

The background of the image is a dark, textured surface. In the upper left corner, there is a large, bright orange and yellow flame. In the lower right corner, there is another large, bright orange and yellow flame. In the center of the image, there is a faint, dark, and somewhat blurry image of a human skull, which appears to be the focal point of the background.

Weighed and Wanting

Elder: Chadwick Sadaphal

Date: 09-21-2025

We continue our sermons in the book of Daniel

- **Much has changed in Babylon from where we last left off in Chapter 3**

We are about to read
Daniel Chapter 5, 539 B.C

- **Nebuchadnezzar passed away in 563 B.C.**

**LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE CHAIN OF EVENTS
THAT FOLLOWED NEBCHADNEZZAR'S DEATH**

His son, Amel-Marduk succeeded his father from 562-560 B.C.

- → He was the one who released Jeconiah from captivity after 37 years
- → He was killed by his own brother-in-law Neriglissar

**Neriglissar ruled only 4 years,
560-556 B.C.**

- **→ His son Lebashi-Marduk succeeded him**

Lebashi-Marduk ruled only 2 months!! in 556 B.C.

- **He was overthrown and killed, with Nabonidus named his successor**

Nabonidus ruled the empire for 17 years from 556-539 B.C.

- → Spent extensive time in Arabia
- → In his absence, his son Belshazzar ruled Babylon in his place
- → Belshazzar is the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar

THIS IS WHERE OUR STORY PICKS UP

Daniel 5:1 King James Version

5 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

**Over 1000 people are in attendance for this
lavish and soon to be idolatrous feast**

- **→ Babylonians were known for lavish feasts**

They felt invincible as the dominant empire on earth

- **→ High city walls and gates**
- **→ Plenty of food, water, supplies stored up**

**LITTLE DID THEY KNOW THAT
THIS WOULD BE THE LAST PARTY
THAT THEY EVER ATTEND**

Daniel 5:2 King James Version

2 Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

Always pay attention to what the Bible says:

- **→ Belshazzar drank the wine, THEN he orders a sacrilegious act**
- **→ God's sacred vessels from the temple in Jerusalem, taken by Nebuchadnezzar, are to be used for drinking wine towards idol worship**

Romans 3:13 King James Version

13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

Proverbs 23:20 King James Version

20 Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:

Isaiah 5:11 King James Version

**11 Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning,
that they may follow strong drink; that continue
until night, till wine inflame them!**

- **Blasphemy, idolatry and immorality all against God are about to be on full display here**

Daniel 5:3-4 King James Version

3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.

4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

- **The sacred vessels are being used profanely, along with being used to worship idols**

HERE COMES THE PARTY STOPPER

Daniel 5:5 King James Version

5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

- **:”wrote against the candlestick.....”**
- **THIS WAS DONE TO MAKE IT VISIBLE TO EVERYONE IN ATTENDANCE**
- **WHEN GOD SPEAKS, EBVERYONE WILL BE FORCED TO LISTEN!!!!**

**This cocky, arrogant king was now crippled
by fear so much that he literally lost control
of his body parts**

WHERE IS YOUR WINE NOW TOUGH GUY??

WHY AREN'T YOU DRINKING BIG MAN???

Daniel 5:7-9 King James Version

7 The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

8 Then came in all the king's wise men: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof.

9 Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished.

Chaldeans/astrologers/soothsayers/sorcerers/magicians are called on to interpret what this means

The king promises wealth, power, and a title of 3rd ruler in the kingdom (more than likely a high ranking court position) to whoever can explain what this means

**Could they provide answers? Of course not
GOD CAN NOT BE BRIBED OR BOUGHT!!!!**

Micah 3:11 King James Version

11 The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the Lord, and say, Is not the Lord among us? none evil can come upon us.

Proverbs 17:22 King James Version

22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Proverbs 21:14 King James Version

14 A gift in secret pacifieth anger: and a reward in the bosom strong wrath.

The king and his advisors have no answers

**WE ARE ABOUT TO MEET THE
UNSUNG HERO OF THIS STORY**

Daniel 5:10-12 King James Version

10 Now the queen by reason of the words of the king and his lords came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed:

11 There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the

king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers;

12 Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.

