



LORDSHIP, LOYALTY AND LONGSUFFERING!

DANIEL CH 5- YAHWEH SHOWS HIS SUPREME LORDSHIP IN THE
SENTENCING OF A KING AND THE TRANSFER OF HIS KINGDOM.

1. THE BACKGROUND AND SETTING

- ▶ NEBU. HAS DIED AND THERE WAS A CRAZY POWER STRUGGLE FOR THE THRONE. NOT SO MUCH OF A CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT BUT A THEOLOGICAL ONE
- ▶ The name “Belshazzar” means “Bel, protect the king” (not to be confused with “Belteshazzar,” the Babylonian name given to Daniel, 1:7 note). From Babylonian sources we know that Belshazzar was placed in charge of affairs in Babylon while his father, Nabonidus, the last king of Babylon, spent extensive periods of time at Tema in Arabia. The events of this chapter took place in 539 B.C., the year of Babylon’s fall to the Persians, forty-two years after the death of Nebuchadnezzar in 563 B.C.
- ▶ The immediate father of Belshazzar was Nabonidus, not Nebuchadnezzar. It is not unusual for the terms “father” (vv. 11, 13, 18) and “son” (v. 22) to be used as equivalents for “predecessor” and “successor” (text notes).

WHY THE FEAST WHEN ENEMIES ARE OUTSIDE? SELF CONFIDENCE, MORALE BOOSTING!

Conservative calculations set the dimensions of the ancient city of Babylon like this:

The outer walls were 17 miles (27 kilometers) long. · These walls were 22 feet (7 meters) thick and 90 feet (28 meters) high. · The outer walls also had guard towers another 100 feet (30 meters) high. · The city gates were made of bronze. · A system of inner and outer walls and moats made the city very secure.

-IT IS SO TEMPTING TO PUT OUR HOPE IN EARTHLY SECURITIES.

-FROM OUTSIDE THE WALLS THE ENEMIES TOO MAY HAVE THOUGHT THESE PEOPLE SURE ARE CONFIDENT

-PEOPLE IN THE PARTY MAY HAVE BEEN TEMPTED TO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE SAFE AS A MOUNTAIN

-THE KING DID NOT KNOW THAT HE WAS PARTYING ON THE EDGE OF DEADLY CLIFF WHERE HIS LIFE WOULD BE OVER IN A FEW HOURS TIME.

THE REAL FEAST WE ARE ALREADY PART OF- HEB 12:22-24

2.THE SELF EXALTING DEPRAVITY OF MAN. DRUNKUNNESS FURTHER BROUGHT OUT HIS DEPRAVITY V2-4

- ▶ Wine is a **mock**er, strong drink a **br**wler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise. Prov 20:1
- ▶ And **do not get drunk** with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, Eph 5:18
- ▶ Who has **woe**? Who has **sorrow**? Who has **strife**? Who has **complaining**? Who has **wounds** without cause? Who has **redness** of eyes? Those who tarry long over wine; those who go to try mixed wine. Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. In the end it **bites like a serpent** and stings like an adder. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things. ...Prov 23:29ff
- ▶ “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.LK 21:34
- ▶ **1 PETER 4** Therefore, since Christ has ^[a]suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, **because the one who has ^[b]suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,** ² so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human lusts, but for the will of God. ³ For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, ^[c]having pursued a course of indecent behavior, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties, and wanton idolatries. ⁴ In *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* in the same excesses of ^[d]debauchery, and they slander *you*;
- ▶ NOT BRAWLING BUT FOOLISH PRIDE WAS THE RESULT. OH! LETS BRING OUT THE VESSELS THAT WE CAPTURED AND CELEBRATE OUR GREATNESS AND HOW GREAT OUR GODS ARE ESP THE MOON GOD “SIN”.

THEY EXCHANGED THE GLORY OF THE ONE TRUE GOD! ROM 1:18-23

- ▶ "I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images. [Isa 42:8 NASB95]
- ▶ Their idols are silver and gold, The work of man's hands. [Psa 115:4 NASB95] They have mouths, but they cannot speak; They have eyes, but they cannot see; [Psa 115:5 NASB95] They have ears, but they cannot hear; They have noses, but they cannot smell; [Psa 115:6 NASB95] They have hands, but they cannot feel; They have feet, but they cannot walk; They cannot make a sound with their throat. [Psa 115:7 NASB95] Those who make them will become like them, Everyone who trusts in them. [Psa 115:8 NASB95]
- ▶ The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; [Rev 9:20 NASB95]
- ▶ ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming COL 3:5-6

