



DANIEL

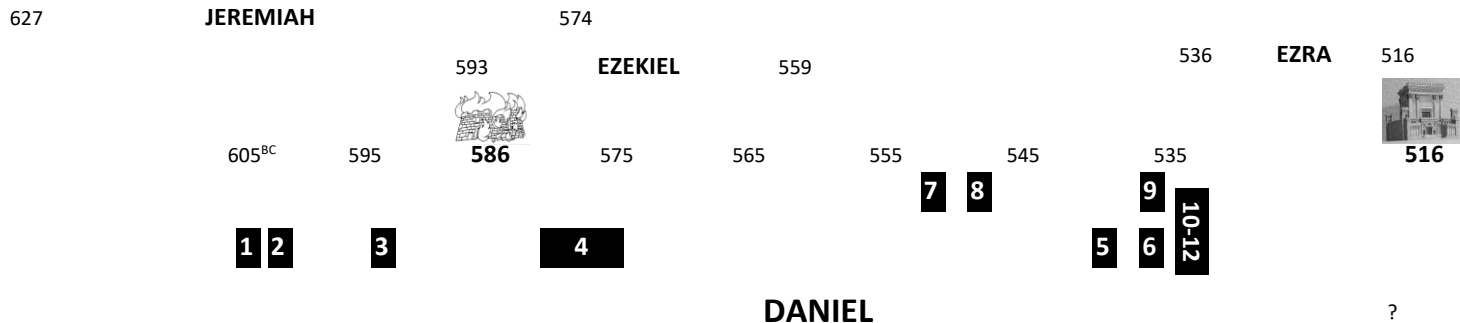


Chapter 5

Belshazzar's Pride

739-681 **ISAIAH**
 733-701 Micah
 650-620 Nahum
 636-623 Zephaniah
 621-609 Habakkuk

Israel's SOVEREIGN GOD



Neo-Babylonian Empire



Nebuchadnezzar II

The LAST 5 KINGS of JUDAH

Josiah 640-609	Jehoiakim 609-597	Zedekiah 597-586
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Jehoahaz 3 mos.	Jehoiachin 3 mos.
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622^{BC}



Medo-Persian Empire

Nabonidus Belshazzar

Belshazzar

Cyrus II Cambyses Darius I

539^{BC}

Artaxerxes
usurper
522^{BC}

CHAPTER 5 – BREAK DOWN

- 1) Blasphemy of Belshazzar vs. 1-9
- 2) Prophecy of Daniel vs. 10-28
- 3) Providence of God vs. 29-31

Daniel – Aramaic Section

Chap. 2 King's Dream



Chap. 7 Daniel's Dream

Chap. 3 Bow or Burn



Chap. 6 Bow or be Bitten

Chap. 4 Nebuchadnezzar's
Pride



Chap. 5 Belshazzar's Pride

BLASPHEMY OF BELSHAZZAR vs. 1-9

- Nebuchadnezzar was a builder.
- Belshazzar was a waster.
 - He was drunk and incapacitated at the very time when his kingdom was under threat.
 - Historically, Belshazzar was only the deputy ruler on behalf of Nabonidus (successor to Nebuchadnezzar).
 - This explains why Belshazzar could only offer the job of “*third highest ruler in the kingdom*”. vs. 7

BLASPHEMY OF BELSHAZZAR vs. 1-9

- There is no doubt that Belshazzar knew of the testimony of Nebuchadnezzar – likely his grandfather.
- Belshazzar's blasphemy consisted of taking what belonged to the true and living God and using it for his own corrupt and decadent purposes.
- He debased the symbols that were sanctified to the living God.

BLASPHEMY OF BELSHAZZAR vs. 1-9

- He made his banquet hall a place of mockery of the Holy Place!
- **HE BLASPHEMED THE WORK OF GOD.**
- These vessels had been housed where God chose to dwell.
- But this mortal used them to get drunk and extoll false gods of metal, stone and wood.

