

Doing hard things well

Danel 5-1-31

- In Ch 4 we saw how far God is willing to pursue us, in order for us, to come to know Him. For not only did Nebuchadnezzar hear from The Lord through dreams that Daniel interpreted, but he also saw The Lord in the fire with people he put there. Then when Nebuchadnezzar hardened his heart in pride The Lord gave him over to an insane mind where he developed a rare medical condition called “Lycanthropy”.
- Where he started to look like an animal, act like an animal, and eat like an animal, as his hair grew long like eagle feathers, his nails like bird claws, and would eat only grass like cows, all this happened to bring Nebuchadnezzar to a place of humility. At the end of seven long years Nebuchadnezzar came to his senses and instead of looking down like a beast he looked up to heaven and repented, and when he returned to power he acknowledged that his power came not from himself but God.

V1-31

- **V1-4** a shift in power has occurred since chapter 4, first Nebuchadnezzar died after a forty three year reign, then his son Evil-Merodach mentioned in 2 Kings 25:27-30, and Jer 52:31-34 began to rule, that lasted only two years when his brother in law Nergalsharezer mentioned in Jer 39:3, 13, had him assassinated. He ruled for four years before he dies, and his son Laborosoachod a child assumes the throne, he rules only nine months when he is beaten to death by a gang of conspirators.
- The conspirators appoint Nabonidus one of their gang members to be king, then he appoints his eldest son Belshazzar to rule beside him as Co-regent. Many believe Nabonidus was either married to one of Nebuchadnezzar daughters or one of his many offsprings from the harem of women he had in the palace.
- This explains why **V2** says Nebuchadnezzar was Belshazzar father or grandfather, some say father here simply means the one who follows after meaning Belshazzar occupied the throne after his predecessor Nebuchadnezzar. What's of importance is Nebuchadnezzar influence of the One True God is gone, having been replaced with the Babylonian worship of the moon god and polytheism worship of many gods.

- They are having a party where drunkenness and foolishness are at the forefront, its amazing how these two go hand in hand. **Eph 5:18**- drunkenness is dissipation, a waste of resources that should be submitted to Jesus. This is why people who drink often are referred to as a waste, what a waste, they spend all their time and energy drinking. Belshazzar has lost all semblance of self-control and begins to openly mock God, asking for the gold vessels they'd taken from the temple decades ago.
- In **4:37** Nebuchadnezzar had left a warning for all who would follow him on the throne > “ those who walk in pride God is able to humble”. **V3** Belshazzar wants to display his wealth and splendor, along with their dominance over the world, this party is an example of **1 Jn 2:16**- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is on full display. To top it off this is going on while the Medes-Persians have surrounded Babylon and is threatening to overthrow them wow!
- **V5-9** while their getting drunk and blaspheming The Lord, God writes a message on the wall, I told you our God is a great communicator, He know how to get our attention. A finger appears and writes on the wall and Belshazzar countenance and thoughts change from pride and self assurance to uncontrollable terror, as his knees are knocking in fear. He responds like Nebuchadnezzar did to get the astrologers, Chaldeans, and sorcerers out to tell him what the message means.
- Notice Belshazzar could only offer the person who interprets the dream the third place in the Kingdom because his father Nabonidus was first, then he, and next whoever could tell him the dream. But no one could interpret its meaning, God spoke to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream, now He speaks to Belshazzar with a supernatural writing on a wall while he is drunk and exalting his pride.
- **V10-12** while everyone is silent not knowing what to do the queen or translated “queen mother” speaks up and tells him there is a man in the kingdom whom is the Spirit of God, and in the days f Nebuchadnezzar he could do what the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers and Chaldeans could not, in solving riddles.
- Here is why commentators believe Belshazzar is related to Nebuchadnezzar as the queen mother is thought to be Nebuchadnezzar daughter and Belshazzar mother. Notice she refers to Daniel by his Jewish name and not his Babylonian name. **V12** should be the description given to all believers > Excellent spirit, Knowledge, understanding, a dissolver of doubts, all coming from our obedience to God.

- **V13-16** Belshazzar has no respect for Daniel calling him “one of the captives from Judah” then he tells him that he has heard of him in **V14**. This shows how shallow and silly this prince is, he is about to learn a harsh lesson the God will teach the entire world, as all those in power that have not surrendered to Jesus are like this.
- **V17-21** Daniel has no regard for what Belshazzar has to offer him, telling him “keep your gifts and give them to someone else” I will read this for free. Then he gives him a history lesson as he had forgotten what had happened to Nebuchadnezzar, reminding him the he was just like you until The Most High God taught him Who was really in control, Who puts into power and takes power away. Now he tells him just as He had taught Nebuchadnezzar a harsh lesson now He will teach it to him.
- **V22-24** Daniel says Belshazzar knew what happened but rejected the lesson and lifted up his heart instead of humbling himself. This nation which celebrates Christmas the birth of Jesus, Easter the death and Resurrection of Jesus, also know His story but have chosen to ignore it and lift themselves up in pride, partying and blaspheming against God, they too will learn a harsh lesson if they don't repent.
- **V25-29 Mene-** number, **Tekel-** weighing, **Peres-** division, meaning you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting, you came up short Belshazzar, as you have been given so much but have done so little with it, so now it will be taken away. Belshazzar is so blinded that all he heard was Daniel solved the riddle, but he didn't pay attention to the meaning, that he would be dethroned.
- **V30-31** that very night that Belshazzar heard the message from God, he is killed, he had only hours to surrender and he didn't. Don't ever promise people time that isn't ours to give, preach and share for a decision right then, not later, because we don't know when The Lord is going to say times up.