

THE PROPHECY
THAT PREDICTED
WORLD HISTORY

FORECASTING
HOPE



1. THE PROPHECY THAT PREDICTED WORLD HISTORY



2. The date was January 16. It was a frigid night in northern New Jersey. The temperature had plummeted to 8 degrees. Despite the cold weather, a 19-year-old girl was getting ready to go to a party with three friends. But her friends deceived her.



3. When they picked her up in the car, they drove to an isolated part of the county. Pulling off to the side of the road, they proceeded to grab their friend by the hair and drag her out of the car. They then threw her into the nearby woods and drove away, abandoning her on a bitterly cold night. She was left wearing only a dress, a thin jacket, and one shoe.



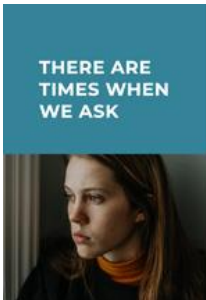
4. For the next hour, she walked along the snowy road desperately looking for help. Only five motorists passed her during that time and none of them would stop to help. Finally, one man saw her on his way to work and pulled over to help her. He could see she was in trouble and that her feet were already experiencing frostbite. So, he immediately drove her to the nearby Englewood Hospital and Medical Center.



5. A few days later, her so-called friends were charged with kidnapping, assault, and conspiracy. Some say they were arguing over a man. Regardless of the source of the dispute, this young girl was left traumatized. This young girl felt deceived. This young girl felt betrayed by people who were supposed to be her friends. This experience left her asking the question, Who can I trust?



6. I think all of us have gone through negative experiences in life, maybe even traumatic ones, that have eroded our trust in people. Sometimes this issue of trust even affects our spiritual life.



- Can I trust the Bible?
- Can I trust that God is in control of the future?
- Can I really believe Jesus is coming again?

7. There are times when we ask, Can I trust the Bible? Can I trust that God is in control of the future? Can I really believe Jesus is coming again?



- Can I trust the Bible?
- Can I trust that God is in control of the future?
- Can I really believe Jesus is coming again?

8. Trust is an important part of Bible prophecy. God lays out history for us in advance so we can learn to trust Him as we see these prophecies fulfilled. So, we can learn to have faith in His Word. Bible prophecy deals with the past, the present, and the future. If I can trust God with the past, then I can trust God with the present. If I can trust God with the present, then I can trust God with the future. And if I can trust God with the future, then I can trust Him with my life.

THERE ARE
TIMES WHEN
WE ASK



- Can I trust the Bible?
- Can I trust that God is in control of the future?
- Can I really believe Jesus is coming again?

9. You see, Bible prophecy is about learning to trust Jesus. It's not about coming up with wild, fantastic interpretations and soap opera-like plots to tickle our ears. Bible prophecy isn't about producing fictional books or apocalyptic Hollywood movies about what we think will happen. Bible prophecy isn't about gloom and doom and scaring people into following Jesus. It's about learning to trust Jesus—with the world and with my life. So, in this series, we are going to stick close to what the Bible actually says, and we're going to learn how to have faith in Jesus.

THERE ARE
TIMES WHEN
WE ASK



- Can I trust the Bible?
- Can I trust that God is in control of the future?
- Can I really believe Jesus is coming again?

10. Tonight, I want to share with you a prophecy that strengthens our trust in Jesus and His Word, the Bible. It's one of the most dramatic prophecies in all of Scripture. It reveals world history in advance. It predicts the rise and fall of four world empires and covers a span of about 2500 years. It begins in the time of Babylon and stretches all the way to the end of time, where we are today. This prophecy has been fulfilled with pinpoint accuracy.

THIS
PROPHECY
WILL SHOW US
THREE THINGS



1. We can trust the Bible.
2. We can trust the future is under God's control.
3. We can trust that Jesus is coming soon.

11. Now this prophecy will show us three things:
Number 1, we can trust the Bible.
Number 2, we can trust the future is under God's control.
Number 3, we can trust that Jesus is coming soon.

until the first year of
Nebuchadnezzar's Dream
2 In the second year of the reign
of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchad-
nezzar had dreams; his spirit was
troubled during his sleep.

DANIEL CHAPTER 2

12. First, I want to invite you to turn to Daniel chapter 2. It's important that you look up these verses with me. Don't just be content to look off the screen and let me read the texts for you. I believe something special happens when people open up the Word of God for themselves. Studying the Bible does something powerful for your heart. It allows God to reach you deep down into your soul. Opening the Bible is like opening yourself up to God. So, I want you to bring your Bibles every night.



13. Now before we get into the actual prophecy, let me give you the background to the story. Here in chapter 2, we are introduced to a king called Nebuchadnezzar. He is the reigning king of Babylon, and his empire is one of the superpowers of the world. At that time, he was known as one of the most powerful kings in the world. He was a successful military leader, had conquered many lands, and had taken many people captive.



14. In fact, around 605 B.C., he attacked and conquered the city of Jerusalem and took many of those people captive. They were then forced to live in exile in Babylon. One of these exiles was a young Jewish man named Daniel. He was a prophet of the Lord.



15. Now Daniel stayed faithful to God, even though he was living in a pagan land. They tried to make him forget about his belief in the God of Heaven, but he wouldn't. As a result, God blessed Daniel with many talents and capabilities, and he eventually became one of Nebuchadnezzar's main advisors. One night, God gave Nebuchadnezzar a vision about the future of the world and the end of time, and Daniel was called upon to explain it. That vision not only speaks to Nebuchadnezzar in his day, but it also speaks to us in our day in the 21st century.

DANIEL 2:1-3

"Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him.



16. Let's pick up the story in verse 1:
The Bible says: "Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him.

DANIEL 2:1-3

Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams.



17. *Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams.*
-

DANIEL 2:1-3

So, they came and stood before the king. And the king said to them, 'I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.'



18. *So, they came and stood before the king. And the king said to them, 'I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.'*
-

DANIEL 2:1-3

So, they came and stood before the king. And the king said to them, 'I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.'



19. These verses tell us that one night, Nebuchadnezzar had a very disturbing dream. In fact, this dream was actually a vision. Now, today we don't take dreams very seriously, but in the ancient world dreams were considered to be very significant. People in the ancient Near East believed their gods communicated with them through dreams.
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DANIEL 2:1-3

So, they came and stood before the king. And the king said to them, 'I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.'