BLASPHEMY OF BELSHAZZAR vs. 1-9

- To use created things (metal, stone and wood) the living God made to point us to Him, as objects of worship while ignoring Him smacks of the foulest blasphemy.
- As modern men/women of the 21st century surly we have move beyond this type of idolatry and blasphemy.
- Really? You sure?

BLASPHEMY OF BELSHAZZAR vs. 1-9

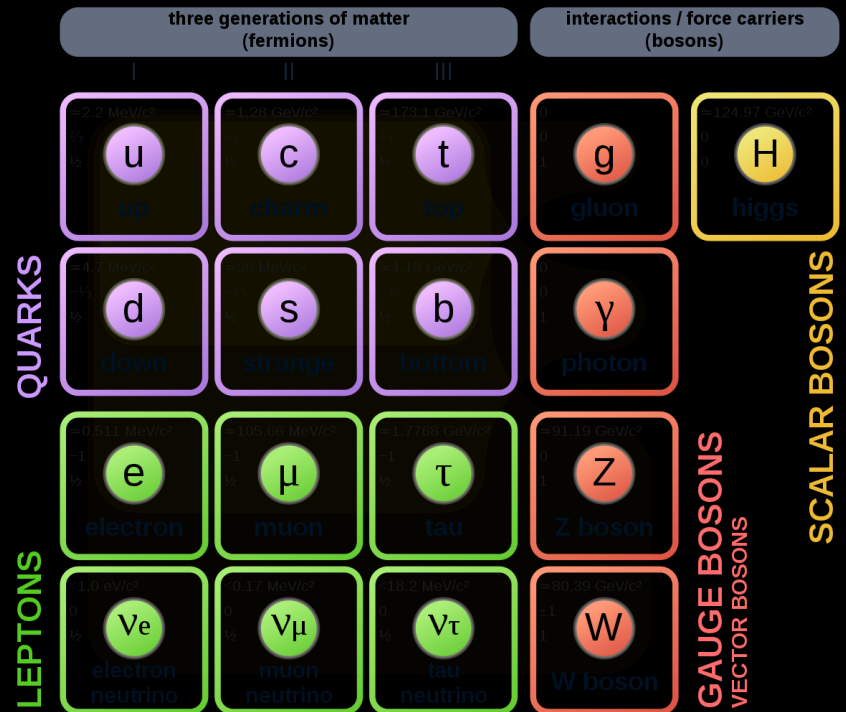
- Men are doing the same today!
- No, they do not worship idols of metal, stone and wood; they have refined their blasphemy to worship subatomic particles of these elements as the source of life.
- But at their essence they are the same!
- A lump of stone did not give rise to me – but its elemental sub-particles did!

Idolatry

Past

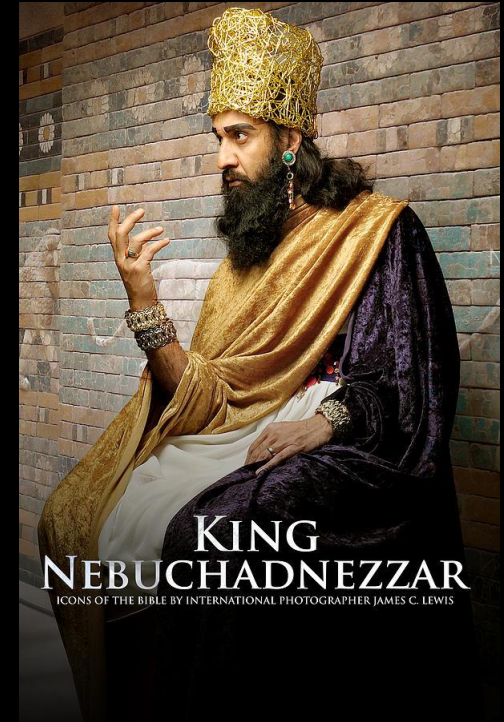


Present



Chapter 4 versus Chapter 5

- Why did God treat Nebuchadnezzar with mercy but Belshazzar with judgement?
- After all, didn't Nebuchadnezzar remove the vessels of the Lord from the temple and putting them in a place of worship to a false god?



