

BOOK OF DANIEL

Chapter 5

When wise men fail

8 Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the inscription or make known its interpretation to the king.

It is no surprise that wise men of the world cannot understand the Word of God. It is made known by the Spirit of God.

9 Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, his face grew *even* paler, and his nobles were perplexed.

Greatly alarmed (we know from verse 6 that this occurred in his head; his thoughts became even more alarmed; –fear; –uncertainty; To the point that now his body is even more affected so that the blood is shocked from flowing adequately to his body; ...the king is getting close to shock and his fear is contagious to all who are present at this great feast.)

they were perplexed (astonished – they have praised this man, just as many here today praise our President, but when God acts, the world will again be astonished, perplexed.)

It will be a wise believing woman who will come with wisdom.

Wisdom from the Queen

10 The queen entered the banquet hall because of the words of the king and his nobles; the queen spoke and said, “O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts alarm you or your face be pale.

Who is this queen?

This queen is actually Belshazzar the King’s mother Nitocris, not to be confused with an Egyptian queen of the same name. (Google).

She believed in the Messiah of Daniel –probably through the Nebuchadnezzar tract on Salvation.

The feast that Belshazzar threw was full of debauchery and ladies of high station did not attend. Either she heard or it was reported to her of the handwriting on the wall and the great fear that swept through the hall

because of the words of the king and his nobles~(fear and panic echoed through the large banquet hall, all the debauchery had suddenly stopped and now they were drunk with fear! None of the great leaders had an answer!)

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The queen entered the hall and she does start judging her son or the activities going on, she goes right to the issue at hand.

Wisdom: one believer points out another believer who has understanding!

What a wonderful testimony this is..... that others know you, because of not just your **Knowledge of Scripture** but your **understanding**... your **wisdom** and your **Spiritual Life**

What do you want people to say about you?

11 “There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods;

First, she recognizes that inside of this man Daniel is the Holy Spirit; not just Knowledge but Knowledge given by the Holy Spirit and then she speaks of three areas of wisdom given to Daniel by Holy Spirit.

and in the days of your father, illumination, insight

and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him.

illumination (Aramaic—light, understanding, illumination this means Daniel can read it)

insight (this means Daniel can understand it –understand what it means)

wisdom (this means Daniel can make practical historical application to Belshazzar.)

We need to be able to do all three, it might be argued that being able to read it, that is read the Biblical

text, but for proper illumination, and insight and wisdom all demand the ministry of Holy Spirit.

wisdom of the gods—wisdom of Elohím found in him

(when needed it was there to guide)

And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, your father the king,

(actually great grandfather {Abraham - father}) appointed him chief of the magicians, conjurers, Chaldeans *and* diviners.

She knows who Daniel is and where he is

12 “*This was* because an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and insight, interpretation of dreams, explanation of enigmas and solving of difficult problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar.

Just look at the description of this Daniel

-In him is the Holy Sprit

-illumination, insight, and wisdom

-extraordinary Spirit in Him;

This is a reference to the Holy Spirit, the same Holy Spirit that every one of us have Indwelling us right now!

Knowledge,

same Knowledge that every one of you can have right now by the daily study of Word of God. Remember that Daniel knew the Old Testament and studied the Old Testament.

Insight

put so many things together in history and in Word of God

interpretation of dreams;

explanation of enigmas

this is the one that will attract Belshazzar right now

Aramaic word meaning, puzzle, riddle—enigmas—mysteries—obscure speech or writings,

-solving of difficult problems

of all categories - were all found in this Daniel

This tells us that there is so much about Daniel in the silent 23 years that are not recorded in Scripture, Daniel did so many other things than we have recorded here and this Queen paid attention over the years to every time Daniel was called upon to serve Nebuchadnezzar. So know that Daniel did so much more than is recorded here in book of Daniel. And she now beckons her son Belshazzar to summons this Daniel.

Let Daniel now be summoned and he will declare the interpretation.”

Daniel...God is judge-- and she is saying to Belshazzar that God is his judge as well.

The God of Israel is the Judge of the world.

So we also know that a number of people were not in attendance at this feast. Ladies of the estate of the Queen and wise people like Daniel and his 3 friends. It would not surprise me that these 4 were praying together for the nation of Babylon.

Daniel confronts the King ...again!

13 Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Are you that Daniel who is one of the exiles from Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah?"

Note that he does not refer to Daniel by his Babylonian name but by his Jewish name. He is keeping the racial position of this Daniel and assuring himself that he has the correct man before him.

14 "Now I have heard about you that a spirit of the gods is in you, and that illumination, insight and extraordinary wisdom have been found in you.

