

## The Vision Fulfilled

<sup>28</sup> “All of *this* happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king. <sup>29</sup> Twelve months later he was walking on the *roof of* the royal palace of Babylon. <sup>30</sup> The king began speaking and was saying, ‘Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the honor of my majesty?’ <sup>31</sup> *While* the word *was* still in the king’s mouth, a voice came from heaven, *saying*, ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, <sup>32</sup> and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place *will be* with the animals of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.’ <sup>33</sup> Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles’ *feathers* and his nails like birds’ *claws*.

# Scripture and Pride

- Prov 16:18
- Isa 14:12-15; Ezek 28:12-17
- 1 Tim 3:6
- Acts 12:20-23
- 2 Cor 12:7-10
- 1 Pet 5:5-6



\*Proverbs 16:28- Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

\*Isaiah 14:12 How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn!

You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

\*Acts 12:21-23 On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. <sup>22</sup> They shouted, “This is the voice of a god, not of a man.” <sup>23</sup> Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

\*2 Corth. 12:7-9 ...Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

\*1 Peter 5:5-6 ...“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

<sup>34</sup> “But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom *endures* from generation to generation.

<sup>35</sup> All the inhabitants of the earth are of no account, But He does according to His will among the army of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of earth; And no one can fend off His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’

<sup>36</sup> At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the honor of my kingdom, and my state counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, **and surpassing greatness was added to me.** <sup>37</sup> 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.”

## Succession of Leadership

- Nebuchadnezzar dies 562
- His son Evil-Merodach assassinated after reigning 2 years
- Neriglissar reigns for 4 years and dies
- His son Laborosoarchod rules reigned 9 months before being beaten to death
- Co-conspirators appoint Nabonidus
- Nabonidus appoints his son Belshazzar as co-regent



# KINGS OF NEO-BABYLONIA

<u>KING</u>	<u>DATES BC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
<b>Nebuchadnezzar</b>	605-562	2 Kings 24-25; Daniel	Dies after ruling 43 years
<b>Amel-Marduk</b> (Evil-Merodach) [Nebuchadnezzar's son]	562-560	2 Kings 25:27-30; Jer. 52:31-34	Murdered by Neriglissar
<b>Neriglissar</b>	560-556	Jer. 39:3, 13	Dies
<b>Labahi-Marduk</b> [Neriglissar's son]	556		Rules 2 months and is assassinated by Nabonidus
<b>Nabonidus</b> (Nabunaid)	556-539		
<b>Belshazzar</b> Nabonidus' son (appointed as co-regent)	?-539 BC		

\*Daniel now in his 80's (45-50 when he interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's Tree dream)

\*The Medes-Persians had defeated Babylon through out the nation but not the within the palace. The city had provisions to last 20 years

\*Ancient ruins discovered in Babylon found a large room 50+ wide and 150+ long with plaster walls

In 539 BC, Medo-Persian forces under Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon by diverting the Euphrates River into a nearby marsh/basin, reducing water levels to knee-deep. This allowed Persian soldiers to march through the riverbed under the city walls and enter Babylon by surprise while the city was occupied with a festival.

\*Nobonidus was the father of Belshazzar  
they co-reigning at this time \*Nobondus was in Tema, Arabia

\*Queen was Balshazzar's mother

## Chapter 5 Outline

- I. Belshazzar's contribution to the feast: unrestrained sensuality (1-4)
- II. God's contribution to the feast: the handwriting on the wall (5-6)
- III. Daniel's contribution to the feast: an announcement of doom (7-29)
- IV. Darius's contribution to the feast: the conquest of Babylon (30-31)



• **Daniel 5: 1-4** Belshazzar the king held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand. 2 When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. 3 Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God which was in Jerusalem; and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. 4 They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.

