



Was Jesus Christ being born in Bethlehem, foretold, or predicted, in advance? Many of the Dead Sea Scrolls have been accurately dated to before Jesus was born.

“Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms”—Luke 24:44 NIV

Critics claim that Jesus was just an ordinary man, and that predictive prophecy is impossible, and therefore deny that Jesus fulfilled any Old Testament prophecies. Since there are so many prophecies that Jesus actually fulfilled, critics resort to claiming that the prophecies in the Old Testament were written after the fact, so as to conform to what happened to Jesus, and also that the New Testament recordings of these fulfillments are frauds, that is, written to conform to Old Testament predictions.

However, these assertions by skeptics and critics are proven false by the facts. Some manuscripts found among the Dead Sea Scrolls are independently dated to before Jesus was even born. What happened to Jesus' regarding his birth, mistreatment, execution, and death was beyond his control. If there were only one or two such fulfillments, the case for these prophecies may not be as strong, but with the huge number of fulfilled prophecies in the one man Jesus, and they being beyond his control, and with extant manuscript copies dated prior to his birth, the critics claims are vanquished! There is abundant evidence of the details of Jesus in the Dead Sea Scrolls!

Let's look at some quotes of these Biblical prophecies about Jesus that are found in the Biblical Dead Sea Scrolls, with their scroll designations, their dates of composition, and their New Testament fulfillments, shown. All of the quotes below are from the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS), and not the Masoretic Text, on which most translations are based.

Born in Bethlehem:

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, being small among the thousands of Judah, will not come out of you to me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings out are from old, from ancient times”—Micah 5:2 (4Q81, 200-100 BCE)—[Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4,10,11]

Born of a virgin:

“Therefore Yahweh himself will give you a sign, Behold, the virgin will conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Jesus”—Isaiah 7:14 (1QISa, about 125 BCE)—[Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:30-35]

Descended from the family of David, the son of Jesse, who will give eternal life to Jesse:

“His government will expand, and peace will be endless for the throne of David

and his kingdom, to establish it and to sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will do this”—Isaiah 9:7

“A shoot will come forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will be fruit”—Isaiah 11:1

“On that day, the root of Jesse, which stands as signal for the peoples—the nations will seek him, and his dwelling will be honored”—Isaiah 11:10

These three scriptures above are from **1QISa, about 125 BCE**. The fulfillments are noted in: **Matthew 1:1,6-16; 9:27; 15:22; 20:30,31; 21:9,15; 22:42; Mark 10:47,48; Luke 1:32; 2:4; 3:23-32; 18:38,39; Acts 2:29-31; 13:22,23; Romans 1:3; 15:8,12**

Children and infants killed:

“Thus says Yahweh: A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and bitter weeping: Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted for her children—because they are no more”—Jeremiah 31:15 (4QJer, about 200 BCE)—[Matthew 2:16-18]

Jesus' anointing with the holy Spirit as Messiah:

“Until an anointed one, a Messiah”—Daniel 9:25 (11Q13, circa 100 BCE)—[Luke 3:1,2, 21-23]

Hearts hardened:

“So he said, ‘Go and say to this people: Hear indeed, but do not understand; see indeed, but do not comprehend. Make the heart of this people fat, dull their ears, and blind their eyes; so they do not see with their eyes, or hear with their ears, with their heart understand, or turn back and be healed”—Isaiah 6:9,10 (1QISa, about 125 BCE)—[Matthew 13:14,15; Mark 4:11,12; Luke 8:10; John 12:39,40; Acts

28:25-27]

Insulted and spit on:

“My face I did not turn aside from insults and spitting”—Isaiah 50:6 (1QISa, about 125 BCE)—[Matthew 26:68; 27:26-30,39-44; Mark 14:65; 15:17,18,29-32; Luke 22:63-65; 23:11,39; John 19:2,3]

Rejected by his people:

“Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of Yahweh been revealed? For he grew up before him like a tender plant, like a root out of a dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and had no attractiveness that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others, and a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering; and like one from whom people hide their faces and we despised him, and we did not value him”—Isaiah 53:1-3 (1QISa, about 125 BCE)—[Matthew 27:1,2; John 1:10,11; 12:37,38]

Hailed as king and the one coming in the Lord Yahweh’s name:

“Therefore Yahweh himself will give you a sign, Behold, the virgin will conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel”—Isaiah 7:14 (1QISa, about 125 CE)—[Matthew 21:1-9; Mark 11:7-11; Luke 19:28-38; John 12:12-15]

Disfigured by cruelty:

“Just as many were astonished at you-so he was marred ins appearance, more than any human, and his form beyond that of the sons of humans”—Isaiah 52:14 (1QISa, about 125 BCE)—[Matthew 27:27-30]

Executed as a criminal:

“They intended to bury him with criminals”—Isaiah 53:9 (1QISa, about 125 BCE)—Luke 23:32,33

“I will allot him a portion with the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong; because he poured out his life to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sins of many; and made intercession for their transgressions”—Isaiah 53:12 (1QISa, about 125 BCE)—[Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27, 28; Luke 22:17; 23:32,33]

Buried with the rich:

“Then they made his grave with the wicked, and with rich people his tomb—although he had done no violence, nor was any deceit found in his mouth”—Isaiah 53:9 (1QISa, about 125 BCE)—[Matthew 27:57-60]

None of his bones were broken:

“He protects all his bones; not one of them is broken”—Psalm 34:20 (4Q83, about 200-100 BCE)—[John 19:32-36]

Hands and feet pierced:

“For dogs are all around me; a gang of evildoers encircles me. They have pierced my hands and my feet”—Psalm 22:16 (4Q88, about 100-25 BCE)—[Matthew 27:35; John 19:25]

Silent before his oppressors:

“He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, as a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth”—Isaiah 53:7 (1QISa, about 125 BCE)—[Mark 14:60,61;

Acts 8:27-35]

Deprived of justice

“From detention and judgment he was taken away—and who can even think about descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living”—Isaiah 53:8 (1QISa, about 125 BCE)—[Acts 8:27-35]

Piercing of his body:

“I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitant of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication; and they shall look to me whom they have pierced; and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn”—Zechariah 12:10 (4Q80, 75-25 BCE)—[John 19:34,37; Revelation 1:7]

Hated without cause:

“Many more than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; many are those who would annihilate me, who are wrongfully my enemies. That which I did not steal, shall I now restore?”—Psalm 69:4 (4Q83, about 200-100 BCE)— [John 15:24,25]

Cursed on the tree:

“His body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall indeed bury him that same day. For anyone who is hanged is under God’s curse, you must not defile your land which Yahweh your God is giving you as an inheritance”—Deuteronomy 21:23 (4Q36, 100-50 BCE)—[Galatians 3:13]

Friends stand at a distance:

“I have become a plague before my friends and companions, and my neighbors stay far away”—Psalm 38:11 (4Q83, about 200-100 BCE)—[Matthew 27:55; Mark 15:40; Luke 23:49]

Died for our sins

“He will bear their iniquities”—Isaiah 53:11 (1QISa, about 125 BCE)

“He was wounded for our transgressions, and he was he was crushed for our iniquities, and the punishment that made us whole was upon him, and by his bruises we are healed” —Isaiah 53:5 (1QISa about 125 BCE)

“He was stricken for the transgressions of my people”—Isaiah 53:8 (1QISa, about 125 BCE)

Fulfillment of all three scriptures recorded in **Romans 3:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Hebrews 9:28**

In the tomb for parts of three days, and resurrected on the third day:

“So they picked up Jonah, and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. And Yahweh prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah, and he was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights”—Jonah 1:15,17 (4Q76, 150-125 BCE)

“And Yahweh spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land”—Jonah 2:10 (4Q82, 30-1 BCE)

Jesus’ similar predictions and the fulfillments of both of these two prophecies are noted in **Matthew 12:39,40; 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; 27:64; 28:1-7; Acts 10:40; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8**

Conclusion

Reasonable people agree that Jesus' birth, rejection, mistreatment, execution, and death were all beyond his control. Objective evidence of Jesus in the Dead Sea Scrolls proves that prophecies of such were written prior to Jesus even being born on earth. These facts are just more of the mountainous evidence that the Bible is the authentic **"word of God" (1 Thessalonians 2:13)**!

All scriptural quotes in this article are from the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS), unless otherwise noted.