

What About Creation #8

Just Believe, Why?

Faith. To trust someone or something, in this world full of superlatives, (best, greatest, most, etc.) seems impossible. Everywhere people are promising that their product is the best. Others proclaim that they can solve all their problems with just this gimmick, fad or pill. It seems like there are so many claims to answer so many problems, that, by now, we should have evolved into some sort of utopia...it seems to me, though, that the problems are getting bigger and more widespread. Things seem to be headed for more chaos. So many miracle-quality promises are really like fireworks. Their claims dazzle our senses, but end up to be just smoke. They burn up with no long-lasting results, and we are left with an empty pocket book. Where is one to turn?

And it's right at this moment when the Christians tell you, "Just Believe."

How can someone just believe?

What does Jesus say he will do to help us believe? (John 14:29) "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.

What does God say he can do? (Isaiah 46:9-10) Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure.

The idea of telling what will happen in advance is the way God wants us to trust (have faith/believe) in him.

How does one get faith? (Romans 10:17) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Basically when God promises something in his word and then fulfills the promise. That is how one may increase his faith.

To whom does God reveal His secrets of the future? (Amos 3:7) Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

So this is a promise of God. Let us see if he is good on his claims with the prophet Daniel.

History in advance

Background – In the year 605 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had a dream which troubled him. He wanted to know why it bothered him so much. After a long ordeal Daniel, a prophet of God, who was kidnapped by Babylon finally was able, with the power of God, to tell the king his dream with the interpretation. (If you want the background to the story from the bible, read Daniel Chapter 2)

What was revealed to Daniel as the King's dream?

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

Seven main points in the dream

head=gold

chest and arms=silver

belly and thighs=bronze

legs=iron

feet=iron and clay

then it was all smashed by a rock

Rock becomes a mountain

What does this all mean?

What did the head of gold represent? (Dan 2:37-38) You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; 38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all -- you are this head of gold.

So we see that Nebuchadnezzar, and his kingdom, is the head of Gold.

What did the silver chest and arms represent? (Dan 2:39) But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours... (So the kingdom to arise after Babylon would be the silver part of the image)

What was this kingdom? (Dan 5:28,30-31) PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians... That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

The Median Persian kingdom conquered Babylon.

What did the bronze belly and thighs represent? (Dan 2:39) ...then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. (So a kingdom that would conquer the Persians would be the bronze part of the image)

History makes it clear that it is... "Alexander the Great and his army in the battle of Arbela in B.C. 331, settled the fate of the Persian Empire and established the wide dominion of the Greeks." H. Gratton Guinness, *The Divine Programme of the World's History*, p. 308 (it is interesting that much of the armor worn by the Grecians was made of bronze)

What did the iron legs represent? (Dan 2:40) And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. (So the kingdom that would conquer the Greeks would be the iron part of the image)

History says that kingdom is... "The images of gold, or silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome." E. Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, chapter 38

What do the iron and clay feet represent? (Dan 2:41-44) Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. (It says that the Roman Empire would be divided. Also that it would stay divided until the rock comes.)

History tells us that...

10 toes = 10 initial divisions of Europe. they are: Alemanni, Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Suevi, Burgundians, Heruli, Anglo-Saxons, and Lombards. (See *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* chap. 37 chap. 10)

Who is the rock? (Matt 21:42-44) Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."

What does God say will happen in the days of divided Europe "these kings"? (Dan 2:44) And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; 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.

Babylon

Media-Persia

Greece

Rome

Divided Rome / Europe



I remember when I wanted to see a miracle and then, I said, "I would believe in God". I wanted God to come down to my terms. God has stated what miracle He would do to show us why we can have faith in him. God declared He would tell us the future before it happens. After studying the prophecy in Daniel 2 it was clear that he fulfilled his part of the bargain. Now, was I going to be honest and believe after He performed this miracle? Would I be honest enough to admit that He knows the future and that I can trust Him? He most assuredly said that there would be 4 world powers starting with Babylon, then the 4th would be divided (originally into 10), and that is exactly what happened. If I told you that 6 things would happen to you tomorrow and 5 of them came true, would it not be a safe bet that the 6th would happen also? That is what God has done in this prophecy. I had a choice not to trust God, but why would I want to do that after such convincing evidence? The next event to happen is that Jesus is coming to set up His kingdom and He wants us to be a part of it. He can tell us what is going to happen before it happens. He has a plan for your life. The question is... Will you believe it?