20. Therefore, dreams were taken very seriously. So, God decided to communicate with Nebuchadnezzar in a way that was familiar to his culture—and in a way that would get his attention.

DANIEL 2:1-3

So, they came and stood before the king. And the king said to them, 'I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.'



- 21.** But the problem was, Nebuchadnezzar couldn't remember the dream. Some of you have had that experience. You had a really scary dream and you were groaning and flailing your arms and legs during the night, then the next morning at the breakfast table, your spouse asks you what you were dreaming about, and you can't remember. The details are gone from your memory. You remember the basic framework, but the rest is fuzzy. That's what happened to Nebuchadnezzar.

DANIEL 2:1-3

So, they came and stood before the king. And the king said to them, 'I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.'



- 22.** It disturbed him so much, he couldn't sleep. He thought his gods were trying to tell him something important. So, when he couldn't stand it any longer, he called for his advisors and wise men and commanded them to tell him the dream and its meaning.

DANIEL 2:1-3

So, they came and stood before the king. And the king said to them, 'I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.'



- 23.** Now it might seem odd for Nebuchadnezzar to expect his advisors to tell him the details of a dream he couldn't even remember himself. To us it seems absurd. But keep in mind, Babylon was heavily involved in spiritualism and sorcery. These advisors were called mediums. They claimed to have special contact with their gods. They claimed to have special powers not available to ordinary people—and to have access to the secrets and mysteries of the world. And they were paid well for their insights.

DANIEL 2:1-3

So, they came and stood before the king. And the king said to them, 'I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.'



- 24.** So, since Nebuchadnezzar thought the gods had sent him this dream, and since the advisors claimed to have contact with the gods, Nebuchadnezzar expected them to be able to contact the gods and remind him of what he dreamed. Apparently, he had never asked his advisors to do that before.

DANIEL 2:1-3

So, they came and stood before the king. And the king said to them, 'I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.'



- 25.** Normally, Nebuchadnezzar would remember his dream and relate the details to his wise men. Then they would concoct an interpretation. But this time Nebuchadnezzar doesn't remember the details and he wants them to tell him what he dreamed. And if they make something up, he will know it! This time the advisors are in serious trouble.

DANIEL 2:1-3

So, they came and stood before the king. And the king said to them, 'I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.'



- 26.** So, the advisors and wise men try to buy some time. They begin to protest. They tell Nebuchadnezzar that no king on earth has ever asked his advisors to do such a thing. It's an impossible request, they say! And that really ticks him off. Their words and excuses infuriate him, and he becomes enraged. Let's pick up the story in verse 4.



DANIEL 2:4-5, 12-13

"Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, 'O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation'

- 27.** The Bible says: "Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, 'O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation'



DANIEL 2:4-5, 12-13

The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, 'My decision is firm; if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretations,

- 28.** *The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, 'My decision is firm; if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretations,*



DANIEL 2:4-5, 12-13

you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap'.... For this reason the king was angry and very furious and gave the command to

- 29.** *you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap'.... For this reason the king was angry and very furious and gave the command to*



DANIEL 2:4-5, 12-13

destroy all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them."

- 30.** *destroy all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them."*



DANIEL 2:4-5, 12-13

destroy all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them."

- 31.** When the king discovers that his advisors are unable to reveal to him the dream, he becomes extremely angry. He finds out they don't have any special knowledge. He discovers they don't have access to the secrets of the universe. He realizes he has a bunch of con artists on the payroll. So, in his fury, the king decrees that all his advisors be put to death.



DANIEL 2:4-5, 12-13

destroy all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them."

- 32.** That may seem a little hard to believe but remember, in the ancient world kings were all-powerful. They ruled as dictators. No one could veto the king's decisions. So, if you made the king angry, it could cost you your life. In the ancient world, kings were known to be incredibly rash and unbelievably cruel.



DANIEL 2:4-5, 12-13

destroy all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.”

- 33.** Now Daniel was also one of the king’s advisors. So, unfortunately, this death decree applied to him as well. But Daniel was different. Daniel believed in the God who made the heavens and the earth. Daniel faithfully followed the Scriptures. He was not involved in spiritualism and sorcery. He obtained his wisdom from God.



DANIEL 2:4-5, 12-13

destroy all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.”

- 34.** So, when the soldiers come to execute him, Daniel no doubt asks what’s going on. This is likely the first time he’s hearing about this. Apparently, the other wise men didn’t invite Daniel to appear before the king in this matter. They were jealous of Daniel. They didn’t like that this captive Jew was placed on the same level as them.



DANIEL 2:4-5, 12-13

destroy all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.”

- 35.** So, Daniel requests an audience with the king. He asks the king to give him some time to pray to his God, the true God of Heaven, to reveal the dream and its meaning. And you know what’s amazing? Nebuchadnezzar granted the request. He did something for Daniel that he wouldn’t even do for his own wise men. He gives him time to talk to his God.



DANIEL 2:4-5, 12-13

destroy all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.”

- 36.** There’s a lesson in that for today. Before we get into the details of the prophecy, let’s look at the practical lesson this teaches. Nebuchadnezzar had seen how Daniel conducted himself in daily life. He saw that Daniel was an exceptional man, different from his other advisors. Daniel was a righteous man, trustworthy in all his dealings.



DANIEL 2:4-5, 12-13

destroy all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them."

- 37.** Daniel was a faithful man, honest in all his affairs. You see, Daniel was being a witness for the Lord by the way he lived his life. And you know what's powerful? Because of Daniel's witness, later in life Nebuchadnezzar became a believer in the God of Heaven.



- 38.** What about you and me? Do people see something different in us? Do people see the love of Jesus in us by the way we conduct ourselves? Do the people in your workplace see you as a woman of integrity? Do the members of your household see you as a man of honor? Do the people in your neighborhood see you as someone who lives by principle? Do you have the joy of the Lord in your heart? Do people see Jesus in you? Here's the bottom line. The way we live our life makes an impact on the people around us. How are you living yours?



