



FORGETTING – DANIEL 5

“Our grief isn’t a sign of weak faith, but of great love.”

John 11:35

“So the Jews were saying, ‘See how He loved him!’”



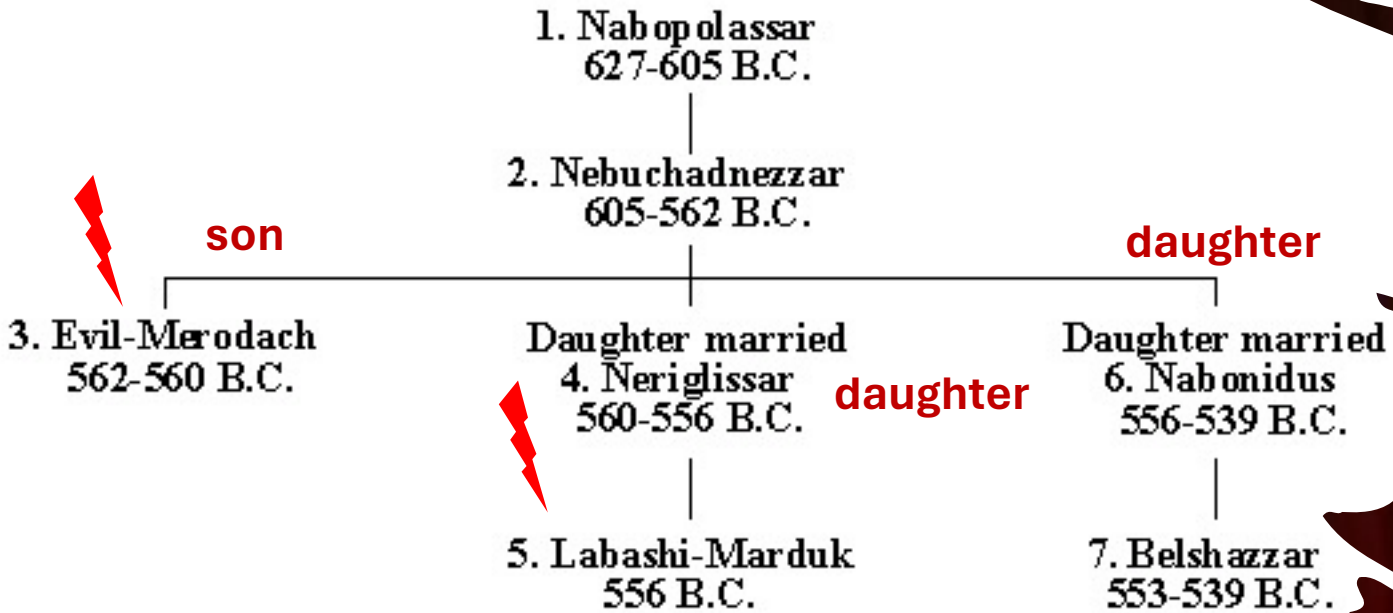
“Now I, Nebuchadnezzar,
praise, exalt and honor the
King of heaven, for all His
works are true and His ways
just, and He is able to
humble those who walk in
pride.” Dan 4:37



5:1 Belshazzar the king held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.



KINGS OF THE NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE



Nabonidus Cylinder - 1881



Forgetting Risk 5:1

- Celebration following treachery
- Celebration in shadow of enemies
- Celebration despite position
- ‘take heed when you think....’
- ‘forgetting those things....’



“The chains of sin are too light to be felt until they are too heavy to be broken.”

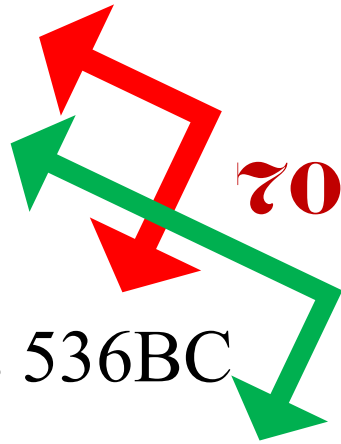


5:2 When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.



Forgetting Responsibility

- Confidence was in walls and armies
- Babylon – Daniel 605BC
- Temple destroyed 586BC
- Babylon falls 539BC
- Zerubbabel sent by Cyrus 536BC
- Temple rebuilt 516BC



“If you trace sin to its roots you will always find self!”



5:3 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.



Forgetting Respect 3,4

- ‘sacrilege’ – disregarding sacred
- ‘blasphemy’ – ‘desecration’
- First 3 commandments – HOLY



“Humility before God
is better than
humiliation by sin.”



5 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.



מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ

וְעַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ



25 “Now this is the inscription that was written out: ‘MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.’



26 This is the interpretation of the message: 'MENE' - God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.



27 'TEKEL' - you have
been weighed on the
scales and found
deficient.



28 'PERES' - your
kingdom has been divided
and given over to the
Medes and Persians."



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



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?”



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.



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, he was deposed from his royal throne and his glory was taken away from him.



22 Yet you, his son,
Belshazzar, have not
humbled your heart, even
though you knew all this,



23 but you have exalted
yourself against the Lord of
heaven; and they have
brought the vessels of His
house before you But
the God in whose hand are
your life-breath and all your
ways, you have not
glorified.



Dan 5:30,31 That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.



Forgetting Righteousness

- God is speaking! Listening?
- God is the ONLY judge of right
- ‘done and done’ - ‘done and dusted’
- ‘weighed & short’
- ‘divided up’
- Tabernacle – Temple – Sacrifices
- MEMORIALS! Shadows of Promises



“In judgment are you
the judge – the witness
or the defendant?”



What did we forget?

- God is good – even in hard times
- God is good – even when silent
- God is good – even when patient
- God is good – He is judge
- God is with us in risk, responsibility, respect, righteousness – forgetful?



“Judgment can only be practiced in a mirror!”





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