

# 1 THE LOGIC OF LOVE

## DISCOVER

One of the most self-evident things about love is that it requires communication in order to exist and flourish

### WHY THE BIBLE?

To love and be loved is the most persistent and urgent of all our desires. We all know, intuitively, without anybody ever telling us, that we are made for faithful, trustworthy relationships. Our hearts are fueled by hungry yearnings for connection, interpersonal engagement, and a sense of belonging. According to the Bible, there is a simple and profound reason for this. Compare Genesis 1:27 and 1 John 4:16 to discover why.

As creatures of the divine “image,” we are engineered for giving and receiving “\_\_\_\_\_.” That’s what and who we are as human beings.

It logically follows that a God of self-giving love, who would create others in His image, would be a communicator by nature since communication is intrinsic to the healthy operations of love. We would expect that a God of love would naturally want to be known by those He has made. And this is precisely what we find to be the case. Jesus Christ, who claimed to be God in the flesh, got to the heart of this matter:

“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not \_\_\_\_\_ what his master is doing; but I have called you \_\_\_\_\_, for all things that I heard from My Father I have \_\_\_\_\_ to you” (John 15:15).

Here we encounter the most incredible thing imaginable: the most powerful Person in the universe—none other than God—doesn’t want to dominate us by His power,

but rather He desires to befriend us by means of communication—by making Himself known to us. And this explains why God has given us a book composed of words:

“All \_\_\_\_\_ is given by \_\_\_\_\_ of God” (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Bible—here called “Scripture”—makes the bold claim that it is God’s communication device. But remember what Jesus said: friendship is the goal of His communication to us. The Bible is not intended to exert coercive authority over our rational process and demand blind compliance. The Bible claims, rather, to be the medium through which God discloses His love and opens the way for us to know Him. Regarding human words Jesus said, “Out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45). Likewise, if the Bible is God’s word, then we can expect to find in it an unfolding of God’s heart. But how can we be confident that the Bible is what it claims to be?

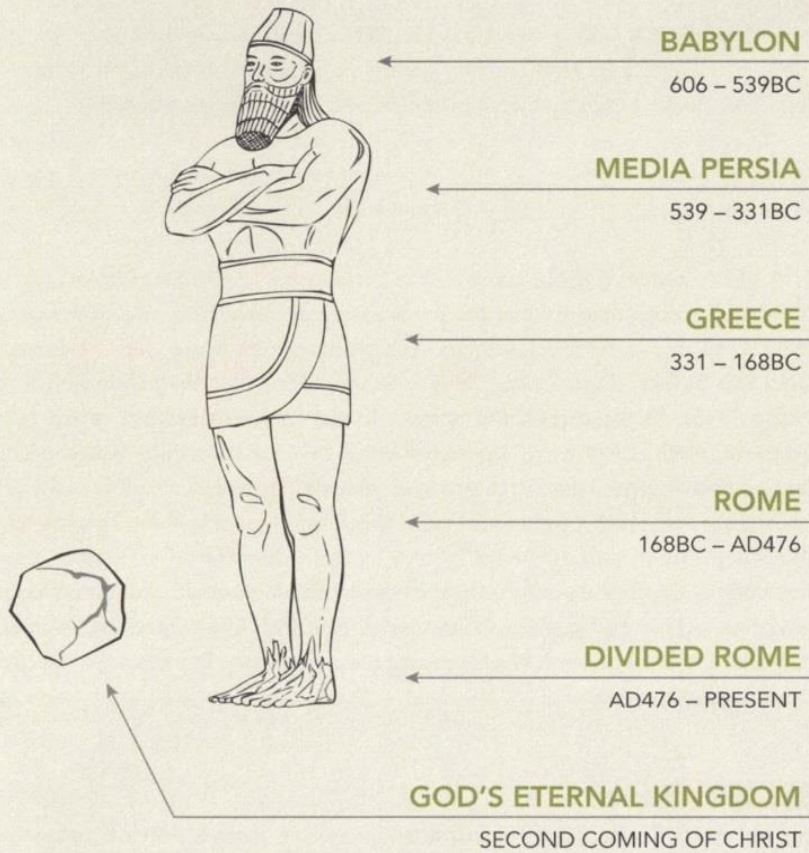
### A GOD WHO KNOWS AND CAN BE KNOWN

There once lived a king who was completely self-absorbed. Intoxicated with his power, all he could think about was how great he was. One day God tapped him on the shoulder by giving him a prophetic dream that revealed—get this—more than 2,500 years of world history in advance. In the process the proud king was humbled and transformed. The story is recorded for us in Daniel 2-4.

In his dream, the king saw a metal-man image with a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, feet of iron and clay, and a stone that struck the image at the feet, ground it to powder and became a great mountain. The prophet Daniel, a captive in Babylon, interpreted the dream for the Babylonian king.