- 39.** There are some people who may never darken the door of a church. The only sermon they will ever hear is when they look at your life. Will someone become a believer because of the way you live your life? What influence are you leaving others? So, Daniel goes home and prays like he's never prayed before. He doesn't complain and get angry with God. He doesn't fuss and grumble about his situation. He just prays. And after spending a few days in earnest prayer, God reveals to Daniel the dream along with its interpretation.



- 40.** When circumstances in our life become difficult, I wonder what would happen if we stopped complaining and getting angry with God and just prayed? If we stopped fretting about our situation and starting claiming the promises of God, maybe we would discover that God does not abandon us, just as He didn't abandon Daniel and his friends.



- 41.** That night, God gave Daniel the same dream as Nebuchadnezzar had. But He also gave him the interpretation. So, Daniel returns to the king and explains the dream. Let's pick up the story in Daniel 2:31-35.

DANIEL 2:31-35

"You, O King, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.



- 42.** "You, O King, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.

DANIEL 2:31-35

This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.



- 43.** *This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.*

DANIEL 2:31-35

You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay and broke them in pieces.



- 44.** *You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay and broke them in pieces.*

DANIEL 2:31-35

Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors;



- 45.** *Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors;*

DANIEL 2:31-35

the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth."



- 46.** *the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth."*



- 47.** In his dream, the king saw a great image. It was so impressive that it captured the king's attention from the beginning. This image was made of four metals. It had a head of gold, a chest of silver, a mid-section of bronze, legs of iron, and feet made with a mixture of iron and clay.



- 48.** As the king watched, a great rock came down from heaven and hit the image on the feet, shattering it into thousands of pieces. Those pieces became like the dust of the ground and the wind blew them away until there was nothing left of the image.



- 49.** Then the rock which struck the image became a great mountain and grew until it filled the whole earth.

As Daniel described the vision, no doubt the king was ecstatic as all these things came back to his mind. I imagine he almost jumped out of the throne saying, “Daniel, that’s exactly what I dreamed! How did you know?” And Daniel gave glory to the God of Heaven.



- 50.** But now comes the important question. What was God trying to tell Nebuchadnezzar? What was God trying to tell the most powerful man in the world?



- 51.** More importantly, what was God trying to tell you and me today?

We are going to discover that each of these four metals represents a superpower that would rise in world history. I want you to watch as this prophecy predicts world history in advance.



- 52.** As we will see, this vision given to Nebuchadnezzar more than 2000 years ago tells us that God was in control of the past. If God was in control of the past, then He’s in control of the present. If He’s in control of the present, then He’s in control of the future. If He’s in control of the future, then I can trust Him to be in control of my life. This prophecy and its fulfillment teach us that we can trust Jesus. You can trust that He created you, that He loves you, that He forgives you, and that He has a purpose for your life! Now listen as Daniel gives the interpretation of the vision:



DANIEL 2:36-38

"This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of Heaven has given you

- 53.** *"This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of Heaven has given you*



DANIEL 2:36-38

a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them

- 54.** *a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them*



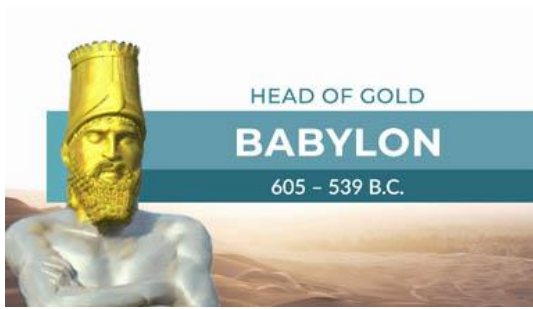
DANIEL 2:36-38

into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold."

- 55.** *into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold."*



- 56.** Verse 38 says clearly, "You, O King, are this head of gold." In other words, this head of gold represents Nebuchadnezzar and the kingdom of Babylon. Now that's simple and easy to understand.



57. The first thing God wanted Nebuchadnezzar to understand is that he might be a powerful ruler. He might have political dominance for a time. And everyone may bow to him. But the only reason he has those things is because God in His providence has allowed it. God wanted Nebuchadnezzar to know that even a king comes to a time in his life when he will stand before God.

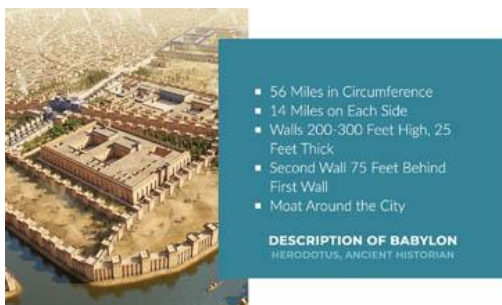


58. God wants those of us who may have power and influence in this world to realize the same thing. We are accountable to God, too. God wants us to use our power and influence for good, to lift others up, and draw them closer to Jesus. Are you living your life as if you belong to Jesus?

Babylon was a world superpower from approximately 605-539 BC. In fact, Babylon was such a powerful empire it was considered to be indestructible and invincible.



59. Notice the description of Babylon by the ancient historian Herodotus. He describes the city as 56 miles in circumference, 14 miles on each side. That's a huge city for the ancient world. History.com said that Babylon was about 200 square miles inside the walls, which is roughly the size of the city of Chicago today!



60. Herodotus also recorded that Babylon had walls that were 200-300 feet high (60-90 meters) and 25 feet thick (7.5 meters), with a second wall 75 feet behind the first wall. On top of that, the wall extended 35 feet below ground as well. To conquer Babylon, you either had to go over the wall or through the wall. It's going to be pretty difficult to climb over the wall if there are archers on top of the wall shooting down at you while you're climbing.



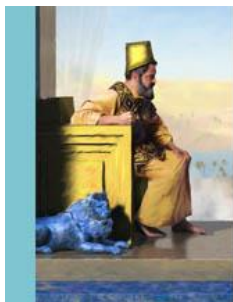
- 56 Miles in Circumference
 - 14 Miles on Each Side
 - Walls 200-300 Feet High, 25 Feet Thick
 - Second Wall 75 Feet Behind First Wall
 - Moat Around the City
- DESCRIPTION OF BABYLON**
HERODOTUS, ANCIENT HISTORIAN

61. It would be equally difficult trying to go through the wall. No battering ram is going to break down a wall 25 feet thick! Plus, there was a moat encircling the city which protected it, and some sources say they had provisions on hand for many years. That means, if you laid siege to the city and cut off their food supply, they had enough food stored up to last for quite a while. Can you imagine that? What a food supply! That's why it was believed that Babylon would never fall. That it was impossible to conquer. That it would last forever.