2.THE SWIFT DECLARATION OF JUDGEMENT V5-9

- ▶ YOU KNOW BASED ON THE BOOK THAT YAHWEH IS NOT GOING TO LET IT SLIDE. HE WILL VINDICATE HIS NAME.
- ▶ THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES WHEN GOD HAS BEEN VERY PATIENT. LIKE THE DAYS OF NOAH, TILL THE ARK WAS BUILT.
- ▶ BUT THAT IS NOT WEAKNESS, HE HAS SHOWN ALSO THAT HE CAN ACT IMMEDIATELY IN HIS JUSTICE AND WRATH.
- ▶ "While the word [was] in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, [saying,] 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, [Dan 4:31 NASB95]
- ▶ Before they had satisfied their desire, While their food was in their mouths, [Psa 78:30 NASB95]
- ▶ A man who hardens [his] neck after much reproof Will suddenly be broken beyond remedy. [Pro 29:1 NASB95]
- ▶ "But God said to him, 'You fool! This [very] night your soul is required of you; and [now] who will own what you have prepared?' [Luk 12:20 NASB95]
- ▶ For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. [1Th 5:2 NASB95]
- ▶ While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. [1Th 5:3 NASB95]

THE VERDICT WAS OUT! V5

- ▶ IN CHAPTER 4 NEBU ALSO HAS A VERDICT FROM THE WATCHERS GIVEN. BUT HIS LIFE IS NOT TAKEN. HE IS HUMBLING AND CAUSED TO LEARN HIS LESSON AND HE GLORIFIES GOD.
- ▶ IN CH 5 THE VERDICT IS OUT AND BEL. GETS THE JUSTICE OF BEING STRUCK DOWN THAT VERY NIGHT.
- ▶ "While the word [was] in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, [saying,] 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, [Dan 4:31 NASB95]"
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- ▶ THE HUMBLING EXPLANATION IS THE SOVERIEGN MERCY OF GOD!
- ▶ *¹⁴ What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses,*
- ▶ *"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."^[f]*
- ▶ *¹⁶ It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. ¹⁷ For Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."^[g] ¹⁸ Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. ROM 9:14-18*

- ▶ THE PALACE WALLS WERE USED FOR DECORATING AND HIGHLIGHTING THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE EMPIRE. WHAT ARE ALL OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS? IF GOD IS GOING TO SEND AN ETERNAL VERDICT UPON US!

THE KING'S RESPONSE TO THE VERDICT! V6-9

- ▶ BEL. HAS JUST SEEN A HAND WRITE SOMETHING ON THE PALACE WALLS. HE KNOWS THAT HE HAS DRUNK FROM THE CUPS OF THE GOD WHO HUMBLER NEBU. HE IS TERRIFIED.
- ▶ ONE MIGHT THINK HE IS TERRIFIED AND HUMBLER TO REPENT.
- ▶ BUT IN THE MIDST OF THE TERROR HIS RESPONSE IS TO TURN TO THE WISE MEN OF BABYLON. THEY HAVE NO CLUE.
- ▶ THE WORLD DOES NOT KNOW HOW HOLY AND JUST GOD IS. HOW HE HAS APPOINTED A DAY TO JUDGE THE WORLD. THEY THEREFOR SEEK TO DO GOOD WORKS TO EARN SALVATION. THAT IS A COMPLETELY WRON WAY FOR YOUR ETERNAL SOUL.
- ▶ BUT DO YOU KNOW THAT EVEN IF YOUR SINS ARE WRITTEN WITH A PEN OF IRON AND YOU ARE UNDER THE JUST JUDGEMENT OF GOD, THERE IS A WAY FOR YOUR VERDICT TO BE WIPED CLEAN AND BE DECLARED AS JUST AND RIGHTEOUS BEFORE A HOLY GOD!
- ▶ ***COL 2-having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. [Col 2:14 NASB95]***
- ▶ ***ROM 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.***

CONCLUDING APPLICATIONS-

- ▶ HASTE NOT THY SOUL ON A MOMENT'S DELAY!
- ▶ SEE THE WORLD'S FEASTS FOR WHAT THEY TRULY ARE WITHOUT CHRIST!
- ▶ HOW GRATEFUL WE SHOULD BE THAT WE HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE. JOHN 5
- ▶ HOW WE SHOULD PRAY FOR AND WARN OUR FRIENDS WHO ARE UNDER THE CONDEMNATION OF GOD.
- ▶ HOW WE SHOULD ENJOY THE FEAST THAT GOD SPREADS BEFORE US FOR OUR SOUL AND LONG FOR THAT GREAT FEAST THAT IS TO COME!