

An Agnostic's Challenge

Bertrand Russell was an extremely famous philosopher and atheist of the 20th century. Encyclopedia Britannica lists him as “one of the foremost philosophers of the 20th century”. He wrote: “Therefore, in regard to the [Olympic gods](#), speaking to a purely philosophical audience, I would say that I am an Agnostic. But speaking popularly, I think that all of us would say in regard to those gods that we were Atheists. In regard to the [Christian God](#), I should, I think, take exactly the same line.”

He was asked what could convince him that God exists.

Q. What kind of evidence could convince you that God exists?

A. I think that if I heard a voice from the sky predicting all that was going to happen to me during the next twenty-four hours, including events that would have seemed highly improbable, and if all these events then produced to happen, I might perhaps be convinced at least of the existence of some superhuman intelligence. I can imagine other evidence of the same sort which might convince me, but so far as I know, no such evidence exists.

— Bertrand Russell, 1953

Little did Russell know that the Bible contains fulfilled predictions even more significant than those that he said might have convinced him of God's existence! The prophecies below are just handful out of hundreds of fulfilled prophecies in scripture!

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done”
(Isaiah 46:9–10 KJV)

1. Destruction of Tyre

Tyre was a metropolis of the ancient world, a New York City of its day “...a trade centre, developing commercial relations with all parts of the Mediterranean world.”

Prediction made in ~ 593 BC: “For this is what the sovereign LORD says: Take note that I am about to bring King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon, king of kings, against Tyre from the north, with horses, chariots, and horsemen, an army and hordes of people.” (Ezekiel 26:7 NET)

Fulfillment: Siege of Tyre (586–573 BC) by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar II.

However Tyre still had an island component of the city that was not yet conquered. 250 years later, Alexander the Great attacked Tyre. He pushed all the debris of the old city into the water and made a bridge to the island. He set up two towers to bombard

the city, thought to have been the largest ever constructed at that time, and he deployed his navy to besiege it. In the end many thousands died in the siege of Tyre. Tens of thousands were enslaved.

Prediction: “They will steal your wealth and loot your merchandise. They will tear down your walls and destroy your luxurious homes. Your stones, your trees, and your soil he will throw into the water.” (Ezekiel 26:12 NET)

Fulfillment: “He dismantled much of the old mainland city of Ushu [mainland Tyre] as well as using fallen debris, rock, and felled trees, filling in the sea between the mainland and the island to create a land bridge for his war machines.” <http://www.ancient.eu/Tyre/>

Prediction: “you will be a place where fishing nets are spread.” (Ezekiel 26:14 NET)

Fulfillment: “Fishing remains a major source of income.” <https://www.britannica.com/place/Tyre>

2. Babylon’s Conqueror Named

Prediction: “This is what the LORD says to his chosen one, to Cyrus, whose right hand I hold in order to subdue nations before him, and disarm kings, to open doors before him, so gates remain unclosed.” (Isaiah 45:1 NET)

Fulfilled: 539 BC when the gates that guarded Babylon were left open during a night of drunken revelry and allowed Cyrus a stunning victory. One hundred fifty years before Cyrus lived, the prophet calls him by name!

Prediction: “When I say of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd,’ he will certainly do as I say. He will command, ‘Rebuild Jerusalem’; he will say, ‘Restore the Temple.’” (Isaiah 44:28 NLT-SE)

Fulfillment: The Cyrus cylinder states: “I sent back to their places...the sanctuaries across the river Tigris—whose shrines had earlier become dilapidated, the gods who lived therein, and made permanent sanctuaries for them. I collected together all of their people and returned them to their settlements” (<http://www.britishmuseum.org>)

3. Europe’s Future Outlined

God gave Daniel a special message for Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, to help answer his questions about what would happen after him.

“lo! there was a great statue... The head of that statue was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked on, a stone was cut out, not by human hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and broke them in pieces... the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.” (Daniel 2:31–35 NRSV)

The metals of this image represented various nations that would rise and fall until the end of time.

The golden head represented Babylon:

“You, O king, are the king of kings... You are the head of gold. Now after you another kingdom will arise, one inferior to yours.” (Daniel 2:37–39 NET)

The silver chest and arms represented Persia and the bronze thighs represented Greece:

“There are still three kings to come in Persia... when he has become strong through his wealth, he will put his forces in motion against all the kingdoms of Greece.”
(Daniel 11:2 BBE)

The final kingdom represented Rome:

“Following that kingdom, there will be a fourth one, as strong as iron. That kingdom will smash and crush all previous empires, just as iron smashes and crushes everything it strikes.” (Daniel 2:39–40 NLT-SE)

Rome was divided into the nations of modern Europe as they exist today:

“The feet and toes you saw were a combination of iron and baked clay, showing that this kingdom will be **divided**... while some parts of it will be as strong as iron, other parts will be as weak as clay. This mixture of iron and clay also shows that these kingdoms will try to strengthen themselves by forming alliances with each other through **intermarriage**. But they **will not hold together**, just as iron and clay do not mix.” (Daniel 2:40–43 NLT-SE)

The kings of Europe tried to unite the continent through marriage but it did not hold together. Napoleon, Hitler, and other warlords attempted to unite Europe into a single nation, but it did not hold together. Even the European Union has tried to unite Europe, but the Bible is clear: “they will not hold together”.

“During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever. That is the meaning of the rock cut from the mountain, though not by human hands, that crushed to pieces the statue of iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. The great God was showing the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true, and its meaning is certain.”
(Daniel 2:44–45 NLT-SE)

Take Home Points:

1. We can trust the Bible!
2. If we are right with God, we have no need to fear the future!
3. Jesus is coming soon!

Would you like to ask Jesus to be the most important part of your life today?