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62. Despite the seeming impossibility, God says something in the next verse I'm sure Nebuchadnezzar didn't like. God makes an astounding prediction. He says Babylon would fall and another kingdom would rise in its place. Notice what the next verse says:



DANIEL 2:39
"But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours. . ."

63. "But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours. . ."

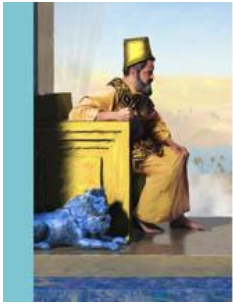
This verse says another kingdom will rise after Babylon. Now, that's a bold statement. God risks His name and reputation by making a prediction that seems utterly impossible: that Babylon's fame and fortune are only temporary, and Babylon will come to an end. The officers in the palace must have secretly ridiculed Daniel and his God for making such a statement.



DANIEL 2:39
"But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours. . ."

64. But not only does God say Babylon would be defeated—notice what else the Bible predicts. It says Babylon would be conquered by an inferior kingdom. In other words, the great nation of Babylon would be defeated by a weaker nation.

That is not something you can easily predict. When is the last time you heard of a superpower being defeated by a weaker, inferior nation?

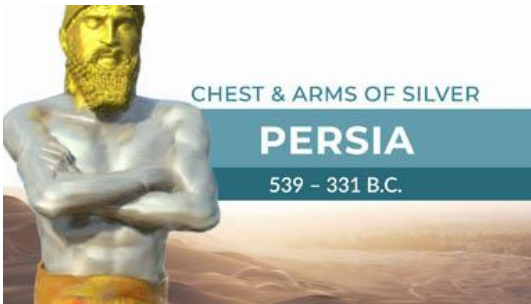


DANIEL 2:39

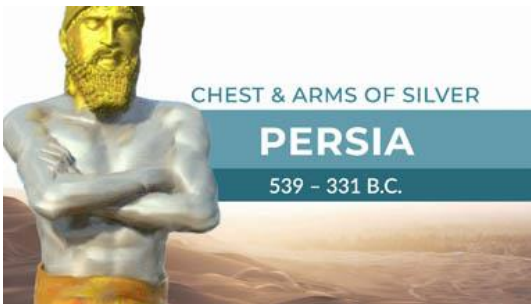
"But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours. . ."

65. So, if God can be trusted, if Bible prophecy is true, then the question we have to ask is: did this actually happen? Did a weaker, inferior nation conquer Babylon? All you have to do is look back in the history books and the answer is absolutely, "Yes!"

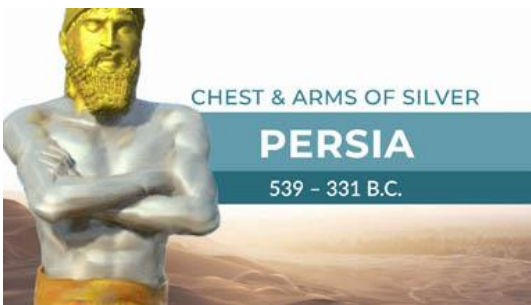
According to history, do you know which kingdom rose to power and conquered Babylon?



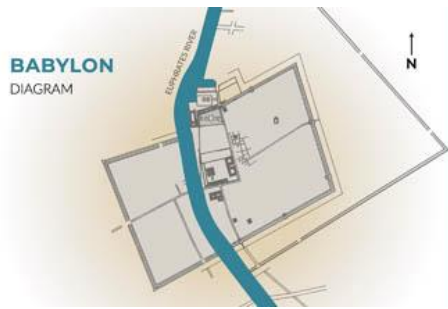
66. It was the Medo-Persian Empire. Many history books just call it the Persian Empire. They dominated from about 539-331 B.C. This empire was made up of two people groups—the Medes and Persians. And they were a weaker nation. It happened exactly as God said it would. You may wonder, how did they defeat Babylon if they were inferior? How did they get past that wall? If you want to read about it when you go home, read Daniel chapter five. I will give you a summary of what happened.



67. After Nebuchadnezzar died, eventually a king named Belshazzar took over the throne. King Belshazzar was very young, foolish, and arrogant. When the Medo-Persian armies came to attack Babylon, do you know what this king did? If you were king and an enemy was coming to attack you, what would you do? Prepare your armies, right? Defend your city.



68. But Belshazzar believed Babylon would never fall. So, he threw a drunken party in the palace for his soldiers and subjects with the enemy outside the city gates. He was celebrating one of their feasts. That's crazy, isn't it? But that's what pride can do to a person. It makes us think we are invincible.



- 69.** Now the Euphrates River flowed into the city of Babylon. So, you know what the Persian army did? They knew they weren't going to get through those walls. So, they cut off part of the river and diverted it.



- 70.** Once the riverbed was dry, they walked underneath the walls and up on the other side into the city and surprised the unsuspecting Babylonians. Normally, they wouldn't be able to do that because, most likely, archers would be shooting at them. But where were the Babylonian soldiers? Many were at a drunken party in the palace.

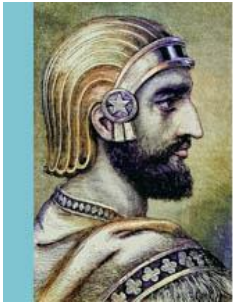


- 71.** So when the Persian army waded through the Euphrates River under the wall and came up on the other side, they marched right through the gates of the city. And even though they were a weaker army and an inferior nation, it wasn't too hard to conquer Babylon when many of their soldiers were unprepared and in an intoxicated stupor.



- 72.** Was that by chance? Was that coincidence? Or was it just dumb luck? No, Bible prophecy said it would happen, and it did. That's why we can trust what Bible prophecy says.

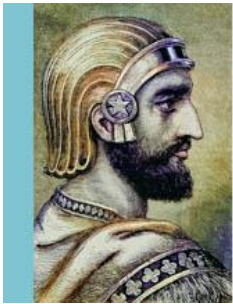
By the way, before we move on, I want to share something else with you that confirms the reliability of Bible prophecy. In fact, it's nothing short of amazing. Did you know God even predicted the name of the person who would conquer Babylon? Take a look at Isaiah 45:1.