NEBUCHADNEZZAR vs. BELSHAZZAR

**Nebuchadnezzar
Absolutized the
Relative**

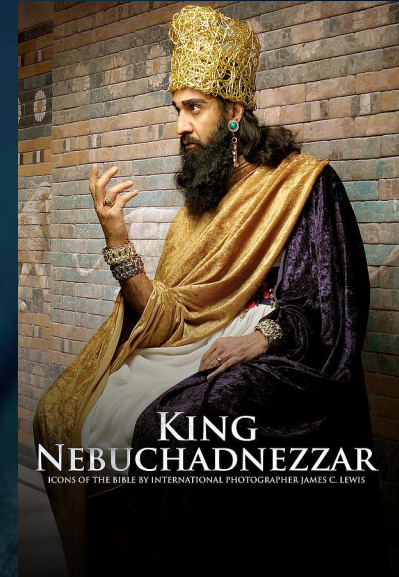
**Belshazzar
Relativized the
Absolute**

NEBUCHADNEZZAR vs. BELSHAZZAR

- Most everything is of some value.
- But only God is of ABSOLUTE value.
- We saw this with Life vs. Eternal Life:
 - No question, life is valuable, but it is of relative value compared with the absolute value of God's eternal life.
- By elevating things of relative value (like Babylon – the kingdom of gold), men make Absolute that which is of Relative value.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR vs. BELSHAZZAR

Nebuchadnezzar
Absolutized the
Relative



- Nebuchadnezzar, in chap. 3 built an image to elevate himself – attempting to DIFY himself.
- He made of absolute value what was of relative value.
- Lost men do this by living vain lives – but there is hope for these – if they repent!

NEBUCHADNEZZAR vs. BELSHAZZAR



**Belshazzar
Relativized the
Absolute**

- Belshazzar weighed God, before God weighed him.
- He took what was sanctified and treated it as nothing – disposable.
- He treated what was of absolute value as if it were of no value!

NEBUCHADNEZZAR vs. BELSHAZZAR

- When men do this, and value God at nothing, there is no hope.
 - *“Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness but is subject to eternal condemnation.”* Mk. 3:28–29
- To value God, or His Son, as nothing is unpardonable.
- It is the sin of rejection.
- WHEN ONE TREATS GOD AS ZERO, GOD HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO TREAT THEM THE SAME WAY.

PROPHECY OF DANIEL vs. 10-28

- Note the difference in tone Daniel uses with Belshazzar vs. Nebuchadnezzar:
 - Belshazzar – *“Let your gifts be for yourself and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing...”* Dan. 5:17
 - Nebuchadnezzar – *“My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!”* Dan. 4:19

PROPHECY OF DANIEL vs. 10-28

- Belshazzar had chosen his path. He was not going to change, not even with all the pastoral care Daniel had.
- Thus, all Daniel could do was execute the office of prophet and be a faithful steward of what God had revealed to him.
 - *“My Spirit shall not strive with man forever...”*
Gen. 6:3
- There is an endpoint to God’s dealings with man.

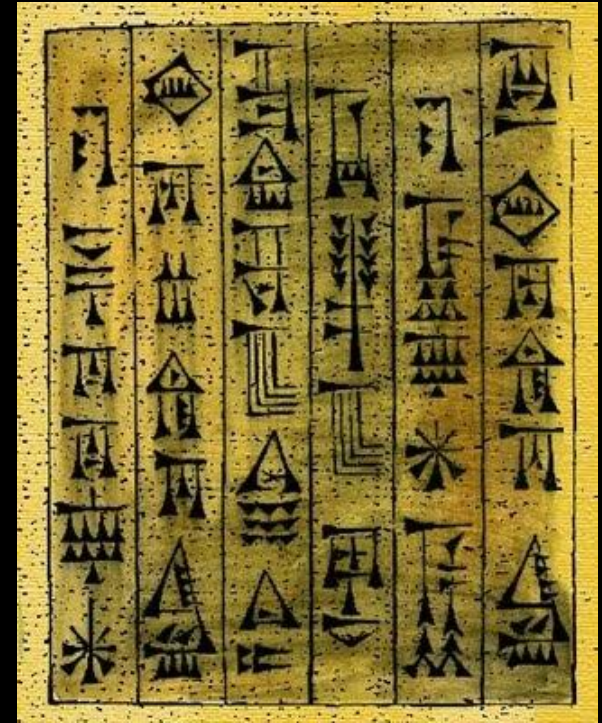


**What was Daniel taught at
Babylon University?**

PROPHECY OF DANIEL

vs. 10-28

- He was taught how to read Chaldean.
- Now, ~70 years later he is called on to do just that!
- Note, the university taught him the words, but God divined their meaning!



