# PROOF OF GOD

IN LESS THAN 15 MINUTES

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# DOES GOD REALLY EXIST?

Or, framing that question so that those of us doing theological research here at Good News for Jews can give you a knowledgeable answer ...

## Is there any verifiable evidence that God exists?

#### By verifiable evidence, we mean ...

evidence that can be observed with the eyes
evidence that comes from documented history
evidence that can be validated scientifically

In other words, is there any real evidence of God's existence where intelligence is all that is required to understand it?

## The short answer to that question ...

Yes, there is just such verifiable evidence, and it's found in the Bible.

# But, don't get sp ked, not just yet ...

Resist the impulse to let the words "found in the Bible" scare you off. Give us a chance to present our evidence from the Bible and recorded history so that you can make an intelligent judgement about its validity for yourself. First off, know that the Bible has not been written to prove the existence of God ... with one unique exception we will get to in a minute. For the most part, it assumes that the reader already senses that God exists and then explains everything he or she needs to know about God.

#### However, that faith-based approach will not be used here.

Instead, based on what we have promised, you have a right to expect that we can present tangible evidence that the God of the Bible is real, with <u>no faith required</u> to believe the evidence we present. We are more than willing to let the facts speak for themselves.

So, let's get started ...

## It's only found in one place ...

As stated on the previous slide, there is only one place in the Bible that offers verifiable proof of God. That proof text is found in the Book of Daniel, chapter 8, which contains a unique type of predictive prophecy called a <u>chrono-specific prophecy</u>.

### About chrono-specific prophecy ...

The thing that is unique about a chrono-specific prophecy in the Bible is that it is not vague. It has <u>three distinct parts</u> that allow the reader to easily identify what is being described, so that its time-sensitive description of events can be held up to recorded history for comparison.

## The three parts are as follows ...

- ✓ a specific <u>starting event</u> in recorded history
- ✓ a specific <u>ending event</u> in recorded history
- $\checkmark$  A set time interval between the two events

## About our proof text in Daniel 8 ...

The proof-of-God text we will be examining in the eighth chapter of Daniel has the three time-sensitive parts required to make it a true chrono-specific prophecy, as follows:

- ✓ starting event specified in verses 5-7 & verses 20-21
- ✓ ending event specified in verse 14
- ✓ time interval between events specified in verse 14

## Examining the parts separately ...

Each part will now be examined separately before we put them together to show how the prophecy and its fulfillment offer tangible evidence of God's existence in real time.



Painting: Le Passage du Granique (1665) by Charles Le Brun, The Louvre

## Daniel 8:5-7

The starting event of the prophecy is specified in chapter 8, verses 5-7, which reveal what the prophet Daniel described as a he goat coming against a ram with two horns.

And as I was considering, behold, an **he goat came from the west** on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. And he came **to the ram that had two horns**, which I had there seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power. And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and **smote the ram**, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was **none that could deliver the ram out of his hand**. ~ Daniel 8:5-7 KJV

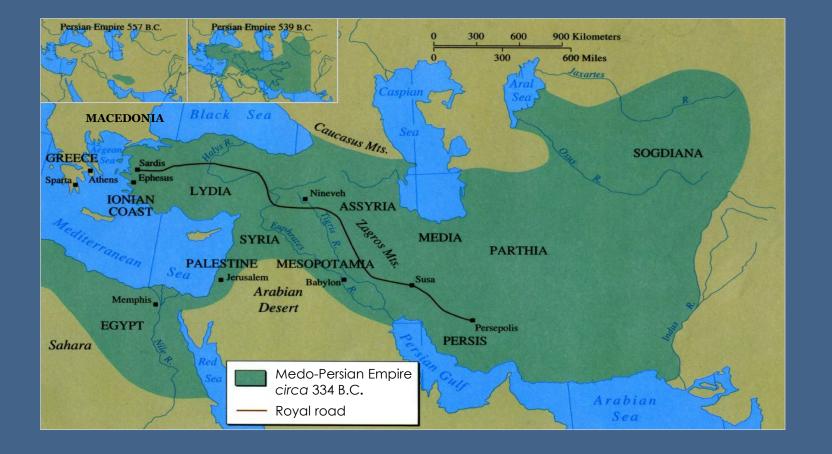
Sounds cryptic at first glance, but chapter 8, verses 20-21 go on to interpret the prophetic symbolism for us.