ISAIAH 45:1

"Thus says the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—to subdue nations before him

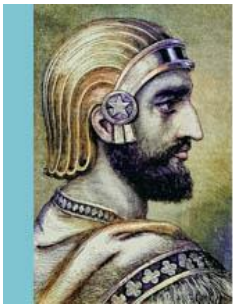
- 73.** *"Thus says the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—to subdue nations before him*
-



ISAIAH 45:1

and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut..."

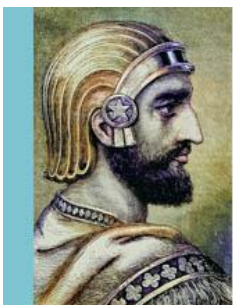
- 74.** *and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut..."*
-



ISAIAH 45:1

and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut..."

- 75.** In this passage, God is prophesying the name of the person who would march through the doors of Babylon and conquer them. It says the Lord's anointed is Cyrus. Guess what the name of the general was who led the Medo-Persian army against Babylon and through the gates of the city? His name was Cyrus. God predicted him by name hundreds of years before it ever happened. You see, God is in control.
-



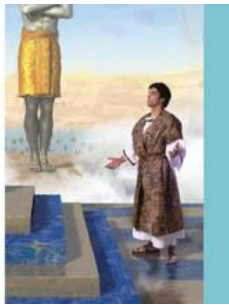
ISAIAH 45:1

and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut..."

- 76.** Let's move on because we eventually have to get to our day in this prophecy. Let's take a look at the second half of verse 39 as God predicts another kingdom to come on to the scene.

DANIEL 2:39

"...then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth."



77. The Bible says: "...then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth."

God says a third kingdom will rise to power and conquer Persia. Can someone tell me which nation conquered Medo-Persia and became the next dominant power?

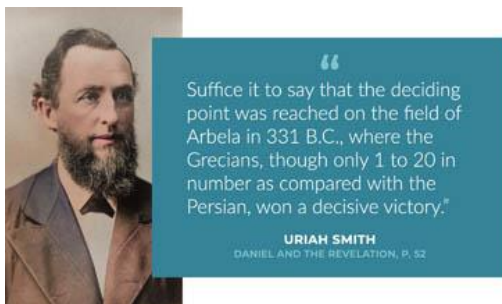


78. You've got it: the Macedonian or Greek empire under Alexander the Great. They dominated from about 331-168 B.C. They are represented by the thighs of bronze.

Now I want to take a moment and ask you a question. How many of you paid attention in history class in high school? I can't say I always did. But you know what's amazing? When you understand Bible prophecy, you can see God's hand all through the pages of history. And you can have the assurance that God is always in control.



79. I want to share with you an interesting historical tidbit. In the commentary Daniel and Revelation by Uriah Smith, it says that the deciding battle between the Greeks and the Persians occurred on the field of Arbela in 331 B.C. Notice what it says:



“Suffice it to say that the deciding point was reached on the field of Arbela in 331 B.C., where the Grecians, though only 1 to 20 in number as compared with the Persians, won a decisive victory.”

URIAH SMITH
DANIEL AND THE REVELATION, P. 52

80. “Suffice it to say that the deciding point was reached on the field of Arbela in 331 B.C., where the Grecians, though only 1 to 20 in number as compared with the Persians, won a decisive victory.” *Daniel and the Revelation*, p. 52.



“
Suffice it to say that the deciding point was reached on the field of Arbela in 331 B.C., where the Grecians, though only 1 to 20 in number as compared with the Persian, won a decisive victory.”

URIAH SMITH
DANIEL AND THE REVELATION, P. 52

81. It says the Greeks were outnumbered 20 to 1, yet they won a decisive victory. Now different sources give different estimates. The ancient historian Siculus estimates the Persian forces to have been 1,000,000. And Arrian, the most reliable historian of Alexander the Great, estimates the Greek forces were about 47,000.

(Source:http://www.emersonkent.com/wars_and_battles_in_history/battle_of_gaugameila.htm and Wikipedia)



“
Suffice it to say that the deciding point was reached on the field of Arbela in 331 B.C., where the Grecians, though only 1 to 20 in number as compared with the Persian, won a decisive victory.”

URIAH SMITH
DANIEL AND THE REVELATION, P. 52

82. Regardless of what the exact numbers were, one thing we know for sure is that Greece was vastly outnumbered. When is the last time you heard of an army outnumbered possibly 20 to 1, winning a decisive victory? Not just a victory, but a decisive victory. That's nearly impossible to human comprehension.

So how did this happen? Was it because Alexander was a great military leader? That might be a little part of it, but it's because God said a third kingdom was going to come onto the scene and dominate. And it did. That's why we can trust Bible prophecy.

ALEXANDER
THE GREAT



83. I want to stop here and address a practical lesson before we go on with this prophecy. Do you know how old Alexander the Great was when he dominated the world? Just take a guess ... He was in his thirties. He was about thirty-three years old when he died.

ALEXANDER
THE GREAT



84. Can you imagine being in your early thirties and being one of the most powerful men in the world? He had everything that you think a person would want. He had power; he had fame; he had all the wealth and money he wanted; he had any pleasure in life that he desired to have. But you know what? He likely wasn't happy. He struggled with meaning in his life.

ALEXANDER
THE GREAT



- 85.** Some sources of history conjecture that Alexander the Great died because he drank himself to death. History tells us that he likely had an alcohol problem. These other things were not giving him a source of joy or happiness. He turned to alcohol, and alcohol conquered him at the age of about thirty-three.



- 86.** Friends, do you know what that tells us? You can spend your life trying to build your business to a Fortune 500 company. You can spend your life trying to climb the corporate ladder and become powerful. You can spend your life trying to build your bank account and increase your portfolio. You can spend your life becoming an all-star athlete with your name in the record books. But in the end, it means very little. Because when you die, most of the world will forget your name.



- 87.** There's only one thing that really matters—does Jesus know my name? He is the center of all prophecy. When you have Jesus as your Savior that means the perfect life Jesus lived counts for you. It means He's willing to give you His righteousness. His perfect life gets placed in your record.



