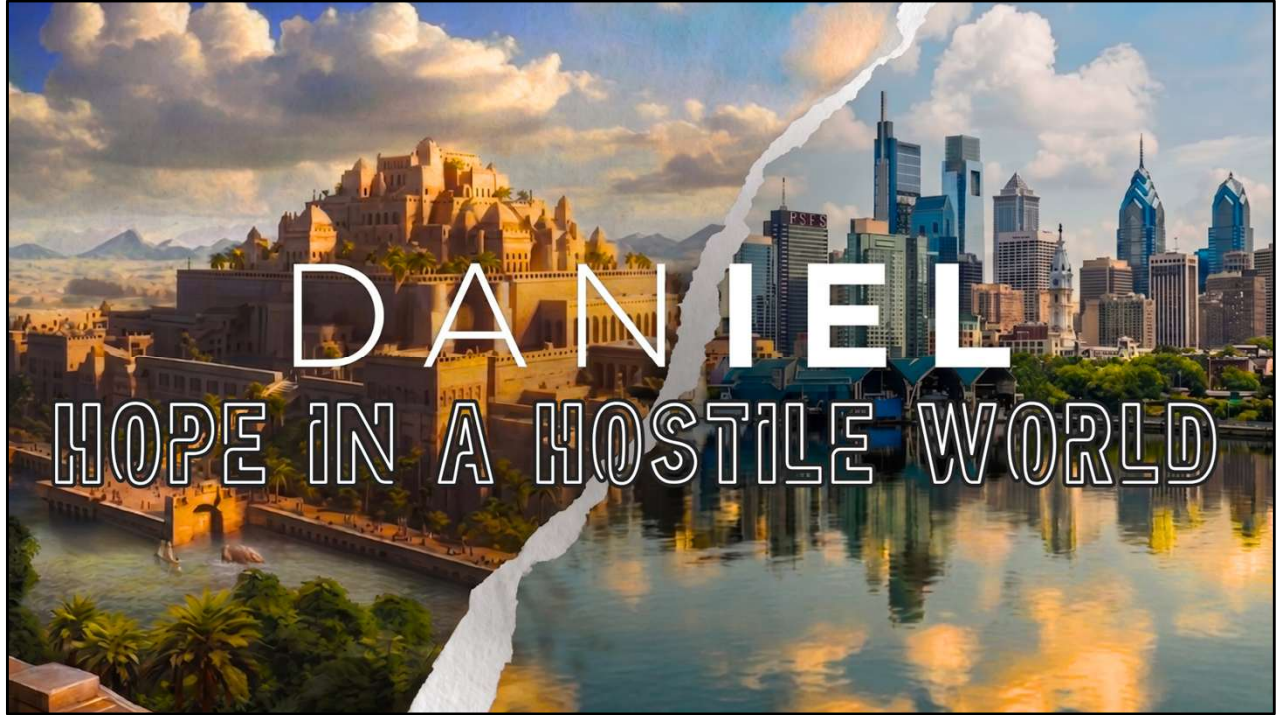




Same Kingdom, different materials and style and age
Notice the cities of Babylon and Philly!!



Babylon was so well fortified, 2-3 thick walls

So between the end of chapter 4 and the start of chapter 5 there is a gap of around 30 years and that time saw normal business down in Babylon. It saw several assassination attempts and even the murder of a couple of kings. This chapter begins with a new king reigning, Belshazzar, who is believed to have been Nebuchadnezzar's grandson¹. Thus the timing of Daniel 5 aligns with the words of the prophet Jeremiah who before the Babylonian exile wrote that Babylon would rule until the time of Nebuchadnezzar's grandson:

Nebuchadnezzar. He was the head of gold, his successors were nothing like him. There was incompetence, there was intrigue, there was idolatry, there was not strong leadership. His son Evil-Merodach or Amel-Marduk ruled for only nine years and then he was assassinated by one of the generals in the army, Neriglissar. Neriglissar assassinated Nebuchadnezzar's son, and then took the throne. Eventually he died and his son was placed on the throne for nine months. There was a conspiracy and his son was assassinated. Just one toppling after another, it became very weak, very unstable.

<https://twojourneys.org/sermons/series/daniel/belshazzars-last-feast-daniel-sermon-8/>

Belshazzar

The King Who Never Was

DIGGING FOR
TRUTH





The British Museum

NABONIDUS CYLINDER

ONE OF THE NABONIDUS
CYLINDERS WHICH
CONTAINS A PRAYER FOR
BELSHAZZAR, THE
FIRST-BORN SON OF
NABONIDUS.

Belshazzar – grandson & last king of Babylon

- Belshazzar, not Belteshazzar/Daniel. Both “Bel...”
- 2 other forgotten kings between Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar
- Daniel 4 & 5 – back-to-back lessons on Arrogance/Pride!
- Daniel 1 & 5 – in the setting of meals, (Communion)
- “Daniel” has been fired or retired, forgotten!
- God’s will, in a moment (Daniel 4:31) and in a night!