#### Daniel 8:20-21

Verses 20-21 in chapter 8 explain what the goat and ram in verses 5-7 mean in historical terms.

□ The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. ~ Daniel 8:20-21 KJV

That's pretty straightforward. The ram represents the Medo-Persian (Achaemenid) Empire, and the goat represents the first king of Greece, which history confirms was Alexander the Great. History also confirms that the Medo-Persian king he moved against was Darius III Codomannus. The Medo-Persian (Achaemenid) Empire was founded by Cyrus the Great *circa* 557 B.C. Under later kings, the boundary of the Persian Empire was extended eastward to the Indus River and westward across the Bosporus into Europe. At the time, the Persian Empire was the largest in the world.





DARIUS III CODOMANNUS Last King of the Medo-Persian (Achaemenid) Empire 336-331 B.C. Alexander the Great, the first king of Greece, led his troops into Asia in May or June of 334 B.C. At the Granicus River, near ancient Troy, he met and defeated the Medo-Persian army of Darius III Codomannus for the first time. Alexander went on to defeat Darius' armies again in the Battle of Issus in 333 B.C., achieving final victory in the Battle of Gaugamela in 331 B.C.



ALEXANDER'S ROUTE OF CONQUEST

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

First King of Greece

336-323 B.C.

SITE OF BATTLE OF GRANICUS

#### The starting event is now identified ...

Alexander's defeat of the Persian army of Darius III at the Granicus River in 334 B.C. fits the biblical description perfectly, and thus can be identified as the starting event of the prophecy in Daniel, chapter 8.

#### Moving on to the second part ...

Now we move on to examine the second part of the prophecy, the <u>time interval</u> between the starting event (Battle of Granicus) and the prophecy's ending event. That time interval is specified in verse 14 of Daniel 8.

# THE TIME INTERVAL

2,300 Days

#### Daniel 8:13-14

In verses 13-14 of chapter 8, a time interval of 2,300 days in duration is specified as beginning with the starting event of the prophecy, the Battle of Granicus in 334 B.C., and it obviously terminates with an ending event yet to be determined.

□ Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, <u>How long shall be the vision</u> concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto <u>two thousand and three</u> <u>hundred days</u>; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed. ~ Daniel 8:13-14 KJV

Note that it is the length of the vision from start to finish, not just the period involving the daily sacrifice and the transgression of desolation, that is the focus of the question "How long?"

#### What's in a word?

When dealing with Bible translations, a lot more than meets the eye, it seems. The word rendered as "days" in the King James text of verse 14 is actually the two-word Hebrew phrase James text of verse 14 is actually the two-word Hebrew phrase (*'erev boqer*) in the Masoretic Text.\* The literal English translation of that Hebrew phrase is "evening-morning," which has been incorrectly rendered as "days" in the King James and other Bible versions. So, in order to determine the time interval that is specified in verse 14 of our proof text, we need to understand the chronological meaning of the phrase "two thousand and three hundred evening-mornings."

 $^{st}$  The Masoretic Text is the authoritative original language Hebrew and Aramaic text of the Tanakh (Old Testament).

## Applying Ockham's Razor ...

There have been all kinds of suggestions for the meaning of the phrase "evening-morning" as it is used in verse 14 of chapter 8, but the simplest explanation is that it means "evening until morning," or, in other words, nighttime.\* However, interpreting "evening-mornings" as 12-hour nights yields no ending event that matches the textual requirement of verse 14, so seeking a larger chronological meaning from Scripture is more appropriate. And, since this is Hebrew prophecy that was recorded in the Tanakh (Jewish Scriptures), that is where we have to look.

\* For a usage precedent, see Exodus 27:21, where the Hebrew phrase 'erev boger distinctly refers to an overnight time period (i.e., the period from evening to morning)

#### The most significant Jewish night ...

The most significant night in Jewish life during Bible times was the Passover night, which the Israelites were commanded to observe as a memorial forever in Exodus 12.

And ye shall keep it [the Paschal lamb] up until the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it <u>in the evening</u>. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night [the 15<sup>th</sup>], roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it ... And ye shall let nothing of it remain <u>until the morning</u>; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. ~ Exodus 12:6-8 & 10 KJV

Note that the Passover night was observed "evening until morning" as a memorial once a year on the 15th day of the Jewish month Nisan, which always falls in March or April.