PROPHECY OF DANIEL vs. 10-28

- We should never shy away from pure learning!
- There is truth in learning and science.
- Truth that points to God.
- Men sought out science, the study of things, because they believed they would find laws.
- They knew they would find Laws of Science because they believed in a Law Giver.
- But science cannot explain the supernatural.
- Learning only takes us so far!

PROPHECY OF DANIEL vs. 10-28

- Just like learning the Chaldean language took Daniel to the point of understanding the words – science takes us to the point of understanding the elemental.
- But only God could reveal the meaning behind the words – just like only God can reveal the meaning behind His creation!

PROPHECY OF DANIEL

vs. 10-28

- Belshazzar had evaluated God at zero worth.
- So, the hand of God comes from outside our universe to pronounce judgement.
- While written in Aramaic, the language of Babylon, Aramaic is a consonantal text, so there probably were no vowels present making it difficult to understand.
- Daniel, by God's help, put in the vowels and changed the nouns to verbs.



PROPHECY OF DANIEL

vs. 10-28

MENE – ‘numbered’ or ‘mina’ a measure of weight or money weight.

TEKEL – ‘weighed’ or ‘shekel’ a unit of weight and money.

UPHARSIN (singular is Peres) – Upharsin ‘to divide (into many pieces)’ Peres - ‘to divide (once)’



PROPHECY OF DANIEL

vs. 10-28

Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.

Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.



PROVIDENCE OF GOD vs. 29-31

- God's word is final and immutable.
- What He said comes to pass.
- And so, passes the great empire of gold.
- But the people of God survived, into the next empire.
- Why? Because they were inherently better?
- No, but because "*He who promised is faithful*"
Heb. 10:23

THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

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- Begins and ends with FEASTING:
 - Chap. 1 – Daniel called to feast at the kings' table
 - Chap. 5 – Daniel called to divine the truth at the kings' banquet hall



THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

- This 'Golden Empire' that began with feasting ends at a feast.
- At one point Nebuchadnezzar thought that the feasting would go in forever.

THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

- Why did the steward of the king not want Daniel and his friends to abstain from the king's food?
- Because he feared the king might see their "faces looking worse than the other young men." Dan. 1:10
- But in the end, it was the "king's countenance (that) changed, and his thoughts troubled him."
Dan. 5:6

Lessons from **THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE**

- Babylon was the “golden head” of empires – yet it failed.
- Yes, there was feasting for a while, but ultimately the king’s countenance fell, his knees knocked together and that night he lay dead on the floor of the banqueting hall.



Lessons from **THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE**

- Even the best of empires fail, and the best of men fail.
- God's Kingdom, however, will never fail.
- **God's provisions yield the countenance of life.**
- **While men's provisions lead to death.**



BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

1. All Empires fail.
2. The best of men are men at best.
3. Men's provisions lead to death.

GOD'S KINGDOM

1. God's Kingdom will never fail.
2. Men of God overcome the world.
3. God's provisions lead to life.

3 Men Trembled before God

1. King Belshazzar

Trembled but it was Too Late
Daniel 5:5-6

2. Philippian Jailer

Trembled and Trusted
Acts 16:25-29

3. Felix

Trembled and Trifled
Acts 24:24-25



The Finger of God wrote 3 times

3 occasions:

1. Holiness of God – Exodus 31
2. Judgement of God – Daniel 5
3. Love of God – John 8

Each had light associated:

1. Moses' face - Law
2. Lampstand - Judgement
3. Light of the World -
Forgiveness

