

WHO CAN YOU TRUST?

Sharing

1. If you had to go on an extended trip to another country to whom would you leave the combination to your in-home safe, where you'd placed your jewelry and a large sum of cash?
I'd leave the combination with _____
2. To what extent do you trust politicians? _____
Explain: _____
3. Of what value are opinion polls in our society?
Explain: _____
4. Do you think pre-marital lie-detector testing would be a good idea? _____
Explain why or why not: _____
5. One man puts every penny he earns into the bank while another puts his money into a large jar and hides it in his attic. What are the merits of each man's method of saving money?
Explain: _____

Studying

6. God's word has some advice for us about whom we should trust.
 - Read Psalm 146:3 "Put not your trust in _____, nor in the son of man, in whom there is _____ help."
 - Many people believe that God is against them or 'out to get them' like some celestial street thug waiting in a dark alley to waylay them. This is very, very far from the truth. God loves us beyond all our understanding and we can trust Him.
7. The Bible is very clear that we can *always* trust God.
 - Read Proverb 3:5,6 "5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways _____ Him, and he shall _____ your paths."
8. Many people seem willing to trust their stock-broker, their lawyer, their real-estate agent and their uninformed friends, yet they hesitate to trust God—who created them, loves them, and has their best interest at heart. Furthermore, God knows the future and is in control of our world. It would seem reasonable to trust the God who knows not only our individual future but also the future of the kings, rulers and nations of this earth!
9. God's knowledge of the future is called 'prophecy.' One-third of the Bible is prophecy! God has a perfect plan in place for our world. He has given us prophecy so that we will never be surprised about what is going to happen to our world.
 - Read John 14:29 "And now I have told you before it _____, that when it does come to pass, you may _____."
10. This knowledge of the future makes God far superior to all other gods.
 - Read Isaiah 46:9 "For I am God, and there is no _____; I am God and there is none like Me."

11. In one specific chapter in the Bible, Daniel 2, God has outlined history for us in a startling way. He discloses the rise and fall of nations. Only God could have foretold these momentous events. History proves that God was correct as each nation rose and fell right on God's scheduled plan.
12. Daniel 2 also tells us how the world will end. This chapter shows us, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that God holds the destiny of mankind in His hands.
13. Brief background on Daniel 2:
 - The book of Daniel covers the entire span of the 70 years of captivity of the Jews in Babylon.
 - When the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar's forces conquered Jerusalem, Daniel would have been in his early teenage years. He, along with many others, were carried to Babylon to become slaves. This event occurred about 600 years before Jesus Christ was born.
 - Daniel and three other young Hebrew men were chosen to be trained as exalted 'wise men' of the King Nebuchadnezzar's court. Only the smartest and best-looking young men were chosen to directly serve the king.
 - Even though Daniel received special training in the arts and sciences of the pagan Babylonian court—which would have included astrology, magic and divination—he, nevertheless remained faithful to God. In this environment Daniel maintained his integrity and had a close walk with God. He did not consider his environment an excuse for sin.
14. What happened in Daniel 2?
 - King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. Read Daniel 2:1 "Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had _____ and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him."
 - He immediately called for his wise men to interpret the dream. Read Daniel 2:2 "Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and _____ before the king."
 - Read Daniel 2:3 "And the king said to them, I have had a _____ and my spirit is anxious to know the _____." Then the advisors to the king asked him to tell them the dream.
 - Now, King Nebuchadnezzar threatens to kill the wise men if they fail to tell him his dream. Read Daniel 2:5 "The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, My decision I firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces and your houses shall be made an ash heap." (Remember that when the king killed a man in punishment in Babylonian times, his entire family also were killed with him! This kept relatives from retaliation against the king!)
 - The Chaldeans admitted that no man could relate the king's dream. Read Daniel 2:10 "The Chaldeans answered the king and said, There is not a _____ on earth who can tell the king's matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer or Chaldean."
 - Nebuchadnezzar became very angry that no man could relate his dream. Read Daniel 2:12 "For this reason the king was _____ and very _____ and gave the command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon."
15. The next verses of this chapter are very significant for Christians because when the threat came to Daniel's life we see how he responded. Note that he didn't wring his hands and cry, 'Woe is me!'
 - Read and discuss Daniel 2:17. When Daniel heard the disturbing news, what did he do first? What did he do next?