#### Thus, evening-morning means Passover ...

Again, using the simplest explanation, the phrase "eveningmorning" as used in verse 14 of chapter 8 can be reasonably assumed to be a cryptic way of referring to the the annual Passover night.\* Consequently, 2,300 evening-mornings in prophetic language can be seen to mean 2,300 Passover nights in real-world chronological-historical terms.

 $^\circ$  The prophet Daniel was commanded to seal the prophecies from understanding until the time of the end (see Daniel 12:4 & 9).

#### Counting the 2,300 Passovers ...

We know from verse 14 that there must be a time interval of 2,300 Passover nights between the prophecy's starting event, the Battle of Granicus in 334 B.C., and the ending event to be determined. From recorded history, we know that the battle took place in the Macedonian month of Daesius, which fell in late May and early June in the year 334 B.C.\* Since Passover fell in March that year, it had already occurred, so the count of the 2,300 Passovers must begin with <u>the first Passover after the battle</u>, the one that was observed in the year 333 B.C. The chart on the next slide shows how to count the 2,300 Passovers in verse 14.

\* Plutarch of Chaeronea, Life of Alexander (section 16, verses 1-3) translated by Mr. Evelyn for John Dryden's Plutarch's Lives by Several Hands, published in 1683

#### How to count the 2,300 Passovers in Daniel 8:14

P1 - 333 B.C.	P2 - 332 B.C.	P3 - 331B.C.	P4 - 330 B.C.	P5 - 329 B.C.	P6 - 328 B.C.	P7 - 327 B.C.	P8 - 326 B.C.	P9 - 325 B.C.	P10 - 324 B.C.
P1-10 see above	P20 - 314 B.C.			P50 - 284 B.C.		P70 - 264 B.C.	P80 - 254 B.C.	P90 - 244 B.C.	P100 - 234 B.C.
P110 - 224 B.C.	P120 - 214 B.C.	P130 - 204 B.C.	P140 - 194 B.C.	P150 - 184 B.C.	P160 - 174 B.C.	P170 - 164 B.C.	P180 - 154 B.C.	P190 - 144 B.C.	P200 - 134 B.C.
P210 - 124 B.C.	P220 - 114 B.C.	P230 - 104 B.C.	P240 - 94 B.C.	P250 - 84 B.C.	P260 - 74 B.C.	P270 - 64 B.C.	P280 - 54 B.C.	P290 - 44 B.C.	P300 - 34 B.C.
P310 – 24 B.C.	P320 – 14 B.C.	P330 – 4 B.C.	P331 – 3 B.C.	P332 – 2 B.C.	P333 – 1 B.C.	B.C. to A.D.*	P334 – 1 A.D.	P335 – 2 A.D.	P336 – 3 A.D.
P337 - 4 A.D.	P338 - 5 A.D.	P339 - 6 A.D.	P340 - 7 A.D.	P350 - 17 A.D.	P360 - 27A.D.	P370 - 37 A.D.	P380 - 47 A.D.	P390 - 57 A.D.	P400 - 67 A.D.
P410 - 77 A.D.	P420 - 87 A.D.	P430 - 97 A.D.	P440 - 107 A.D.	P450 - 117 A.D.	P460 - 127 A.D.	P470 - 137 A.D.	P480 - 147 A.D.	P490 - 157 A.D.	P500 - 167 A.D.
P510 - 177 A.D.	P520 - 187 A.D.	P530 - 197 A.D.	P540 - 207 A.D.	P550 - 217 A.D.	P560 - 227 A.D.	P570 - 237 A.D.	P580 - 247 A.D.	P590 - 257 A.D.	P600 - 267 A.D.
P610 - 277 A.D.	P620 - 287 A.D.	P630 - 297 A.D.	P640 - 307 A.D.	P650 - 317 A.D.	P660 - 327 A.D.	P670 - 337 A.D.	P680 - 347 A.D.	P690 - 357 A.D.	P700 - 367 A.D.
