

# Daniel 5 –10 July 2025

## “The Grip That Slips”

### Introduction

\*Book’s Outline: 2 halves (historical chronology chap 1-6 & a is more detailed prophetic visions chap 7-12)

\*Chap 1 – Believer in an unbelieving world

\*Chap 2 – All world empires ended by the Kingdom

\*Chap 3 – Believer raptured while Israel goes thru the Tribulation

\*Chap 4 – King of Babylon as Satan is bound

\*Chap 5 – Earth’s ruler gathers for a last battle but is overthrow

\*Chap 6 – New world-ruling kingdom w/ unchanging laws is established

\*Dan 5 is such a great example of man’s (& Satan’s) deep desire to hold onto what they cannot keep

\*We are pulled by the flesh to attain power, riches and bodily ecstasy – but none of this can be maintained

\*I call that, “The Grip That Slips”

**Today, we’ll see 3 lies the worldly man tells himself**

# **#1 – We should fight for the treasures of man, rather than the treasure that is man (Vs 1-9)**

Read Vs 1-4

1. Nebuchadnezzar was his father in a kingly sense
  - a. Nebu, then his son Evil-Marduk, then Nebu's son-in-law Neriglissar by assassination
  - b. Then Neriglissar's son Labashi-Marduk, then Nabonidus by coup, then his son Belshazzar
2. Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon is the picture of Satan from at the end of the Millennium
  - a. 1,000 leaders drawn pictures Satan drawing the nations to his rebellion (Read Rev 20:8)
3. What does getting the Temple vessels & abusing them represent?
  - a. Well Rev 20:8 isn't about Satan drawing his demons for war, but that he draws the nations
  - b. People groups are the treasures
4. We are the prize that both God & Satan want (Read Matt 13:44 & John 10:10)

- a. Satan would sway us w/ temp gain but it's eternal loss
- b. Jesus would sway us w/ His own loss but for our eternal gain

### Read Vs 5-6

- 1. This is fully bad news & a shock to Beltshazar
  - a. Joints of his loins were loosed – *shakin' in his boots*
- 2. Why bad news if he couldn't read it?
  - a. B/c his conscience convicted him of his wrongs before God
- 3. I'll bet I know 1 person that this didn't surprise
  - a. Daniel knew scriptures – In Dan 9:1 he was praying about Jer 25:11 being fulfilled (70 yrs)
  - b. I'll bet Daniel also knew (Read) Isa 45:1

### Read Vs 7-9

- 1. God brought them to a time of public shame
- 2. Why does he offer the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot in the Kingdom?
  - a. Dad Nabonidus is king in Arabia, Bel is 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - b. Don't know why Nabonidus stayed there

## #2 – The Church has nothing to offer my day-to-day life, only when I’m in a tough spot (Vs 10-23)

Read Vs 10-12

1. This is most likely the queen mother that was around for Daniel’s earlier exploits
2. Daniel is between 80-85 at this time
  - a. He’s retired, explains why he wasn’t called
3. Notice, the queen called him by name, Daniel
  - a. After that all these years, he’s retained his God-given identity! This is still our goal today

Read Vs 13-16

1. Belshazzar seems to put on airs in pride acting like he already knew of Daniel
  - a. When in fact, his mom just mentioned him
2. Now, what was this night dedicated to?
  - a. This was a giant worldly party with no intention of having the religious men there
  - b. How often the world only brings in godly elements when they are overwhelmed
  - c. Believers walk in faith, knowing that we owe God our attention, not just when forced

## Read Vs 17

1. How many of us still struggle with the allure of gaining earthly rewards and treasure
  - a. Pastor Chuck tells of wanting a new car
    - i. Never had one before
    - ii. Gave false reasons to God for wanting it: “I’ll take people to church in it.”
    - iii. First day of having it, it got a big scratch in the side of it
    - iv. He had this goal for a LONG TIME & it was gone just so quickly
2. Daniel has already been offered all these worldly things before & used them for God’s glory
  - a. As Paul said, (Read Phil 4:11-12) –  
Whether up or down, be content in serving God

## Read Vs 18-23

1. It’s clear that what Daniel & Belshazzar valued were two entirely different things
  - a. Daniel valued humility before God; lasting
  - b. Belshazzar valued the earthly; temporary

2. How sad that Bel didn't even know that all he had would be taken away from him this very night
  - a. Had he only lived for heaven's sake (Read Matt 6:19-20)

### **#3 – God doesn't see me or rule over me (Vs 24-31)**

Read Vs 24

1. Notice the word *then*
  - a. God's natural disposition is kindness; He has to be moved into rebuke & correction
  - b. It's b/c of Bel's pride God had to bring judgement

Read Vs 25-28

1. This message can easily apply to all of us
  - a. Mene – Days of life are numbered, thought we don't know how many (Read Psm 90:12)
  - b. Tekel – We'll all have to give an account of if we used our life wisely (Read II Cor 5:10)

- c. Peres – We'll be divided from all worldly things (Read Luk 12:15)
- 2. None of us knows when, but Bel's time was up
  - a. He's also given specifics: he's lacking & the kingdom is given to the Medo-Persians

### Read Vs 29

- 1. This shows Bel's continuing unbelief
- 2. These gifts & titles were so temporary & empty of value, yet Bel couldn't see it

### Read Vs 30-31

- 1. Mede Darius served under Persian king Cyrus
- 2. How did the Medo-Persians conquer?
  - a. It's all prophesied (Turn to Isa 44:27-45:6)
  - b. Also recorded in the *Nabonidus Chronicle* & Herodotus' writings as happening in 539BC
  - c. It was mostly a bloodless conquest, yet Bel meets his end

## Conclusion

There is a natural course of this world that lies to you

There is popular opinion that isn't popular at all in the courts of heaven

Don't be fooled by these lies

1. **We should fight for the treasures of man, rather than the treasure that is man**
  - a. Don't grab on to the vapor of this world?
  - b. Don't fight for what fades?
2. **The Church has nothing to offer my daily life, only when I'm in a tough spot**
  - a. God has a lot more for your life than just a get out of hell free card
  - b. He delivered to us your life's owner's manual called the Bible – every area of life
3. **God doesn't see me or rule over me**
  - a. God knows you; He loves you & wants the very best for you – just give Him our heart that He so richly deserves