

Zechariah (Zech. 9:9, 11:12-13, 12:10, 14:4)

I am a space environments spacecraft design engineer and doing math is part of my job. “Millions” is a big number for distance such as the distance from earth to sun is about 93 million (93×10^6) miles. “Trillion” that is 10^{12} is a very large number such as 1 light year is about 5.9 trillion miles away (5.9×10^{12}). For probability, 1 in a trillion is extremely unlikely. Let’s look at the probability of a man that can fulfill over 300 prophecies about the Messiah. A Mathematics & Astronomy Professor Peter W. Stoner has made the statement that the chances of just 8 prophecies coming true by sheer chance is 1 in 10^{17} (100,000,000,000,000,000). That is just 8 prophecies. Thus over 300 prophecies fulfilled by one person, that is Jesus, is not a coincidence at all. Today, we will examine several of the prophecies on Jesus found in Zechariah.

Zechariah is a minor prophet book in the Old Testament. This book was written in two different time periods: chapters 1-8 approximately 520-518 B.C. that is before the temple completion; chapters 9-14 approximately 480 B.C. that is after the temple completion. Zechariah is among one of the most precisely dated books in the Bible. Zechariah and Haggai were prophets in the same time period where Zechariah is much younger in age as compared to Haggai. They both delivered the Lord’s messages to the Jewish remnant returned from Babylon. Haggai’s overall message had more of a warning tone like pointing out the peoples’ sin and self-centered lives, but Zechariah (mainly chapters 1-8) has delivered encouragements to the struggling Israelites at the time of temple rebuilt. Zechariah chapters 9-14 contain prophecies on Jesus coming and the second coming. Here are several of them.

1) Coming of Zion’s King (Triumphal entry)

Zech. 9:9 states “Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” In the New Testament, this has been fulfilled by Jesus in Matt. 21:4-11. Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem on what became known as Palm Sunday.

2) Thirty pieces of silver (Betrayal)

Zech. 11:12-13 states "I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"--the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter."

Judas betrayed Jesus for what the priests thought Jesus was worth "30 pieces of silver" in Matt. 26:15. Judas later returned the silvers and killed himself. The priests used the money to buy the potter's field for a cemetery for foreigners as stated in the gospel book Matt. 27:7.

3) Pierce of body (Crucifixion)

Zech. 12:10 states ""And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son." John chapter 19 described Jesus' crucifixion and mentioned Jesus was pierced, and Mary was there witnessed the killing.

4) Jesus's descending from heaven in His second coming

Zech. 14:4 states "On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south." This described Jesus' second coming where He will descend from heaven as referenced in Acts 1:11.

Book of Zechariah encouraged the returned Jewish remnant about the re-build of the temple as well as the future. It also should provide encouragement to you. Jesus fulfilled so many prophecies that has shown He is the true Messiah. It is not a coincidence. This fact should strengthen your faith on God and His plan. His fulfillment of the prophecies gives us hope on the second coming that guide us to focus on heavenly matters and less on the existing condition.