P710 - 377 A.D.	P720 - 387 A.D.	P730 - 397 A.D.	P740 - 407 A.D.	P750 - 417 A.D.	P760 - 427 A.D.	P770 - 437 A.D.	P780 - 447 A.D.	P790 - 457 A.D.	P800 - 467 A.D.
P810 - 477 A.D.	P820 - 487 A.D.	P830 - 497 A.D.	P840 - 507 A.D.	P850 - 517 A.D.	P860 - 527 A.D.	P870 - 537 A.D.	P880 - 547 A.D.	P890 - 557 A.D.	P900 - 567 A.D.
P910 - 577 A.D.	P920 - 587 A.D.	P930 - 597 A.D.	P940 - 607 A.D.	P950 - 617 A.D.	P960 - 627 A.D.	P970 - 637 A.D.	P980 - 647 A.D.	P990 - 657 A.D.	P1000 - 667 A.D.
P1010 - 677 A.D.	P1020 - 687 A.D.	P1030 - 697 A.D.	P1040 - 707 A.D.	P1050 - 717 A.D.	P1060 - 727 A.D.	P1070 - 737 A.D.	P1080 - 747 A.D.	P1090 - 757 A.D.	P1100 - 767 A.D.
P1110 - 777 A.D.	P1120 - 787 A.D.	P1130 - 797 A.D.	P1140 - 807 A.D.	P1150 - 817 A.D.	P1160 - 827 A.D.	P1170 - 837 A.D.	P1180 - 847 A.D.	P1190 - 857 A.D.	P1200 - 867 A.D.
P1210 - 877 A.D.	P1220 - 887 A.D.	P1230 - 897 A.D.	P1240 - 907 A.D.	P1250 - 917A.D.	P1260 - 927 A.D.	P1270 - 937 A.D.	P1280 - 947 A.D.	P1290 - 957 A.D.	P1300 - 967 A.D.
P1310 - 977 A.D.	P1320 - 987 A.D.	P1330 - 997 A.D.	P1340 - 1007 A.D.	P1350 - 1017 A.D.	P1360 - 1027 A.D.	P1370 - 1037 A.D.	P1380 - 1047 A.D.	P1390 - 1057 A.D.	P1400 - 1067 A.D.
P1410 - 1077 A.D.	P1420 - 1087 A.D.	P1430 - 1097 A.D.	P1440 - 1107 A.D.	P1450 - 1117 A.D.	P1460 - 1127 A.D.	P1470 - 1137 A.D.	P1480 - 1147 A.D.	P1490 - 1157 A.D.	P1500 - 1167 A.D.
P1510 - 1177 A.D.	P1520 - 1187 A.D.	P1530 - 1197A.D.	P1540 - 1207A.D.	P1550 - 1217A.D.	P1560 - 1227 A.D.	P1570 - 1237 A.D.	P1580 - 1247 A.D.	P1590 - 1257 A.D.	P1600 - 1267 A.D.
P1610 - 1277 A.D.	P1620 - 1287 A.D.	P1630 - 1297 A.D.	P1640 - 1307 A.D.	P1650 - 1317 A.D.	P1660 - 1327 A.D.	P1670 - 1337 A.D.	P1680 - 1347 A.D.	P1690 - 1357 A.D.	P1700 - 1367 A.D.
P1710 - 1377 A.D.	P1720 - 1387 A.D.	P1730 - 1397 A.D.	P1740 - 1407 A.D.	P1750 - 1417 A.D.	P1760 - 1427 A.D.	P1770 - 1437 A.D.	P1780 - 1447 A.D.	P1790 - 1457 A.D.	P1800 - 1467 A.D.
P1810 - 1477 A.D.	P1820 - 1487 A.D.	P1830 - 1497 A.D.	P1840 - 1507 A.D.	P1850 - 1517 A.D.	P1860 - 1527 A.D.	P1870 - 1537 A.D.	P1880 - 1547 A.D.	P1890 - 1557 A.D.	P1900 - 1567 A.D.
P1910 - 1577 A.D.	P1920 - 1587 A.D.	P1930 - 1597 A.D.	P1940 - 1607 A.D.	P1950 - 1617 A.D.	P1960 - 1627 A.D.	P1970 - 1637 A.D.	P1980 - 1647 A.D.	P1990 - 1657 A.D.	P2000 - 1667 A.D.
P2010 - 1677 A.D.	P2020 - 1687 A.D.	P2030 - 1697 A.D.	P2040 - 1707 A.D.	P2050 - 1717 A.D.	P2060 - 1727 A.D.	P2070 - 1737 A.D.	P2080 - 1747 A.D.	P2090 - 1757 A.D.	P2100 - 1767 A.D.
P2110 - 1777 A.D.	P2120 - 1787 A.D.	P2130 - 1797 A.D.	P2140 - 1807 A.D.	P2150 - 1817 A.D.	P2160 - 1827 A.D.	P2170 - 1837 A.D.	P2180 - 1847 A.D.	P2190 - 1857 A.D.	P2200 - 1867 A.D.
P2210 - 1877 A.D.	P2220 - 1887 A.D.	P2230 - 1897 A.D.	P2240 - 1907 A.D.	P2250 - 1917 A.D.	P2260 - 1927 A.D.	P2270 - 1937 A.D.	P2280 - 1947 A.D.	P2290 - 1957 A.D.	P2300 - 1967 A.D.

