's wages...and the silver would go to the _____ to buy a field

--Zech 11:10-13: "I took my staff, Favor, and cut it in pieces, to break my covenant which I had made with all the peoples. So it was broken on that day, and thus the afflicted of the flock who were watching me realized that it was the word of the Lord." And I said to them, "If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!" So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages. Then the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which I was valued by them." So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the Lord.

--Matt 26:14-15: Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him.

--Matt 27:3-8, 10: Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!" And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood." And they conferred together and with the money bought the Potter's Field as a burial place for strangers...Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one whose price had been set by the sons of Israel; and they gave them for the Potter's Field..."

--A fragile prophecy: All the chief priests would've had to do to _____ Jesus as the Messiah would be to give Judas _____ pieces of silver!!!

--Prophecy #9: The _____ of the Lamb could not be _____

--Exodus 12:43, 46: The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the Passover...It is to be eaten in a single house; you are not to bring forth any of the flesh outside of the house, nor are you to break any bone of it."

--John 19:31-22, 35-36: Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs...And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "Not a bone of Him shall be broken."

--Prophecy #10: _____ would be _____

--Psalms 22:16: For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet.

--Crucifixion Prophecies:

--Moses: (Numb 21, Deut 21): _____ BC

--David: (Psa 22): _____ BC

--Zechariah: (Zech 12): _____ BC

--Historical fact: Crucifixion was first used for execution: ~ _____ BC

--An attack on Scripture: The only way to deny the miraculous implications of these types of prophecies is to maintain that the text was _____-written and _____ to fit the life of Jesus _____ he lived.

--Be Armed to defend The Faith:

--The Argument against historical prophecy:

1. The _____ of the life of Jesus are so well _____ that there's no way to meaningfully _____ the facts
2. The _____ between what is contained in the OT Prophets and the life of Jesus is truly _____
3. If the Prophets were written _____ Jesus lived...they prove that God knows and controls the _____...and that Jesus is the True _____
4. The only way to _____ the Prophets...and Jesus' claims...is to maintain that the OT "prophecies" were written _____ the events happened

Timeline of the Ancient Biblical Manuscripts

<u>Classical Prophets</u>	Jesus Lived	OT Manuscripts Copied	KJV
----- -----	----- -----	----- -----	----- -----
1400-400 BC	2 BC-32 AD	~700 AD	15 th Century

Liberal "Scholarship": ----|-----Prophets re-written-----|----"Prophets" appear to----|-----
to match Jesus' life foretell Jesus' life

The impact of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls: DSS
-----|-----Impossible to refute the prophecies-----|-----
300 BC 2 BC-32 AD 1947

--The take-home message from the Dead Sea Scrolls: Any event that occurs after _____ BC that matches what is found in the Hebrew Scriptures is _____ prophecy...and its authenticity cannot be logically _____

--Application: Biblical faith is based upon _____ truth...and is the _____ response of people who are truly _____-minded

--Here's the enormous irony of modern skepticism

--The classical skeptics' theme: "Unless you can show me _____ evidence supporting your _____ for faith...I won't _____ what you claim."

--The modern skeptic's theme: "I already _____ that what you believe about God _____ be true...no matter what the _____ shows."

--The summary of tonight's lesson: Given the truth about the scriptural fulfillment of prophecy by Jesus...the only _____ conclusion...based upon the _____ ...is that He's _____ Who He says He is.

--The likelihood of a given Hebrew male fulfilling just 10 of the Messianic prophecies:

--One in 9.3×10 to the _____th power = **9,300**, _____, _____, _____, _____

--The likelihood that Jesus could have fulfilled just _____ of the prophecies...is as likely as winning a state lottery _____ times in a row...without _____ in between!!!

--II Peter 2:16: "For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty."

Thursology 73: The Devil Didn't Make Me Do It...God Did! Who's Responsible for My Evil? (Implications of the Tribulation-Pt 19)

(Thursology Live! 3/17/22)

--Review:

--If God is good...and all-powerful...why is there so much evil in the world? Does God have the capacity to choose evil? Was it God's will for humanity to fall into sin?