- 88.** So, when God looks in the record book of your life during the time of judgment, He doesn't see all your sins and mistakes and shortcomings. He sees the perfect life of Jesus that now counts for you. That's why the Bible calls Him our substitute. What would it be like to think that God could look at you as though you are perfect? That's what it means to have Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. It doesn't matter what my status is in this world. Because if I don't have Jesus, I don't have anything.

MARK 8:36

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"



89. Jesus himself said in Mark 8:36, "What does it profit a man if he should gain the whole world but yet lose his own soul?"

MARK 8:36

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"



90. Eternal life through Jesus is worth more than anything we may try to gain in this world. Your social status, your educational status, your financial status is not worth more than your salvation status. That is the lesson we need to learn from this prophecy and from the life of Alexander the Great. My friends, what is your status with Jesus? Have you surrendered your heart to Him?

MARK 8:36

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"



91. It doesn't matter what your past is. It doesn't matter what you're struggling with in the present. Christ will come into your life and change your heart and transform your mind. He will give you peace and hope for the future. Listen to His promise in Jeremiah 29:11.



JEREMIAH 29:11

"For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

92. The Bible says, "For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

That's God's promise to you. He wants to give you hope and a future. He want to take you down a better path.

Let's move on in the prophecy. It speaks of a fourth kingdom. Take a look at verse 40:



DANIEL 2:39

"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything;

- 93.** *"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything;*



DANIEL 2:39

and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will beak in pieces and crush all the others."

- 94.** *and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will beak in pieces and crush all the others."*



DANIEL 2:39

and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will beak in pieces and crush all the others."

- 95.** Bible prophecy says the Greek Empire would fall and a fourth kingdom would rise. God describes this fourth kingdom as being strong like iron and crushing everything in its path. So, if Bible prophecy is true, if God can be trusted, I should be able to see it in history. When I look in the history books, a fourth kingdom did rise. Do you know who it was? It was Rome.



LEGS OF IRON

ROME

168 B.C. - 476 A.D.

- 96.** The Roman Empire defeated Greece and dominated the world for almost 600 years from about 168 B.C. to 476 A.D.! That's a strong empire. They conquered everything in their path. They were a terror to the world. In fact, they ruled the world during the time Jesus walked this earth. Rome is represented by the legs of iron on the statue.



97. But do you know what's interesting? If you read secular history books that are written by non-believers, do you know the nickname they gave to the Roman Empire? It was called the Iron Kingdom. I find it astounding that secular historians would give Rome a nickname that perfectly correlates with this prophecy.



BABYLON
HEAD OF GOLD

MEDO-PERSIA
CHEST & ARMS OF SILVER

GREECE
THIGHS OF BRONZE

ROME
LEGS OF IRON

98. Here's what we see thus far in this image—four superpowers rise: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The head of gold is Babylon. The chest and arms of silver is Persia. The thighs of bronze represent Greece and the legs of iron represent Rome. Bible prophecy perfectly predicted the rise and fall of these empires. Yes there were other great empires not mentioned here. But the four kingdoms represented in this particular prophecy are the kingdoms that most affected God's people during that time.



BABYLON
HEAD OF GOLD

MEDO-PERSIA
CHEST & ARMS OF SILVER

GREECE
THIGHS OF BRONZE

ROME
LEGS OF IRON

99. Finally, we are at a point where the pattern of history is going to change. So far, it's been one superpower conquering another and dominating the world. A nation rises to power, is eventually conquered by another nation who becomes the next superpower. According to that pattern, you would think a fifth kingdom would rise to conquer Rome and become the next dominant power.



BABYLON
HEAD OF GOLD

MEDO-PERSIA
CHEST & ARMS OF SILVER

GREECE
THIGHS OF BRONZE

ROME
LEGS OF IRON

100. But God says that pattern stops after the fourth kingdom, Rome. The prophecy goes on to say the fourth kingdom, Rome, will not be conquered by another. It will simply fall from within and divide into many smaller nations. Let's take a look at verse 41:

DANIEL 2:42

"Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided;



101. *Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided;*

DANIEL 2:42

yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay."



102. *yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay."*

Rome is not going to be conquered by another superpower. It is simply going to divide from within and break apart into many smaller nations.



103. The feet of iron and clay represent the kingdoms that would come out of a divided Roman Empire. They represent the nations that would rise after Rome falls. Notice how the feet of the image are made partly of iron and clay. In other words, Rome will divide into many smaller kingdoms. Some will be strong like iron. Some will be weak like clay.



104. If God's Word is true, if Bible prophecy can be trusted, then we must ask the question: Did that happen? According to the history books, that's exactly what happened. The traditional date for Rome's downfall is 476 AD. Through the years, Rome was attacked by the Barbaric tribes of the north, and over a period of time broke into various divisions.



- Alemanni = **German**s
- Burgundians = **Swiss**
- Franks = **French**
- Lombards = **Italian**
- Saxons = **English**
- Suevi = **Portuguese**
- Visigoths = **Spanish**

105. These were some of the people groups and nations that came out of the fall of the Roman Empire. Eventually, these people groups founded their own independent kingdoms and became the various nations of western Europe, as we know it today. For example, the Alemanni became the Germans and founded Germany. The Burgundians became the Swiss and founded Switzerland. The Franks became the French and founded France, and so on.



- Alemanni = **German**s
- Burgundians = **Swiss**
- Franks = **French**
- Lombards = **Italian**
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- Suevi = **Portuguese**
- Visigoths = **Spanish**

106. In fact, many of the nations of western Europe today can be traced back to this division in the Roman Empire. Of course, this division didn't happen all at once. It occurred over a period of hundreds of years. It happened just as God said it would because He knows the end from the beginning. That's why I can trust God with the past, present, and future. But there's more to the prophecy. It gets more detailed because we're getting closer to our day.

DANIEL 2:43

"As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they



107. "As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they

DANIEL 2:43

will not adhere [cleave] to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay."