16. When we are troubled or anxious we should always go to God in prayer. He will always hear and answer. Read Daniel 2:19 "Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night _____. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven."
- Daniel exhibited no fear, he simply called a 'prayer meeting' with his friends. Why do you think that Daniel had no fear during this crisis?
 - Read Daniel 2:20-23 to see that all wisdom and knowledge is with God. Discuss why so many people seek horoscopes and astrologers to learn their future!
 - Read Daniel 2:24 and note that Daniel could have stayed quiet and allowed the king to kill everyone else while he took all the honor and glory to himself. Instead Daniel said, "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; take me before the king and I will tell the king the _____."
17. Daniel gives all glory and honor to God for the interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
- Read Daniel 2:28 "But there is a God in _____ who reveals _____ and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the _____ days."
18. Beginning with Daniel 2:31, the dream is interpreted for King Nebuchadnezzar. The interpretation will reveal a panorama of nations from Daniel's day to the end of the world. Read the following texts and answer the questions to discover this fascinating prophecy:
- Daniel 2:31 What did the king see in his dream? _____ This great image was that of a man made of four types of metal.
 - Daniel 2:32, 33 The head of the metal man image was of _____. Its chest and arms were made of _____. Its belly and thighs were made of _____. Its legs were made of _____, and its feet were partly of _____ and partly of _____.
 - Daniel 2:34 Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar that, in his dream, he had "watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its _____ of iron and clay and _____ them in pieces.
 - Daniel 2:35 After the stone struck the great metal man image, what happened to it? "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were _____ together and became like _____ from the summer threshing floor and the _____ carried them away so that no trace of them was found."
 - Daniel 2:35 What happened to the great stone that struck the image? "And the stone that struck the image became a great _____ that filled the whole earth."
 - Daniel 2:44 What is the interpretation of the great stone that filled the whole earth? "...the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that which shall never be _____...."
19. What kingdoms of the world were represented by the metals of the great image that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream?
- Daniel 2:38 _____ (Nebuchadnezzar) are this head of gold. (Babylon 605 B.C.)
 - Daniel 2:39 "But after this will arise another kingdom, inferior to yours." (Medo-Persia 538 B.C.)
 - Daniel 2:39 "Then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the _____" (Greece 331 B.C.)
 - Daniel 2:40 "And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron...(this) kingdom will break in pieces and _____ all the others." (Roman Empire 476 A.D.)

20. The feet and toes of the iron kingdom of Rome were partly iron and partly clay. Daniel 2:41 says that "...the kingdom shall be _____ . . ." Barbarian invasions of Rome divided the empire. These divisions, ten in number, represented by the ten toes of iron and clay formed the foundations of the nations of Europe today.
21. Would those ten nations of Europe ever unite, or 'cleave' together? Daniel 2:43 "...they will not _____ to one another . . ." Europe will not be welded back into one world empire again. God said so!
22. What does God say will happen in the days of these kings? Daniel 2:44 ""...the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be _____."
23. We are now living in the days represented by the toes of iron mixed with clay of the great metal image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The stone that filled the whole earth (Daniel 2:35) represents the second coming of Jesus Christ.
24. When Daniel finished telling Nebuchadnezzar his dream and God's interpretation, the king acknowledged, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets." Daniel 2:47.

Applying this lesson

24. God loves us so much that He has gone to great lengths to reveal the future to us. He never tries to trick us or surprise us. We can trust Him completely with our present lives and with our future.
 - I believe that I can trust God with every aspect of my life, in the good times and in the bad times because He loves me very much.
 - ____A check mark at left indicates that I understand how much God loves me and I determine, by faith, to trust Him in all things.
25. God has given us prophecy so that we will understand that He is God and there is no other.
 - From the study of Daniel 2 I have learned that this world is not in the hands of human beings, It is in the hand of God.
 - ____A check mark at left indicates that I will face the future with confidence without becoming fearful of each day's political, national or international news.
26. From the prophecy of Daniel 2 I learned that the rock cut out without hands, that smashes the image and fills the whole world, represents the second coming of Jesus.
 - I believe that this earth will end, not by man, but by God who will usher in His everlasting kingdom.
 - ____A check mark at left indicates that I will place myself securely in His hands knowing that He is in supreme control of all of earth's events.
27. Daniel's God is the same God who calls each of us to follow Him today.
 - I believe that God has led me to these studies and that He is appealing to my heart right now.
 - ____A check mark at left indicates that I will trust God completely and surrender my life to Him.

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