--A really troubling question: If God is totally **SOVEREIGN**...and has absolute **CONTROL**...is God the **CAUSE** or evil???

--The theological traditions that say that God **IS** the cause of Evil believe: God **WILLED** and **CAUSED** sin and evil

--The theological traditions that say that God is **NOT** the cause of Evil believe: God **ALLOWED** for the possibility of evil...by granting humans the power to make genuine moral **CHOICES**...and giving them the **ABILITY** to rebel against His will

--Two perspectives on the cause of evil: Reformed Theology and Arminian Theology

--Reformed Theology: God's sovereignty allows for no human **FREEDOM** or **CHOICE**...because every detail of every thought...and every action...is **PRE**-determined...and **CONTROLLED** by God

--Arminian Theology: In God's absolute sovereignty...He has chosen to be **INTERACTIVE** with humans as He allows meaningful **CHOICES**...while never **SURRENDERING** the clear biblical doctrine that His purposes **WILL** be established

--A mystifying implication of Calvinism's understanding of God's sovereignty:
God holds people **RESPONSIBLE** for doing the very thing that He **CAUSES** them to do

--Edwin Palmer: "...all things are ordained by God—including SIN and UNBELIEF..."

--R. C. Sproul: "God wills all things that come to pass...God DESIRED for man to fall into sin...God CREATED sin."

--Arthur Pink: "In His omniscience and foreknowledge, not only did God SEE Adam eating of the forbidden fruit, He DECREED beforehand that he WOULD do so."

--Palmer: "God decides and causes all things to happen that do happen...He has FOREORDAINED everything after the counsel of His will: The moving of a finger, the beating of a heart, the laughter of a girl, the mistake of a typist...even every SIN."

--An obvious question: If God **CAUSES** sin...how can humans be **RESPONSIBLE** for that sin???

--Edwin Palmer: "God **ORDAINS** sin, and man is to **BLAME**."

--Concept #1: Humans aren't **REBELS**...we're **PUPPETS**

--Reformed Theology's strange perspective on human disobedience: What is called "**REBELLION**" is...in fact...merely acting out what God has predetermined they **WILL** and **MUST** do.

--Frederic Farrar: "What God **COMMANDS** must be within the power of the **WILL** to obey since **ABILITY** is the measurement of **OBLIGATION**."

--A series of problems for the Reformed concept of "rebellion":

--Problem #1: No one is **OBLIGATED** to do what is **IMPOSSIBLE** for them to do.

--Problem #2: In the absence of the *ability* to make a true moral **CHOICE**...the concept of **BLAME** has no meaning.

--The Great Complication of Reformed Theology's perspective on sin: It demands the **ABSENCE** of moral freedom...removes any *possibility* of the **CHOICE** to *obey*...and thus...removes any **RESPONSIBILITY** for *disobedience*!!!

--Isaiah 1:4: "Alas, sinful nation, people weighed down with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, sons who act corruptly! *They* have *abandoned* the Lord, *they* have *despised* the Holy One of Israel, *they* have *turned away* from Him."

--Luke 7:30: "...the Pharisees and the lawyers *rejected* God's purpose for themselves..."

--Romans 10:21: "But as for Israel He says, 'All the day long *I have stretched out My hands* to a *disobedient* and *obstinate* people.' "

--Jeremiah 44:2-5, 7: "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, 'You yourselves have seen all the calamity that I have brought on Jerusalem and all the cities of Judah...*because of their wickedness which they committed* so as to provoke Me to anger by continuing to burn sacrifices and to serve other gods...Yet I sent you all My servants the prophets, *again and again*, saying, "Oh, *do not do this abominable thing which I hate*." But *they did not listen or incline their ears to turn from their wickedness*...Now then, thus says the Lord God of hosts, the God of Israel, "Why are *you* doing great harm *to yourselves*...?"

--God's direct question: "Why are **YOU** doing great harm to **YOURSELVES**...?"

