

Daniel 5: The Writing On the Wall.

Nebuchadnezzar is no longer the king of Babylon, he died after a 43-year reign.- His son, *Evil-Merodach* (2 Kings 25:27-30 and Jeremiah 52:31-34) rules for only two years when he is assassinated by his brother-in-law Neriglassar.-

Neriglassar(Jeremiah 39:3, 13) rules for four years.- His son, *Laborosoarchod*, only a child rules for only nine months when he is beaten to death by a gang of conspirators.- The conspirators appoint *Nabonidus*, one of their gang, to be king. He rules until Cyrus the Persian conquers Babylon.

- Belshazzar became coregent in the third year of Nabonidus' reign (553 B.C.) and continued in that capacity till the fall of Babylon (539 B.C.).

It is most likely that at this time, Nabonidus had gone out to fight the Medo-Persian army, and had been already captured. Those armies now surrounded Babylon, and were looking for a way into the strongly defended city. Belshazzar was not afraid of the siege surrounding the city. He was confident because of Babylon's impressive defenses and his vast supplies:-

- The outer walls were 17 miles long - These walls were 22 feet thick and 90 feet high - The outer walls had guard towers another 100 feet high - The city gates were made of bronze - A system of inner and outer walls and channels made the city very secure

Belshazzar openly mocks and challenges the authority God. God then communicates to him; a hand appears and writes on the wall. Belshazzar went from mocking God to being terrified; his own conscience testified against him. "For the king the difficulty was not to give the 'dictionary definition' of the terms, but to see what significance they had for him." (Baldwin).

When Daniel comes to interpret these words, it doesn't seem so hard to figure out. Daniel is not impressed by the promise of rewards; he had to confront the King's pride and arrogance.

The **breath** of the creature should praise the Creator, but Belshazzar blasphemed. The **ways** of the creature should glorify the Creator, but Belshazzar mocked.

MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it;

TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting;

PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Isaiah 44:28 - Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid."

Jeremiah 51:58 - Thus says the LORD of hosts: "The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; the people will labor in vain, and the nations, because of the fire; and they shall be weary."

Easy victory for the Medes and Persians; Belshazzar and his kingdom were found lacking in spiritual and moral value. That very night Belshazzar, because of their drunkenness, they forgot to lock the bronze gates, the Medes and Persians invaded the king of the Chaldeans, was slain. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom.

Revelation 14:6-8 - Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Psalms 2: Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure, "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

1John 2:17 - And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.