**Daniel 5:5-7** Suddenly the fingers of a man's hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing. 6 Then the king's face grew pale and his thoughts alarmed him, and **his hip joints went slack and his knees began knocking together.** 7 The king called aloud to bring in the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners. The king spoke and said to the wise men of Babylon, "Any man who can read this inscription and explain its interpretation to me shall be clothed with **purple and have a necklace of gold** around his neck, and have authority as **third ruler in the kingdom.**"

**\*Man's Hand:** In war, the right hand was cut off to determine the number of the dead lost/killed in battle.

God was letting Belshazzar know:  
“He was not Dead”

## 1 Samuel 5 Capture of the Ark Provokes God

5 Now the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. <sup>2</sup> Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it to the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon. <sup>3</sup> When the Ashdodites arose early the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set him in his place again. <sup>4</sup> But when they arose early the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. And the head of Dagon and both the **palms of his hands were cut off** on the threshold; [a] only the trunk of Dagon was left to him.

**Isaiah 47: 150 years before**

“Come down and sit in the dust,  
O virgin daughter of Babylon;  
Sit on the ground without a throne,  
O daughter of the Chaldeans!  
For you shall no longer be called tender and delicate.

<sup>2</sup> “Take the millstones and grind meal.

Remove your veil, strip off the skirt,  
Uncover the leg, cross the rivers.

<sup>3</sup> “Your nakedness will be uncovered,

Your shame also will be exposed;

I will take vengeance and will not <sup>[a]</sup>spare a man.”

<sup>4</sup> Our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name,  
The Holy One of Israel.

<sup>5</sup> “Sit silently, and go into darkness,  
O daughter of the Chaldeans,  
For you will no longer be called  
The queen of kingdoms.

<sup>6</sup> “I was angry with My people,  
I profaned My heritage  
And gave them into your hand.  
You did not show mercy to them,  
On the aged you made your yoke very heavy.

<sup>7</sup> “Yet you said, ‘I will be a queen forever.’  
These things you did not consider  
Nor remember the outcome of [b]them.

<sup>8</sup> “Now, then, hear this, you sensual one,  
Who dwells securely,  
Who says in [c]your heart,  
‘I am, and there is no one besides me.  
I will not sit as a widow,  
Nor know loss of children.’

<sup>9</sup> “But these two things will come on you suddenly in one day:

Loss of children and widowhood.

They will come on you in full measure

In spite of your many sorceries,

In spite of the great power of your spells.

<sup>10</sup> “You felt secure in your wickedness and said,

‘No one sees me,’

Your wisdom and your knowledge, [d]they have deluded you;

For you have said in your heart,

‘I am, and there is no one besides me.’

<sup>11</sup> “But evil will come on you

Which you will not know how to charm away;

And disaster will fall on you

For which you cannot atone;

And destruction about which you do not know

Will come on you suddenly.

<sup>12</sup> “Stand *fast* now in your spells  
And in your many sorceries  
With which you have labored from your youth;  
Perhaps you will be able to profit,  
Perhaps you may cause trembling.

<sup>13</sup> “You are wearied with your many counsels;  
Let now the astrologers,  
Those who prophesy by the stars,  
Those who predict by the new moons,  
Stand up and save you from what will come upon you.

<sup>14</sup> “Behold, they have become like stubble,  
Fire burns them;  
They cannot deliver themselves from the power of the  
flame;  
There will be no coal to warm by  
*Nor* a fire to sit before!

<sup>15</sup> “So have those become to you with whom you have  
labored,  
Who have trafficked with you from your youth;  
Each has wandered in his own <sup>[e]</sup>way;  
There is none to save you.

**Daniel 44:26-28:** Confirming the word of His servant And performing the purpose of His messengers.

*It is I* who says of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be inhabited!’

And of the cities of Judah, ‘They shall be built.’ And I will raise up her ruins *again*.

<sup>27</sup> “*It is I* who says to the depth of the sea, ‘Be dried up!’ And I will make your rivers dry.

<sup>28</sup> “*It is I* who says of Cyrus, ‘*He is My shepherd!*

And he will perform all My desire.’ And he declares of Jerusalem, ‘She will be built,’

And of the temple, ‘<sup>[y]</sup>Your foundation will be laid.’”

