

November 17, 2019

“Choices: We Are the Choices We Make”

“Choose Prophecy” –Core 10

“You are My Son; today I have begotten you.”

*Psalm 2:7 ESV*

### A. Bible prophecy points to the Bible’s reliability...

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.”*

*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*“Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.”* 2 Peter 1:20-21

1. God is perfect and His Word is perfect, so prophecy can be trusted.

*“The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.”*

*Psalm 19:7*

2. God’s Word is perfect and many Bible prophecies have already been fulfilled, so His Word can be trusted. There are 1,817 individual prophecies in 8,352 verses. That would be 27% of all Scripture! There are over 300 Messianic prophecies with 60 about His birth and 26 about His death!

*“All right then, the Lord Himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).”* Isaiah 7:14

*“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on My behalf.”* Micah 5:2

*“But He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.”* Isaiah 53:5

3. Jesus affirmed the reliability of prophecy.

*“I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.”* Matthew 5:18

*“Then He said, ‘When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about Me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.’”* Luke 24:44

4. God’s Word confirms Jesus as God’s Son and the fulfillment of prophecy! (All throughout the Psalms these words were confirmed.)

*“Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, He has spoken to us through His Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son He created the universe. The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command. When He had cleansed us from our sins, He sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave Him is greater than their names.”* Hebrews 1:1-4

### B. Bible prophecy predicts the life of Jesus...

1. God’s Son will be King forever.

*“He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for My name. And I will secure his royal throne forever. I will be his father, and he will be My son.”* 2 Samuel 7:13-14a

2. God’s Son will come from David’s line.

*“Out of the stump of David’s family will grow a shoot— yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root...The earth will shake at the force of His word, and one breath from His mouth will destroy the wicked.”* Isaiah 11:1-4

3. The Temple will be destroyed but God’s Son will return.

*“This shows that Israel will go a long time without a king or prince, and without sacrifices, sacred pillars, priests, or even idols! But afterward the people will return and devote themselves to the Lord their God and to David’s descendant, their king.”* Hosea 3:4-5a

4. Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.

*“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on My behalf.”* Micah 5:2

5. Jesus would be born of a virgin.

*“All right then, the Lord Himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).”* Isaiah 7:14

6. Jesus would be crucified for our sins.

*“But He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.”* Isaiah 53:5

7. Jesus’ death would bring grief to all.

*“Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem. They will look on Me whom they have pierced and mourn for Him as for an only son. They will*

*grieve bitterly for Him as for a firstborn son who has died.”* Zechariah 12:10

### C. God’s Word is trustworthy...

1. When we look at prophecy, we know there is a Divine Intelligence at work! No one else could verify truth as God has!
2. God’s Word is historically accurate. Archeology points to this truth.
3. God’s Word is geographically accurate. Archeology points to this truth.
4. God’s Word is scientifically accurate. This truth continues to become evident.

*“Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.”* 1 Peter 3:15

### D. Since God’s Word is true...

*“Make them holy by Your truth; teach them Your word, which is truth.”* John 17:17

1. I must use His Word as my source for salvation. *“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me.’”* John 14:6

2. I must use His Word as a guide for my life.

*“Your Word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.”* Psalm 119:105

3. I must use His Word as an absolute for right and wrong.

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”* 2 Timothy 3:16

4. I must use His Word for my conduct in relationships.

*“Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.”* Ephesians 4:2

5. I must use His word for my hope for the future.

*“Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.”* 1 Timothy 6:17

*“And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in You.”* Psalm 39:7

Josh McDowell relayed the statistical probability of one person fulfilling the Messianic prophecies as per the research of Peter Stoner, Professor Emeritus of Science at Westmont College. He calculated the probability of one man fulfilling just eight of the three hundred plus Messianic prophecies. “He conservatively estimated that the chance of one man fulfilling all eight prophecies was one in  $10^{17}$ .” To illustrate how large the number  $10^{17}$  is (a figure with 17 zeros), Stoner gave this illustration; “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?” In Jesus, not just eight but over three hundred were fulfilled!