\* Note that there was no year zero "0" when going from B.C. to A.D., so the count in the decade spanning from 3 B.C. to 7 A.D. (beige area above) is as follows: Passover number 331 in the count (P331 above) occurred in the year 3 B.C., P332 in 2 B.C., P333 in 1 B.C., P334 in 1 A.D., P335 in 2 A.D., P337 in 4 A.D., P337 in 4 A.D., P338 in 5 A.D., P339 in 6 A.D., P340 in 7 A.D.

## The 2,300<sup>th</sup> Passover occurred in 1967

From the chart on the previous slide, in can be seen that the 2,300<sup>th</sup> Passover in the count required by verse 14 occurred in the modern year 1967. Passover was observed on April 25<sup>th</sup> that year, so it must be for an event occurring after that date and before the next Passover in 1968 that we must identify an event as the ending event of the prophecy.

He said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings; **then the holy place will be properly restored**." ~ Daniel 8:14 NASB

And he said unto me: 'Unto two thousand and three hundred evenings and mornings; **then shall the sanctuary be victorious**.' ~ Daniel 8:14 JPS 1917



#### Restoration of the sanctuary ...

Anyone who knows anything about modern Jewish history recognizes the importance of the year 1967. It was in June of that year, on the morning of June 7<sup>th</sup> less than two months after the 2,300<sup>th</sup> Passover of the Daniel 8 prophecy had been observed on April 25<sup>th</sup>, when Israeli troops captured the Old City of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount platform during the Six-Day War, restoring them to Jewish sovereignty for the first time in more than 2,000 years.

Col. Mordechai "Motta" Gur, the commander who led the liberation, said this to his victorious troops: "You have been privileged to restore to the people of Israel their capital and their sanctuary."\*

Amos Alon, Jerusalem: City of Mirrors (London: Flamingo, 1996), p. 91.

## June 7, 1967 during the Six-Day War



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On the Mount of Olives, Col. Mordechai "Motta" Gur issued the order to take the Old City and Temple Mount. Gur exhorted his troops thus: "Soon we will enter the city, the Old City of Jerusalem, about which countless generations of Jews have dreamed, to which all living Jews aspire. To our brigade has been granted the privilege of being the first to enter it ... Now, on, on to the gate!"\* Within minutes, Israeli soldiers entered through the Lions Gate.

 $^{st}$  Mordechai Gur, The Battle for Jerusalem (New York, New York: Popular Library, 1974), p. 354.

## June 7, 1967 during the Six-Day War



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After entering the Old City and passing through the Lion's Gate, Col. Gur and soldiers of the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) 55th Paratroopers Brigade raced their halftrack toward the Dome of the Rock. The soldiers of the Jordanian Army had mostly abandoned the Temple Mount platform. A few days later, Gur addressed his troops assembled on the Mount: "You have been privileged to restore to the people of Israel their capital and their sanctuary."