## **God Uses Cyrus**

**45** Thus says the LORD to Cyrus His anointed, Whom I have taken by the right hand,  
To subdue nations before him **And to loose the loins of kings;**

**To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:**

<sup>2</sup> “I will go before you and make the rough places smooth;

I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars.

<sup>3</sup> “I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden wealth of secret places,

So that you may know that it is I,

The LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.

**Daniel 5:8-12:** Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the inscription or make known its interpretation to the king. 9 Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, his face grew even paler, and his nobles were perplexed. 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. 11 There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, illumination, insight and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him. And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, your father the king, appointed him chief of the magicians, conjurers, Chaldeans *and* diviners. 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. Let Daniel now be summoned and he will declare the interpretation."

## Daniel Interprets Handwriting on the Wall

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? 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.”

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. <sup>18</sup> O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and *his* glory was taken away from him.

5:21 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. <sup>22</sup> Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this, <sup>23</sup> but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven; 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. <sup>24</sup> Then the hand was sent from Him and this inscription was written out.

Now this is the inscription that was written out:  
'MENĒ, MENĒ, TEKĒL, UPHARSIN.' <sup>26</sup> This is the interpretation of the message: 'MENĒ'—God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it. <sup>27</sup> 'TEKĒL'—you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient. <sup>28</sup> 'PERĒS'—your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians."  
<sup>29</sup> 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.  
<sup>30</sup> That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. <sup>31</sup> So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.

\*Dr. Harold Horner- calculated this event to have happen the evening of Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, 539 BC

\*Israel had been in captivity for 67 years

\*Darius was king for 3 years prior to Cyrus

\*According to Jewish historian Josephus, the prophet Daniel showed King Cyrus prophecies from the Book of Isaiah—written roughly 150 years earlier—that explicitly named Cyrus and predicted he would permit the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. This act motivated Cyrus to issue his decree in 539-538 BC, allowing the return and funding the reconstruction, ending the 70-year Babylonian captivity.

## **Pslams 115:2-8**

Why should the nations say,  
“Where, now, is their God?”

<sup>3</sup> But our God is in the heavens;  
He does whatever He pleases.

<sup>4</sup> Their idols are silver and gold,  
The work of man’s hands.

<sup>5</sup> They have mouths, but they cannot speak;  
They have eyes, but they cannot see;

<sup>6</sup> They have ears, but they cannot hear;  
They have noses, but they cannot smell;

<sup>7</sup> They have hands, but they cannot feel;  
They have feet, but they cannot walk;

They cannot make a sound with their throat.

<sup>8</sup> Those who make them will become like them,  
Everyone who trusts in them.

## **Pslams 135:15-18**

The idols of the nations are *but* silver and gold,  
The work of man's hands.

<sup>16</sup> They have mouths, but they do not speak;  
They have eyes, but they do not see;

<sup>17</sup> They have ears, but they do not hear,  
Nor is there any breath at all in their mouths.

<sup>18</sup> Those who make them will be like them,  
Yes, everyone who trusts in them.

## Luke 12:16-21

And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man was very productive. <sup>17</sup> And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup> Then he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years *to come*; take your ease, eat, drink *and* be merry.”’ <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘You fool! This *very* night [i] your soul is required of you; and *now* who will own what you have prepared?’ <sup>21</sup> So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

## The Doom of Babylon Rev. 17:1-5

**17** Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, <sup>2</sup> with whom the kings of the earth committed *acts of* immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.” <sup>3</sup> And he carried me away <sup>[a]</sup>in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. <sup>4</sup> The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and <sup>[b]</sup>adorned with gold and precious <sup>[c]</sup>stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, <sup>5</sup> and on her forehead a name *was* written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

## **Rev 18:16-17**

...saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and [s]adorned with gold and precious [t]stones and pearls; <sup>17</sup> for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!'

Everyone has a god or the God in their life

Spiritual: God of Heaven

Worldly: pleasure- Moloch  
money- Mannon  
Sex- Astarte