15 "Just now the wise men *and* the conjurers were brought in before me that they might read this inscription and make its interpretation known to me, but they could not declare the interpretation of the message.

16 “But I personally have heard about you, that you are able to give interpretations and solve difficult problems. Now if you are able to read the inscription and make its interpretation known to me, you will be clothed with purple and *wear* a necklace of gold around your neck, and you will have authority as the third *ruler* in the kingdom.”

How different this is to the OFFER MADE BY SATAN to Jesus Christ.

IF JESUS CHRIST WOULD BOW DOWN AND WORSHIP HIM,
HE, SATAN WOULD GIVE ALL THE WORLD
TO JESUS CHRIST.

B u t o f c o u r s e J e s u s C h r i s t r e f u s e d .

When a person lives for the things on earth he becomes a slave to the things of earth.

We set our eyes toward heaven where Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of God, knowing that we will be with Him for all eternity.

17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Keep your gifts for yourself or give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription to the king and make the interpretation known to him.

Daniel's gifts from God are not for sell!

**He knows this king is not a believer and is only using him,
but Daniel is sent by God for this hour!**

Here before us stands two men:

Belshazzaar King of Babylon

and

Daniel, the man of God;

from one is the **love of money;**

and since the love of money is the root of all evil,

the love of God must be the root of all greatness.

Daniel will serve the King under the Principle of **Grace!**

Lessons from history past

**Daniel now gives King Belshazzar some lessons, he (King Belshazzar)
should have learned.**

18 “O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory
and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father.

19 “Because of the grandeur which He bestowed on him, all the
peoples, nations and *men of every language* feared and trembled

before him; whomever he wished he killed and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated and whomever he wished he humbled.

20 “But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, (at the height of his arrogance God moved in to bring him down) he was deposed from his royal throne and *his* glory was taken away from him.

In verse 18 God gave these privileges to Nebuchadnezzar and God takes them away; **DANIEL IS WARNING BELSHAZZAR ABOUT GOD.**

21 “He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like *that of* beasts, and his dwelling place *was* with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and *that* He sets over it whomever He wishes.

Belshazzar did not learn

We now see the COURAGE of Daniel.

He speaks boldly before the King without fear.

**There comes the times in the declaration of truth
that it must be proclaimed with boldness!**

22 “Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart,
even though you knew all this, (he did not believe in Jesus Christ, the
God of Nebuchadnezzar:)

Note the word all this Belshazzar had all the information he needed to
repent and believe in Jesus Christ but he refused to and went into
idolatry

Rom. 1:18-20

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness
and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in
unrighteousness,

¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for
God made it evident to them.

²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

You knew all this and yet it made no difference to you, you did not repent and believe in this One True God but kept right on with your idolatry and arrogance.

It is amazing how many believers have Knowledge and it does not make a difference in their lives.

Even with that great testimony before you, you did not humble yourself,

You did not acknowledge Him as the only God;

you learned nothing from History.

Take a look at American history

—it's been founded on Principles from the Bible—

openly denied today by historians;

how we blessed the Jews and were blessed.

And now we side with their enemies.

The USA has been blessed economically, materially, scientifically, militarily; but we today have not learned from this; we think it is because we ourselves are so wonderful...

God has preserved this nation:

Until the “9-11 Attack”, “Pearl Harbor” was as close as we have come to be attacked on home soil, but all this is changing now...and a wise person must ask **why?**

And a wise person must be there to answer—it is about the one true God, not Allah, but **Jehovah Elohim**, God of Israel.

We have removed the Word of God, THE BIBLE, out of our Judicial system and educational system, where we are raising a generation of young people who not only do not know Bible but do not even respect it.

Daniel now challenges the King with harsh words.

Progression: Path of Arrogance: starts with rejection of JESUS CHRIST and then turning to idolatry and blasphemy.

23 but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven;
(Blasphemy against the only true God)

and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and
you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines have been

drinking wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand.

But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and all your ways, you have not glorified.

Where does *life* come?

God is the creator of life--and gives the spark of life to every person born throughout history of mankind. He (The King) does not even respect that from this God comes life!

This is so much like America where as a nation we have renounced God as the creator of life!

24 “Then (as a result of his arrogance in verse 23, his rejection of the Messiah of Daniel; **God Acts**; we should understand how destructive human arrogance is)

Then the hand was sent from Him and this inscription was written out.

25 “Now this is the inscription that was written out:

‘MENE; MENE; TEKĒL, UPHARSIN.’

In English text we have a transliteration, not translation.

In ancient time they did not write the vowels, only the consonants were written; so the way this would have looked

MN'MN' TKL' PH RSN

While we are in Aramaic section of Daniel this is based on the Hebrew.