--Concept #2: God **FORBIDS** sin...then **CAUSES** humans to sin...then **PUNISHES** them eternally for carrying out the sin which He **DECREED** that they would do

--The fundamental basis for JUST punishment: Justice in punishment **ASSUMES** that the offender could have **AVOIDED** the offense for which they are punished

--Dave Hunt: "It is as if God has thrown billions of people into the ocean whom He has created in such a way that they cannot swim a single stroke. Then He "mercifully" rescues some of them and leaves the rest to drown. And then, to makes things worse, God says to those whom He has created to drown, "It's your own fault!" It is outrageous to suggest that those whom God foreordained to eternal doom are to blame for the very fate that He created them for!"

--Where the Reformed theology of human responsibility breaks down: No one can **JUSTLY** be held **ACCOUNTABLE** for failing to do that which is **IMPOSSIBLE** for them to do.

--The very height of injustice: God **INCITES** humans to carry out the very sin that He **FORBIDS**

--Deuteronomy 32:1, 3-4: Listen, you heavens, and I will speak; hear, you earth, the words of my mouth. I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He.

--John 1:1, 5: What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life...This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

--Exodus 24:12, 15-18; 31:18: Now the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction."...Then Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the mountain top. Moses entered the midst of the cloud as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights...And when He had finished speaking with him upon Mount Sinai, He gave Moses the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of God.

--**Application**: **BLAMING** our sin on someone **ELSE** has **CATASTROPHIC** consequences!!!

--One of the most fundamental beliefs of sociological and psychological theory: Humans are not **RESPONSIBLE** for their **ACTIONS**!!!

--Key Concept: Modern secular thought allows people to be **SICK**...rather than **SINFUL**!!!

--Christianity Today article: "Free to be creatures again: How predestination descended like a dove on two unsuspecting seminarians, and why they're so grateful."

--"Blaming God for everything has been such a joy that we decided the least we could do was to tell the world how we got here."

--Key Concept: When Christians believe that God is the cause of **EVERYTHING**...including **SIN**...then they can logically believe that their actions are **UNAVOIDABLE** and God gets the **BLAME** for what they do!!!

--**Saul's sins**:

--I Sam 13:8-11: Sin #1: Saul performed a religious **SACRIFICE**

--I Sam 15:7-9: Sin #2: Saul kept some **SHEEP**...and spared a king's **LIFE**

--**David's sins**:

--II Sam 11:2-5: Sin #1: David committed **ADULTERY**

--II Sam 11:14-15: Sin #2: David **INTENTIONALLY** engineered Uriah's **DEATH**

--II Sam 24:1-4, 15: Sin #3: David was responsible for the **DEATH** of **70,000** people

--What happened to these two men?

--I Sam 15:26-28:

--What happened to Saul: God **TORE** the **KINGDOM** from him!!!

--Isaiah 9:6-7:

--For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore.

--What happened to David: God **ESTABLISHED** his throne **FOREVER!!!**

--Whose fault was it???

--I Sam 13:10-11: As soon as he finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him and to greet him. But Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the appointed days...

--Who did Saul blame for his disobedience? The **PEOPLE**...and **SAMUEL**

--II Sam 12:7-9: Nathan then said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul. I also gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added to you many more things like these! Why have you despised the word of the Lord by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.

--II Sam 12:13: Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

--II Sam 24:16-17: Then David spoke to the Lord when he saw the angel who was striking down the people, and said, "Behold, it is I who have sinned, and it is I who have done wrong; but these sheep, what have they done? Please let Your hand be against me and against my father's house."

--In each circumstance, who did David blame for his disobedience? **DAVID**

--The legacies of Saul and David:

--Saul's legacy: Spiritual **FAILURE** and his kingship was **REMOVED**

--Rev 22:16: "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star."

--David's legacy: In the very last chapter of Scripture...the King of the Universe **PROUDLY** announces that He **COMES** from David's **LINEAGE!!!**

--What was the huge difference between Saul and David?

--David took **RESPONSIBILITY** for his sin...and Saul **DIDN'T**

--The take-home message from the lives of Saul and David: The difference between **GREATNESS** and **FAILURE** is the willingness to take **RESPONSIBILITY** for your **ACTIONS**