108. *will not adhere [cleave] to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.*" God said these smaller nations would "mingle with the seed of men." In other words, these nations of Europe would intermarry and make alliances with each other in an attempt to reunite as one strong nation, like the old Roman Empire. But God said these kingdoms would never be united again. That's why prophecy says, "*They shall not adhere to one another. . .*"



THEY SHALL NOT
CLEAVE ONE TO
ANOTHER

109. In fact, the King James Version uses the phrase, “They shall not cleave one to another. . .” Those seven words have stood the test of time for over 1500 years. Ever since Rome fell around 476 A.D., the nations of Europe have never been able to merge back together into one dominant empire. Many have tried. All have failed.



110. I’m going to share with you a few of the leaders in times past who have tried to defy that prophecy. In the Middle ages, Charlemagne tried it and he failed. Stalin tried it and he failed. In more recent times, Hitler tried to unite Europe in World War II and he failed. But there was one leader who got closer than the others. Do you know who it was? It was Napoleon.



111. During the French Revolution, Napoleon was conquering one country after another, and it looked as if he might unite Europe and defy this prophecy. But during the battle of Waterloo, it seems as though God providentially sent some snow and ice to make the ground wet so that Napoleon had to delay his attack. That delay gave enough time for the enemy to bring in reinforcements, and as a result, Napoleon was defeated.



112. Even today, people have tried to unite Europe through organizations such as the European Union, or a common currency called the Euro. But Europe is still a continent of separate nations with separate leaders and separate governments. God said that after the time of Rome they would “not cleave one to another.” God’s Word has not failed. That’s why we can trust the Bible. That’s why we can believe that God is in control. That’s why we can trust God with our lives.



BABYLON
HEAD OF GOLD

MEDO-PERSIA
CHEST & ARMS OF SILVER

GREECE
THIGHS OF BRONZE

ROME
LEGS OF IRON

DIVIDED EUROPE
FEET OF IRON & CLAY

113. Let's review what we learned thus far. Babylon is the head of gold. Medo-Persia is the chest and arms of silver. Greece is the thighs of bronze. Rome is the legs of iron. And a divided Europe of many countries is the feet of iron and clay.



BABYLON
HEAD OF GOLD

MEDO-PERSIA
CHEST & ARMS OF SILVER

GREECE
THIGHS OF BRONZE

ROME
LEGS OF IRON

DIVIDED EUROPE
FEET OF IRON & CLAY

114. But there's still one more part of this prophecy we need to cover—the most important part. It's the part most relevant to us today because it deals with the present and the near future. What about this stone that came down from heaven and broke the image into pieces at the feet and filled the whole earth? Let's pick it up in verses 34, and 44-45:

DANIEL 2:34, 44-45

"You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. . .



115. *"You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. . .*

DANIEL 2:34, 44-45

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed;



116. *And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed;*

DANIEL 2:34, 44-45

and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. . .



117. *and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. . .*

DANIEL 2:34, 44-45

The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."



118. *The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."*



119. The prophecy says a stone, or a rock, flies out of the heavens. This rock is Jesus and it represents His second coming. Throughout the Bible, Jesus is referred to as the Rock, the Capstone, and the Cornerstone. Jesus is the Rock of Ages. This Rock reminds us that Jesus is coming soon. Then all other kingdoms will be obliterated, and we can be with Jesus forever.



120. Every part of this prophecy has been accurately fulfilled in every detail. We can have the assurance that this part will be fulfilled too. The Bible says, "The dream is certain and the interpretation is sure."



121. And notice something important? Where does the rock strike the image? In the feet. That's the time of a divided Europe. That's the time we are living in today. It's telling us that Jesus is coming very, very soon. We may not know the day or the hour, but prophecy says it's closer than we think. It's trying to wake us up so that we can know where we are in the scheme of prophetic time. So, we can draw close to Jesus and pay attention to our relationship with Him.



122. But before we close tonight, there may be one question that plagues our minds. Why has Jesus waited so long to fulfill the last part of this prophecy? Why has He let so much time pass by? Why does it seem as though He has delayed His coming? It's a good question. I believe the Bible has an answer. Let's turn to 2 Peter 3:8-9.



2 PETER 3:9

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering [patient] toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

123. *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering [patient] toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*



2 PETER 3:9

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering [patient] toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

124. Don't miss this, my friend. It is not God's desire that people should perish. God doesn't want anyone to be lost unnecessarily. God wants everyone to have an opportunity to turn to Him and find salvation. God delays because He is longsuffering and patient. So, God has waited as long as He can. He's holding back the winds of strife mentioned in the book of Revelation. But earth's history is winding down. He cannot wait forever.



2 PETER 3:9

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering [patient] toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

125. I have a serious question to ask you and to ask myself. Is it possible that God is waiting for you? Waiting for you to make a choice. . . waiting for you to accept Him as your Savior. . . waiting for you to take Him seriously?

Is He waiting for you stop straddling the fence? Is He waiting for you to stop making excuses? Is He waiting for you to open your heart to Him?

Jesus makes a powerful appeal to us in the book of Revelation.



REVELATION 3:20

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

126. *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."*

Jesus speaks directly to your heart and mine. He gives a special invitation to those living at the end of time. It's a very intimate picture of Jesus standing at the door of our hearts, knocking, waiting for us to open the door and let Him in. But the question is— are you opening the door? If not, what are you waiting for?



REVELATION 3:20

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

127. Can you hear the knocking of Jesus in your life? Or are the things of this world crowding out His voice? Is the desire for money leading you down the wrong path? Is the desire for pleasure causing you to make wrong choices? Is your career causing you to neglect your spiritual life?

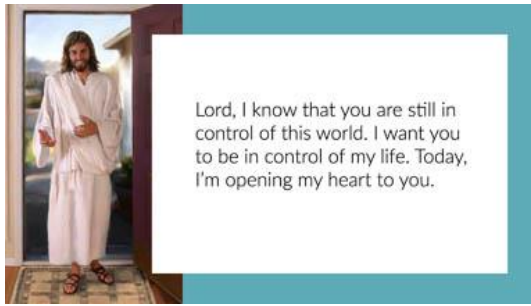
When you open the door and accept Jesus as your Savior, He takes the responsibility for your sins. He offers forgiveness and a new life.



REVELATION 3:20

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

128. When you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, the perfect life He lived counts for you. His perfect life gets put in your record book. So, when God looks at the record of your life, He doesn't see all your sins and your mistakes, He sees the perfect life of Jesus, which counts for you. How incredible would it be to know that God could look at you as though you were perfect? That's what it means to have Jesus Christ as a Savior. That's what it means to be saved. But you must open the door and let Him in.



