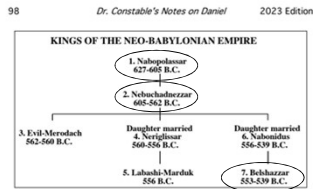


Daniel 5 Belshazzar

Presented by Fred DeRuvo

Belshazzar Reigns

◆ Nebuchadnezzar's **grandson**, Belshazzar and his short-lived rule in Daniel 5



Belshazzar's Feast

- ◆ Daniel 5:1-4 explains the problem:
 - ◆ Belshazzar had a feast
 - ◆ There was a huge celebration for his lords
 - ◆ Wine flowed
 - ◆ Belshazzar ordered the vessels from the Jewish Temple be brought and used during the feast
 - ◆ They praised the gods of "gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone" (v 4)

Belshazzar's Feast

- ◆ **Daniel 5:5-9** sees God's reaction:
 - ◆ A disembodied hand (just fingers) appeared and wrote specific words on the wall across from Belshazzar
 - ◆ The king becomes troubled (v 6)
 - ◆ "his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other" – he becomes petrified
 - ◆ The king ordered the wise men/counselors to come and explain the phenomenon

Belshazzar's Feast

- ◆ **Daniel 5:5-9** sees God's reaction:
 - ◆ King Belshazzar promises person who can read and understand the words to be clothed in purple, given gold and made third ruler of kingdom (v 7).
 - ◆ All the wise men try but fail (v 8).
 - ◆ Belshazzar is beside himself with fear and worry
 - ◆ The queen enters and reminds Belshazzar of Daniel
 - ◆ This is probably the Queen Mother, Nebuchadnezzar's surviving wife, not Belshazzar's wife/wives who were already at the banquet

Belshazzar's Feast

- ◆ **Daniel 5:10-12** the Queen reminds of Daniel:
 - ◆ Hard to believe Belshazzar was not aware of Daniel (Beltshazzar)
 - ◆ He had probably chosen to just ignore him, favoring his own wise men and counselors
 - ◆ The queen encourages Belshazzar to call for Daniel who will reveal the mystery of the writing

Belshazzar's Feast

- ◆ **Daniel 5:13-16** Daniel is brought into Belshazzar:
- ◆ Belshazzar admits he'd "heard" of Daniel
- ◆ He promises Daniel the same thing he promised his wise men (v 16)

Belshazzar's Feast

- ◆ **Daniel 5:17-21** Daniel explains:
- ◆ Daniel refuses Belshazzar's gifts – he's not interested
- ◆ Daniel recounts Nebuchadnezzar's history and God's blessing of him (vv 18-19)
- ◆ Daniel also tells of Nebuchadnezzar's pride leading to his temporary fall (vv 20-21)
- ◆ Daniel then reminds Belshazzar of his own pride and the fact that he understood what happened to his grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar

Belshazzar's Feast

- ◆ **Daniel 5:22-24** Daniel explains:
- ◆ In spite of this, Daniel reminds Belshazzar he ignored all of what God did to Nebuchadnezzar
- ◆ Belshazzar's pride prompted his actions against God (v 23)
 - ◆ He used the holy vessels and drank from them
 - ◆ He praised the gods of wood, stone, silver and gold, etc.
 - ◆ These gods are nothing and cannot see or hear
 - ◆ Yet Belshazzar ignored the only God because of pride

Belshazzar's Feast

- ◆ Daniel 5:22-24 Daniel explains:
 - ◆ Belshazzar failed to give glory to God because of his immense pride
 - ◆ Belshazzar's life was in God's hand yet he did not consider it
 - ◆ God sent His judgment in the form of writing as a warning of what would be (v 24)

Belshazzar's Feast

- ◆ Daniel 5:25-28 Daniel explains:
 - ◆ Belshazzar does what he promises and gives Daniel
 - ◆ Purple clothing
 - ◆ Gold
 - ◆ Third ruler of kingdom
 - ◆ I doubt that Daniel was impressed with any of this and likely knew he would not become third ruler under Belshazzar

Belshazzar's Fall

- ◆ Daniel 5:30-31 Belshazzar's Fall:
 - ◆ That very night, Darius the Mede slays Belshazzar
 - ◆ Apparently, the Persians diverted the water from the Euphrates River that flowed through Babylon
 - ◆ The Persians were then able to simply walk into Babylon on the river bed and climb the unprotected walls
 - ◆ The Babylonians under Belshazzar thought their city impenetrable and were unaware of what had happened until it was too late

Belshazzar's Death

- ◆ Daniel 5:30-31 Belshazzar's Fall:
 - ◆ That very night, Darius the Mede slays Belshazzar
 - ◆ Apparently, the Persians diverted the water from the Euphrates River that flowed through Babylon
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Darius is Given the Kingdom

- ◆ Daniel 5:31 Darius
 - ◆ Darius is roughly 62 years old when God gave him the Babylonian Kingdom
 - ◆ Babylon represents the world and how it often ignores and even blasphemes God
 - ◆ The day of judgment is coming when God will pour out His wrath onto this world (7 year Tribulation of Revelation 6-18)
 - ◆ Just as Babylon fell on the 16th day of Tishri (Oct 11 or 12), 539 BC, so will the world be overtaken by complete disaster when the day of the Lord comes (1 Thess 5:1-3)

Day of the Lord

- ◆ The Day of the Lord is generally understood to be that extended period of time starting with the Tribulation...
- ◆ Including all events of the 2nd Coming of Christ and the Millennial Kingdom on earth (see Joel)
- ◆ In 1 Thess 5:1-3, Paul focuses on the *beginning* of that day, which begins *unexpectedly* like a thief in the night

Pride: Our Downfall

- ◆ God saw something redeemable in Nebuchadnezzar
- ◆ He knew that humbling Nebuchadnezzar would have the chosen effect
- ◆ God knew that Belshazzar was *not* redeemable and an attempt to humble him would have no effect
- ◆ Belshazzar was judged, found wanting and killed
- ◆ The kingdom was given to another

Pride: Our Downfall

- ◆ Any one of us can be overcome with pride and lack humility
- ◆ We can dig in and make our situation worse leaving God no choice
- ◆ **I Corinthians 11:30** explains what can happen to Christians who continue in sin/pride – God may choose to take them home early
- ◆ We must always guard our hearts and recognize that sin through pride is never far away

Avoiding a Hard Heart

- ◆ **Proverbs 28:14** - How blessed is the man who fears always, But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity
- ◆ **Zechariah 7:12** - They made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the Lord of hosts.
- ◆ **Psalms 51:17** - The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.