So none of the wise men were able to read it much less understand

MENE means to number

TEKEL means to weigh

UPHARSIN to divide, to scatter

MENE MENE TEKEL UPHARSIN

26 “This is the interpretation of the message: ‘MENE’—

God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.

The **Time of the Head of Gold** in Nebuchadnezzar statue of chapter 2 has now run out, less than 100 years.

It is the **Time of the Gentiles** and it is in full swing ..the 1st empire has come and gone.

27 “‘TEKĒL’—you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient.

They are deficient of the coming Messiah!

It is amazing how that in spite of all the reading through the Word of

God man still insists

there is NO DIVINE JUDGMENT for REJECTION OF JESUS CHRIST.

there is NO DIVINE JUDGMENT for SINS...

that much is correct, SINS have been judged on the cross;

but THERE IS JUDGMENT FROM GOD for ALL

WHO REFUSE THE GRACE GIVEN THROUGH HIS SON.

John 3:18

¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the ^[f]only begotten Son of God.

The issue is not the presence or absence of sin, but of the presence of the +R (Perfect Righteousness) of God, which can be obtained only by the Divine Imputation of +R at the point of faith in Jesus Christ.

How can man be Righteous before God?

Without Jesus Christ

all men

are found to be deficient of God's Righteousness.

28 “‘**PERĒS**’ means **to divide; to scatter**—your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians.”

29 Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and *put* a necklace of gold around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he *now* had authority as the third *ruler* in the kingdom.

If this were not so sad it would be funny, Daniel is third in line of authority of a kingdom that was going to end this very night.

Belshazzar is so disoriented to what Daniel has said that instead of asking Daniel what he can do to save his own soul, he decorates Daniel.

Belshazzar is like so many people today, they do not understand the gravity of their own existence.

As far as Daniel is concerned, he does not care about this promotion.

Daniel knows that the only promotion that counts is the promotion that comes from God.

30 That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain.

31 So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.

Why does the Holy Spirit mention that Darius the Mede was about 62?

Think about this, what does it matter to us that he was 62?

First: Darius is not a proper name. It was a title and it meant holder of the scepter.

Second: as to why the Holy Spirit mentions he was 62:

“This shows that on the day Nebuchadnezzar entered the Temple of the Lord, when Jehoiachin was reigning in Judah, his arch-enemy Darius was born. The night Belshazzar died and Darius took the kingdom was exactly 70 years after Nebuchadnezzar became kind of Babylon and 69 years after he conquered Jehoiakim. *Ancient Seder Olam 28*

At the very time this banquet was going on, there were Medo-Persian soldiers were digging so that it would divert the flow of the Euphrates river which ran under the walls of Babylon and making their way into the city to overpowering the city.



The Impregnable, Titanic city of Babylon fell in one night!

The Lord raises up a kingdom and God takes it down!

God controls all human history

Dan. 2:20-21; 28-29; 44

²⁰ Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever,
For wisdom and power belong to Him.

²¹ "It is He who changes the times and the epochs;
He removes kings and establishes kings;
He gives wisdom to wise men
And knowledge to men of understanding.

²⁸ However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind *while* on your bed. ²⁹ As for you, O king, *while* on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals mysteries has made known to you what will take place.

⁴⁴ In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

4:25 ...until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.

4:37

³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.”

Isaiah prophesied some 200 years earlier that the Medo-Persian Empire would subdue the Great Babylon

Isa. 13:17

¹⁷ Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them,
Who will not value silver or take pleasure in gold.

Isaiah wrote some 200 years before Cyrus was even born and yet Isaiah calls him by name.

Fall of Babylon:

Remember that Babylon is more than an isolated kingdom in the times of the Gentiles. Babylon is a system that will come up in Revelation. It is an Anti-God, Anti-Christ system of man's deep obsession of a Utopia world order without God.

This obsession began in Genesis 11 under Nimrod, then under Egyptian form, Assyria, then Babylon—Medo-Persia, Grecian and of course Rome—all exhibit the Spirit of Babylonism.

Then in history, after the Holy Spirit is removed and the Church is removed the Great Dictator of Rome, The Fourth Beast of Daniel 7; The little horn of Daniel 7 Man of Lawlessness of 1 Thessalonians; The Son of Destruction of 2 Thessalonians; The Beast of Revelation 11 known as the Anti-Christ.

And for a brief period of the Tribulation he will succeed where all the other failed in bringing about a world government but at the right moment The Stone of Daniel 2, the Lord Jesus Christ will come and end his evil dominion. And the kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Jesus Christ will reign forever and ever.

Dan 2:44

⁴⁴ In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

Rev. 11:15

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”



COMING to a sermon near you.

Chapter 6