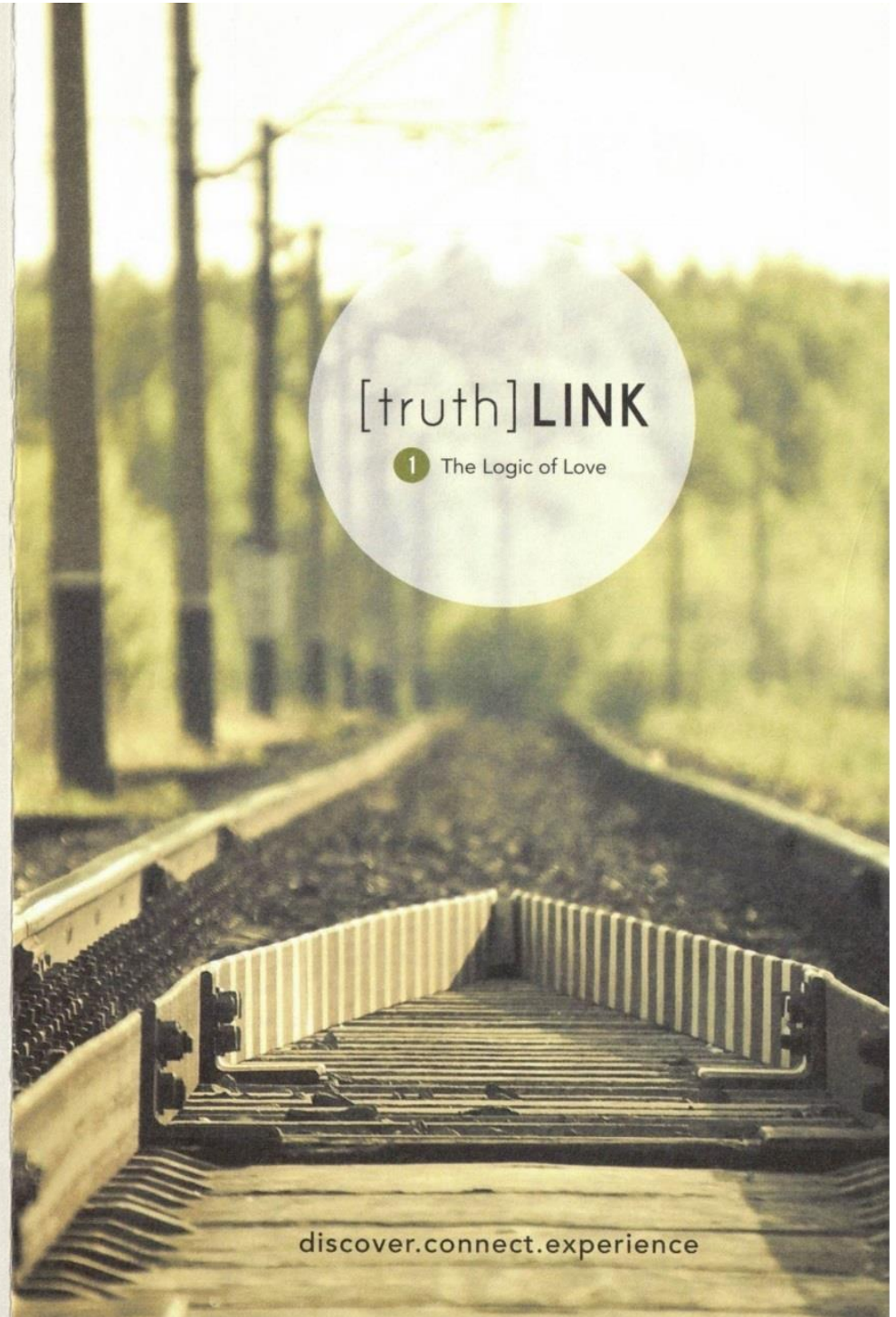
Read and discuss the interpretation of the dream in Daniel 2:36-45.

Written some 600 years before the time of Christ, the prophecy received by King Nebuchadnezzar foretold the rise and fall of four successive empires and the formation of modern Europe, providing convincing proof that the Bible is of supernatural origin—that it is, in fact, inspired by God. It is a matter of historical fact that exactly what the dream foretold came to pass: Babylon was succeeded by Media Persia, which was succeeded by Greece, which was succeeded by Rome, which divided into the ten main kingdoms of Western Europe. The accurate fulfillment of the first five parts of the vision gives us the assurance that the final prediction will come to pass as well: “the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed” (verse 44).



This astounding prophecy brings us face to face with a God who knows the future, which can only mean that we are face to face with a God who knows us as well. He knows everything we've ever done and will do, every one of our weaknesses and failures. And yet, knowing everything about us, He still loves us and longs to be our friend. Not merely a warm, fuzzy friend who will affirm us in our destructive course, but a true friend who will prove Himself dangerous to our selfishness. It was just such an encounter with God that radically transformed Nebuchadnezzar's heart:

"\_\_\_\_\_ I, Nebuchadnezzar, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the King of heaven, all of whose works are \_\_\_\_\_, and His ways \_\_\_\_\_. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down" (Daniel 4:37).



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