129. Tonight, would you like to open the door to Jesus? Would you like to say, “Lord, I know that you are still in control of this world. I want you to be in control of my life. Today, I’m opening my heart to you”? Tonight, won’t you open your heart to Jesus? If you’d like Jesus to be in control of your life, if you’d like to tell Him that you’ve opened the door, then I invite you to raise your hand just now. Raise your hand to let Him know you are inviting Him into your life. Raise your hand to let Him know you are opening the door to Him.



- The teaching tonight was clear. It was a blessing to me.
- I have some questions about tonight’s study.
- I desire to follow Jesus and be baptized.
- I’d like to have a visit with a member of the pastoral team.
- I have a prayer request.

130. When you came in tonight, you were given a response card that looks like this. I’d like to invite you to get out that response card at this time. Just like last night, we are going to use these on most nights of the meetings. These cards give you an opportunity to respond to the message each night and provide some feedback.

So, let’s review the card this evening. You can mark whatever box is appropriate for you.



- The teaching tonight was clear. It was a blessing to me.
- I have some questions about tonight’s study.
- I desire to follow Jesus and be baptized.
- I’d like to have a visit with a member of the pastoral team.
- I have a prayer request.

131. The first line says, “The teaching tonight was clear. It was a blessing to me.” This helps me to know if what I said makes sense, or if there’s anything I need to clarify. If you’d like to give me some feedback or if there’s anything you’d like to share with me, feel free to write it on the back of the card.



- The teaching tonight was clear. It was a blessing to me.
- I have some questions about tonight’s study.
- I desire to follow Jesus and be baptized.
- I’d like to have a visit with a member of the pastoral team.
- I have a prayer request.

132. The second line says, “I have some questions about tonight’s study.” If you have a question about the topic tonight, feel free to write your question on the back of the card. I will then cover these questions during the question-and-answer period the next night. We will have a brief question and answer period each night before the presentation where I will answer any questions from the previous night.



- The teaching tonight was clear. It was a blessing to me.
- I have some questions about tonight's study.
- I desire to follow Jesus and be baptized.
- I'd like to have a visit with a member of the pastoral team.
- I have a prayer request.

133. I will read the questions, then give the answer, but I won't mention who the question is from. So, you can stay anonymous. If you would prefer that I answer your question privately, then please indicate so on the card and I will call you on the phone and we can talk. Of course, you are always welcome to come talk to me personally and ask questions before and after the meetings each night. I welcome your thoughts and questions. The door is always open.



- The teaching tonight was clear. It was a blessing to me.
- I have some questions about tonight's study.
- I desire to follow Jesus and be baptized.
- I'd like to have a visit with a member of the pastoral team.
- I have a prayer request.

134. The third line says, "I desire to follow Jesus and be baptized." If God has spoken to your heart, and you sense that it's time for you to take the special step of being baptized, then I invite you to mark that box. Giving your heart to Jesus and being baptized is one of the most important and powerful steps a person can experience. In every seminar, I know there are people thinking about being baptized. And I want to give people the opportunity to make that choice.



- The teaching tonight was clear. It was a blessing to me.
- I have some questions about tonight's study.
- I desire to follow Jesus and be baptized.
- I'd like to have a visit with a member of the pastoral team.
- I have a prayer request.

135. The fourth box says, "I'd like to have a visit with a member of the pastoral team." Maybe you have a question you'd like to talk about. Maybe there's something going on in your life. Maybe you just need someone to pray with you. I have discovered there are many people who have never had a pastoral visit in their life. They've never had the opportunity to sit down with a pastor and talk. Sitting down with someone and listening to their story and praying together can be a very powerful and unforgettable experience.



- The teaching tonight was clear. It was a blessing to me.
- I have some questions about tonight's study.
- I desire to follow Jesus and be baptized.
- I'd like to have a visit with a member of the pastoral team.
- I have a prayer request.

136. So, if you'd like to sit down and talk about something, I or one of my colleagues would be happy to make time for you. No strings attached. Just mark that box and we'll be in touch in with you.



- The teaching tonight was clear. It was a blessing to me.
- I have some questions about tonight's study.
- I desire to follow Jesus and be baptized.
- I'd like to have a visit with a member of the pastoral team.
- I have a prayer request.

137. Lastly, the fifth box says, "I have a prayer request." We have a prayer team here at the seminar. They believe in the power of prayer. They take any of the prayer requests that come in, and specifically pray for your requests and lift it up to the throne of heaven. So, you can write a prayer request on the back of the card and hand it in. Then you can have the assurance that someone is praying for your request. (You may have to customized this to match however you are going to collect the response cards. Make sure to explain it clearly to your audience and make it as easy as possible).



- The teaching tonight was clear. It was a blessing to me.
- I have some questions about tonight's study.
- I desire to follow Jesus and be baptized.
- I'd like to have a visit with a member of the pastoral team.
- I have a prayer request.

138. After you have filled out your card, you can turn them in at the registration table as you leave, or place them in the bucket at the end of your row. Remember, we will then use these cards for the drawing tomorrow night. Each night before the message, we do a drawing where someone will win a free gift book. We use these cards for the next night's drawing. So, if you want an opportunity to win a free book, be sure to hand your card in.
Let's end our time tonight with a word of prayer.



- The teaching tonight was clear. It was a blessing to me.
- I have some questions about tonight's study.
- I desire to follow Jesus and be baptized.
- I'd like to have a visit with a member of the pastoral team.
- I have a prayer request.

139. Heavenly Father, thank you for being such a loving God. Thank you for patiently knocking on the door, even when we don't respond. Help us to hear your voice and open the door. With our heads bowed and eyes closed, if you'd like to open your heart to Jesus and invite Him to be in control of your life, then I invite you to raise your hand one more time. I know we did it earlier, but let's do it again. It's always good to reaffirm our decision. Raise your hand if you want Jesus to be in control of your life. Raise your hand just now.



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- I have some questions about tonight's study.
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- I have a prayer request.

140. Father, you see each hand that is raised in this place. You know their name. You know their heart. You love them with an everlasting love. Bless them. Draw them close to you. Give them your peace. May Your presence fill their homes. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



141.