The queen mother (NO NAME!!) makes a bold entrance, and makes a bold request

Look closely at how she is described:

→ "by reason of the words.....came into the banquet house"

**WAS SHE NOT PARTAKING IN THE
WICKEDNESS THAT EVERYONE ELSE WAS?**

**IN THE MIDST OF THIS EVIL , DID SHE MAKE
A CHOICE TO REMAIN SOBER?**

She clearly remembered what Daniel had done for Nebuchadnezzar decades ago, She tells her son to bring this man Daniel to interpret what the handwriting on the wall means

Remember, Daniel had not played a major role in the Babylonian court in over 20 years since Nebuchadnezzar's death

→ At this time, Daniel was about 80 years old

YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO BE USED BY GOD!!!!

Daniel 5:13-16 King James Version

13 Then was Daniel brought in before the king. And the king spake and said unto Daniel, Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry? 14 I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee. 15 And now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing,

**and make known unto me the interpretation thereof:
but they could not shew the interpretation of the
thing: 16 And I have heard of thee, that thou canst
make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if
thou canst read the writing, and make known to me
the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with
scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and
shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom. standing and
wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in
him; whom the**

Look at how the king addresses Daniel:

→ “art of the children of captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry?”

THIS STATEMENT WAS DESIGNED TO REMIND DANIEL OF HIS PLACE IN THE BABYLONIAN POWER STRUCTURE

The king ignores his own mother's assessment of Daniel, as well as what he did for this grandfather

ISN'T IT FUNNY.....

WHEN ENOUGH TIME GOES BY.....

**PEOPLE FORGET THOSE WHO HELPED THEM RECEIVE
GOD'S BLESSINGS???**

Daniel 5:17 King James Version

**17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king,
Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to
another; yet I will read the writing unto the king,
and make known to him the interpretation.**

**Daniel refuses the gifts, but is willing
to interpret the dream anyways**

**CAN YOU REFUSE THE WORLD'S
TEMPTATIONS IN ORDER TO DO
GOD'S WORK??**

James 1:12 King James Version

12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

1 Cor 10:13 King James Version

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Daniel 5:18-23 King James Version

**18 O thou king, the most high God gave
Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty,
and glory, and honour:**

**19 And for the majesty that he gave him, all people,
nations, and languages, trembled and feared before
him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would
he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and
whom he would he put down.**

20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him:

21 And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.

**22 And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled
thine heart, though thou knewest all this; 23 But
hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and
they have brought the vessels of his house before
thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy
concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast
praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron,
wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know:
and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose
are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:**

Daniel reminds Belshazzar of his grandfathers demise:

- Because of pride, Nebuchadnezzar was removed from the throne**
- He went insane and and lived outside like a wild animal**
- He remained that way until he acknowledged the Lord's sovereignty**

Now, Daniel reminds Belshazzar of his own sins:

- pride**
- hard-hearted and defiant towards God**
- blasphemy and profaning the holy name of God**
- idolatry**
- failing to honor the Lord who holds life and death in his hands**

JUDGEMENT DAY HAS COME!!!!

BABYLON WILL FALL TONIGHT!!!!

Daniel 5:24-28 King James Version

24 Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written. **25** And this is the writing that was written, Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin.

26 This is the interpretation of the thing: Mene; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

27 Tekel; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. **28** Peres; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

GOD SPEAKS FOUR WORDS

MENE (2X)

**means numbered/counted/measured
→ the king's reign was over**

TEKEL

**means weighed and found wanting
→ he had not lived up to God's
standards of righteousness**

UPHARSIN

**means divided → Babylon will fall
and be split among the
Medes and Persians**

1 Peter 4:17 King James Version

17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

Psalm 37:38 King James Version

**38 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together:
the end of the wicked shall be cut off.**

HOW DOES THE STORY END?

Daniel 5:29-31 King James Version

29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old..

**Remember, normally anyone who would
say this to a king would be executed**

**Shockingly, Belshazzar keeps his word
and rewards Daniel**

WHY? WE WILL NEVER KNOW

**THAT NIGHT, BELSHAZZAR IS KILLED
AND
BABYLON FALLS**

DANIEL IS PROMOTED AGAIN!!!!!!

**WHEN GOD WRITES ON YOUR WALL TODAY,
WHAT WILL HE SAY ABOUT YOU??**

**WILL HE FIND YOU
WEIGHED AND WANTING?**

**WILL HE FIND YOU NOT LIVING
UP TO THE STANDARDS
OF CHRISTIAN LIVING?**



Weighed and Wanting

Elder: Chadwick Sadaphal