## June 7, 1967 during the Six-Day War



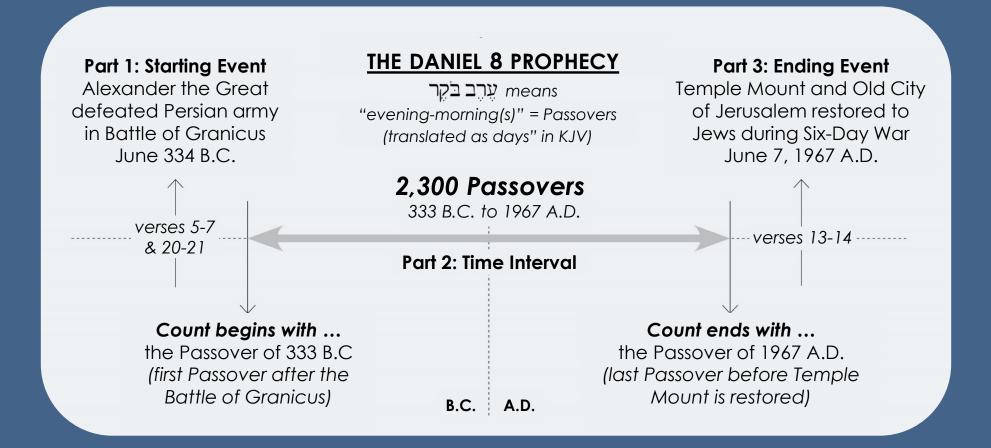
Photo: Copyright © State of Israel, Government Press Office. Used by permission.

At the Kotel (the Hebrew name for the Western Wall), Israeli soldiers gathered to hear General Shlomo Goren, Chaplain of the Israeli Defense Forces, blow the Shofar. After blowing the Shofar, Rabbi Goren, holding a Torah scroll, said: **Le-shana HA-ZOT be-Yerushalayim ha-b'nuya, be-yerushalayim ha-atika!** Translation: This year in a rebuilt Jerusalem! In the Jerusalem of old!

#### The ending event is identified ...

The capture of the Temple Mount on June 7, 1967 by Israeli forces during the Six-Day War can now be identified as the ending event of the prophecy, fulfilling the predicted restoration of the sanctuary to the Jewish people. That event occurred exactly 2,300 Passovers after the Battle of Granicus in 334 B.C., the starting event of the prophecy. It constitutes the fulfillment of the chrono-specific prophecy in Daniel 8 that we are using as a proof text to show the existence of God as described in the Bible.

## Now let's put all three parts together ...



#### Interesting, but what does it all mean?

Think about it. The predictive prophecy from the Bible that we are using as our text to prove the existence of God is more than 2,000 years old. The age that we claim for the prophecy is backed up by science, since the various manuscript fragments of the Book of Daniel found among the Dead Sea Scrolls have been Carbon<sup>14</sup> dated at 165 B.C. to 50 A.D. \*

The fulfillment of that prophecy at the exact time it was predicted to be fulfilled was witnessed by millions of people in 1967. The restoration of the Old City of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount to the Jewish people on June 7, 1967 was witnessed firsthand by thousands of Arabs and Jews living in the Middle East back then, and the events of the Six-Day War were seen by millions of people on television news broadcasts.

\* Some researchers argue that manuscript evidence indicates a much older origin for the Book of Daniel and its prophecies.

#### And remember, everything can be verified ...

- The Book of Daniel was in existence at least 2,000 years ago, as verified by Carbon<sup>14</sup> dating [see The Book of Daniel: Composition and Reception v.2 by J.J. Collins and P.W. Flint; Brill 2001, pp. 329-331].
- The date for the starting point of the prophecy, the Battle of Granicus in 334 B.C., can be verified from the writings of Plutarch of Chaeronea in his Life of Alexander (section 16, verses 1-3), and by others.
- The date for the ending event of the prophecy, the restoration of the Old City of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount to Jewish sovereignty on June 7, 1967 is modern history witnessed by millions.
- $\checkmark$  The 2,300 evening-mornings time interval is specified in the Bible.

## Can you explain it without God?

In this presentation, we have demonstrated that a chrono-specific predictive prophecy in the eighth chapter of the Book of Daniel, one that has been Carbon<sup>14</sup> dated to the time of Jesus, was exactly fulfilled 2,000 years later in 1967, precisely when and where the prophecy said it would be fulfilled. The truthfulness of that statement is backed up by irrefutable evidence. We maintain that such a documented demonstration of the ability to foreknow the distant future with exactitude, an ability that transcends the capabilities of even the most advanced human beings, is proof that the omniscient God described in the Bible, whose supernatural knowledge transcends time, does indeed exist in reality. We have no other explanation. If you choose to reject our conclusion, it's up to you to offer a better verifiable explanation.

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