

What are the Odds?

Calculating the Probability of the 1932 Prophecies of Br Branham.

Dale Knight - March 5, 2008

Note: The prophecies used for this document are taken from the messages (as presented on Voice of God Message Search Web Site), *Condemnation by Representation (Hybrid Religion)* preached November 13, 1960 at Branham Tabernacle, paragraphs 5-1 and 5-2 and *Why Are We Not A Denomination* preach September 27, 1958 at Branham Tabernacle, paragraph 136.

Reducing and representing the likelihood of a prophesied event coming to pass to a numeric ratio is a subjective undertaking at best. Using an absolutist interpretation of God and His foreknowledge and omnipotence, one can make a convincing argument that the odds of a prophecy uttered by a vindicated prophet coming to pass are always 100%, i.e. there is no possibility that the event will not occur. This thought may be comforting to the believer's mind but is not readily accepted by the secular mind.

Setting aside the *a priori* mindset, I have examined the seven prophecies of 1932 and have used a simple and absolute yes/no test to determine odds of all them coming to pass. This means that I calculated the odds by asking, "Will or did it come to pass or not?" This is the most conservative approach and the easiest to understand and interpret. I did not consider prior trends, mitigating factors, etc, just simply, yes, it did occur or, no, it did not.

When using yes/no criteria, then odds are expressed as $1:2^n$ (one out of two to the n, where n is the number of events). One of the easiest examples to understand is flipping a coin. When flipped, the coin will either land on heads or tails. Assuming a fair coin, the odds of it landing on heads, for any given flip, is 1:2 or simply 1 out of 2, and the odds for tails is the same.

Things get more interesting when calculating odds for multiple flips. What are the odds of the coin landing on heads two times in a row? $1:2^2$ or 1 in 4. Here are the 4 possible outcomes of 2 flips: HH, HT, TH, TT. HH is the only outcome that satisfies the prediction, thus 1 in 4. What are the odds of the coin landing on heads 3 times in a row? $1:2^3$, or 1 chance in 8. One chance in eight? Here are the 8 possible outcomes with 3 flips: HHH, HHT, HTH, HTT, TTH, THT, THH, TTT. The only outcome that satisfies the desired event is HHH, therefore 1 out of 8.

First Prophecy:

The president which now is, President Franklin D. Roosevelt... (Now remember, this is twenty-eight years ago.) will cause the whole world to go to war; and the new dictator of Italy, Mussolini, shall make his first invasion towards Ethiopia, and he will take Ethiopia; but that'll be his last. He shall come to his end. It also said what would take place, and about Roosevelt and them things, how he would run and make that fourth term.

The prophecy has 8 events in it, the odds of all 8 events happening when prophesied is $1:2^8$ or 1 in 256.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Events: FDR was in his first term in 1932, therefore 3 more election wins is 3 events.

4th Event: “will cause the whole world to go to war”

5th Event: “and the new dictator of Italy, Mussolini, shall make his first invasion towards Ethiopia”

6th Event: “and he will take Ethiopia”

7th Event: “but that'll be his last”

8th Event: “He shall come to his end.”

Second Prophecy:

We will be in war with Germany. Watch Russia. (Now, that's...) Communism, Nazism, and Fascism... Watch Russia. But that is not the main one to watch.

This has 6 events (Br Branham explained these prophecies in many other messages which the reader can research): War, Russia, 3 isms, not the main one. This is 2^6 or 1 in 64.

At this point the odds of all elements of the first two prophecies occurring are $1:2^{14}$ or 1 in 16,384.

Third Prophecy:

It shall--also has been an evil thing done in this country; they have permitted women to vote. This is a woman's nation, and she will pollute this nation as Eve did Eden. In her voting she will elect the wrong person.

2 events: Pollute this nation and elect the wrong person. 1:4. Cumulative odds for 1, 2 and 3 are $1:2^{16}$ or 1 in 65536.

Fourth Prophecy:

The Americans will take a great beating at a place that Germany will build, which will be a great wall built of concrete (The Maginot Line, eleven years before it was ever built.) But finally they will be victors.

4 events: Great beating, Germany will build, made of concrete, Americans victorious. 1:16. Cumulative odds for 1, 2, 3, and 4 are $1:2^{20}$ or 1 in 1,048,576.

Fifth Prophecy:

I seen a great woman rise up in the United States, well-dressed and beautiful, but cruel in heart. She will either guide or lead this nation to ruination. (I've got in parenthesis "perhaps Catholic church.").

5 events: Great woman rise up in US, well dressed, beautiful, cruel, ruination. Odds are $1:2^5$ or 1 in 32. I am not putting cumulative odds on this or number seven until the end, since it is generally agreed among Message believers that this prophecy has not yet been fulfilled.

Sixth Prophecy:

Also, science will progress, especially in the mechanical world. Automobiles will continue to get like egg shape. Finally they will build one that won't need a steering wheel. (They've got it now.) It will be controlled by some other power.

3 events: Science progress, cars egged shape, no steering wheel. Odds are $1:2^3$ or 1 in 8.
Cumulative odds for 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are 1 out of 8,388,608.

Seventh Prophecy:

Then I seen the United States as one smoldering, burnt-over place. It will be near the end.

2 Events: US burnt over, near the end. (One could make a case for 3 events, i.e. the invention of nuclear weapons to do the “smoldering”). Odds are 1:4.

Cumulative odds for all the events in all seven prophecies are $1:2^{30}$ or 1 out of 1,073,741,824 (a little over a billion).

Visualization:

Think about a storehouse that has 1 billion Bibles in it stored on bookcases. Each book case is 5 feet wide and has 5 shelves. If the Bibles are 2 inches wide, each shelf can hold 30 Bibles (60 inches divided by 2), and each book case can hold 150 Bibles (5 x 30). It would take a little over 7 million bookcases to hold the Bibles (1,073,741,824 divided by 150). If the bookcases were in rows of 2000 bookcases it would take 3500 rows. Each row would be about 2 miles wide and 3500 rows would make the building about 4 miles long, therefore it would take an 8 square mile building to house the Bibles.

If only one Bible out of the billion had John 5:24 underlined and was mixed in with the other billion Bibles and you to walk into the 8 sq. mi. storehouse among the 7 million bookcases and could only pick one Bible, your odds of picking the Bible with the underlined passage would be similar to the odds of all of the seven prophecies coming to pass.