

the image represented the kingdom of God: “. . . the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; . . . it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (verses 38–44).

Each of these kingdoms rose to power just as predicted, with Babylon ruling 605–539 B.C.; the Medes and Persians, 539–331 B.C.; Greece, 331–168 B.C.; and Rome, 168 B.C.–A.D. 476. Finally came the divided power of Rome, which became the modern nations of Europe and they still remain separate to this day. The Bible proved correct on all five counts.

More Specific Evidence

Sceptics have suggested that Daniel’s predictions are a hoax and that his book was written at a much later time. But even if this were true, the fact that the Dead Sea Scrolls contain eight manuscripts from Daniel, the oldest dating to 125 BC3, shows that this prophecy was written hundreds of years before the dividing of Rome into modern Europe.

This prophecy is just one of hundreds which testify to the Bible’s supernatural

origins. Another, in Daniel 9, predicts the exact timing of Christ’s baptism and death hundreds of years in advance. Indeed, after examining the valid evidence such as we have in the Biblical prophecies, we can conclude that the Bible can be fully trusted.

However, merely believing this information to be correct is not something that will save us. The Bible itself says that *“even the demons believe”* (James 2:19), and they are lost. It is of eternal importance to not only believe the Bible but allow its message to change us. And God, its author, will take and transform our lives, giving them meaning and hope, if we let Him.

References

1. “Nebuchadnezzar II,” at wikipedia.org
2. The Next Super Power, Mark Finley
3. Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls. p. 137 James C VanderKam, Peter Flint
4. The Next Super Power, Mark Finley

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GLOW
AN
INTELLIGENT
FAITH?

Giving Light to Our World

An Intelligent Faith

Joel and Mark were friends with very different beliefs. Joel was a Christian who believed God was the Creator of the world. Mark was an atheist who scoffed at religion and thought the whole world, including himself, developed from a mutation in a slime pool millions of years ago. “How do you know that God exists and the Bible isn’t just a book of fairy tales?” Mark often challenged. “God exists because the Bible says so, and you can trust the Bible because it’s God’s Word,” Joel would always reply.

The circular logic exhibited by Joel will not convince anyone of the existence of God or that the Bible is true. Yet many today have no better reasoning for their belief in the Bible. But there is hard evidence in favour of the Bible’s validity. Intelligence and reasoning don’t go out the window when a person becomes a Christian.

One way to test the accuracy of the Bible is to look at its numerous prophecies and check their fulfillment against the historical record. God claims that He, through Bible prophecies, has foretold the future (see

Isaiah 46:9, 10). If you begin with the account of Babylon in the book of Daniel then work your way on through history, it will help answer the question of the Bible’s validity.

Here is Nebuchadnezzar, a ruler written about not only in the Bible (see the book of Daniel) but also in other historical records¹. One night he had a troubling dream. When he awoke, however, he could not remember the dream, only that it haunted him. He summoned his wise men and commanded they tell him his dream and its interpretation. His wise men were baffled at this request.

They said, “*There is not a man on earth who can tell the king’s matter*” (Daniel 2:10, 11). The king was infuriated and commanded that all the wise men in Babylon be killed (verse 12). This is where the Hebrew author of the book, Daniel, comes in. Daniel had been taken as a captive to Babylon when he was a teenager and had been placed in training to become a leader in Babylon. Daniel was a believer in God. When the king’s court official, Arioch, told Daniel about the decree, Daniel requested time to tell the king his dream and the interpretation. When the king agreed, Daniel earnestly prayed

to God for the answer. God answered his prayers and, “*the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision*” (verse 19).

The Great Statue and History

The next morning Daniel went into the king and revealed to him his dream.

The king had seen a large statue. It was composed of five different sections: the head of gold, the chest and arms of silver, the belly and thighs of bronze, the legs of iron and the feet partly of iron and partly of clay. Then a great stone struck the image and smashed it to pieces so it became like chaff which the wind carried away (verses 31–35). Daniel then told the king the meaning.

The head of gold represented Babylon. The other metals signified the dominant kingdoms that would arise after Babylon—silver, Medo-Persia; bronze, Greece; and the legs of iron, Rome². The feet and toes, a mixture of iron and clay, represented the divided power of Rome which would be partly weak and partly strong and would last through to the end of earth’s history. Just as iron does not mix with clay, these nations would not adhere together as a unified kingdom. The great stone that smashed