2 Dreams, now 2 meals

1Co 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Ecc 7:1-4 A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth. 2 It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart. 3 Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad. 4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

Expressions are perpetual and powerful
See the handwriting on the wall
Knee knocking
Weighed in the balances, found wanting
The finger/hand of God
Feet of clay
Trial by fire

Others:

Apple of my eye Deut.32:10
Go the extra mile Mt.5:41
By skin of your teeth Job 19:20

[Dan 4:31 ESV] 31 While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you,



Found lacking!

A hand out of Nowhere??!

Actually, We see here what we often are oblivious to, God is always present, INVISIBLE, yet reaches into our world from the spiritual one!

Sacrilege, Desecration, Blasphemy

- It focuses on the vessels from the Temple (2, 3, 23)
- Daniel 5:23 – but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in ... and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.

1Sa 5:1

1Sa 5:3 And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place

Even when Israel was punished and unworthy of Gods protection, God judged the Philistines for sacrilege!

Humility is such an elusive virtue, the very moment you think you have it, you don't!

1Sa 5:3 And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place.

[Psa 115:4-8 ESV] 4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. 5 They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. 6 They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. 7 They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. 8 Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

[Psa 135:15-17 ESV] 15 The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. 16 They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not

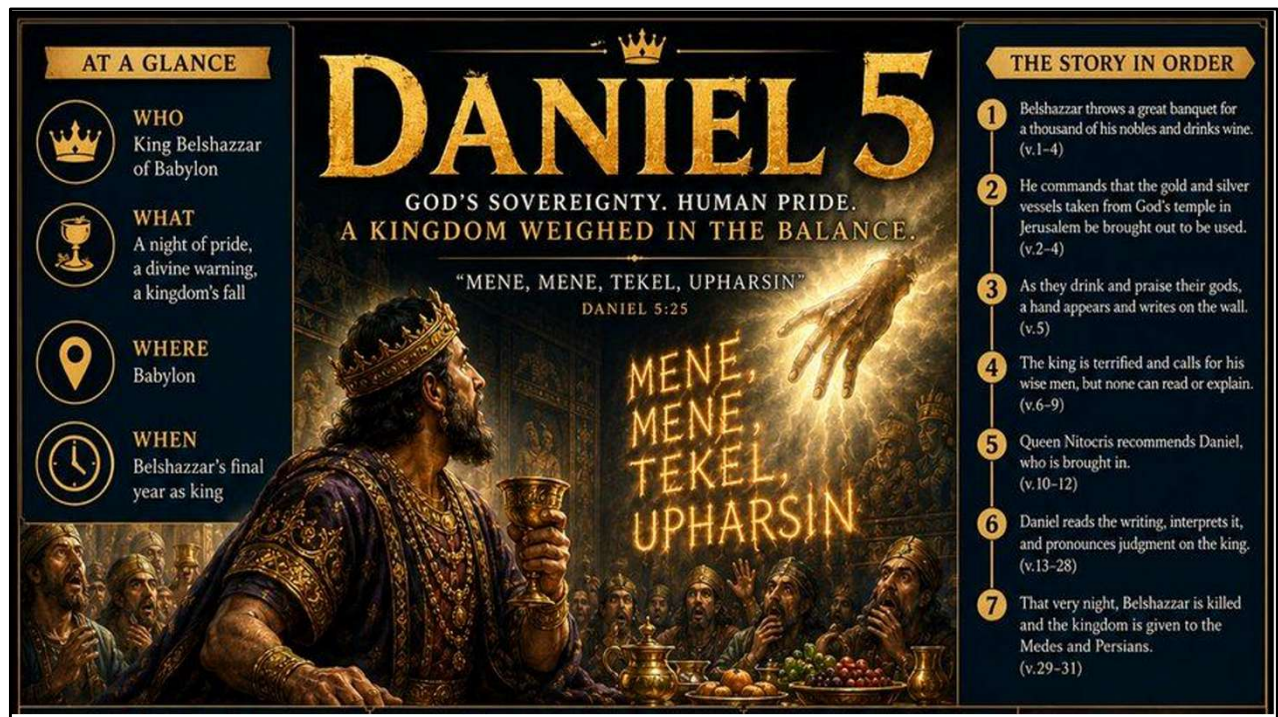
see; 17 they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths.

[Isa 37:19 ESV] 19 and have cast their gods into the fire. For they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed.

[Isa 46:6-7 ESV] 6 Those who lavish gold from the purse, and weigh out silver in the scales, hire a goldsmith, and he makes it into a god; then they fall down and worship!
7 They lift it to their shoulders, they carry it, they set it in its place, and it stands there; it cannot move from its place. If one cries to it, it does not answer or save him from his trouble.

[Hab 2:18-19 ESV] 18 "What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! 19 Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it.

[1Co 8:4 ESV] 4 Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one."



how many Kingdoms in History were conquered in a single day? And almost without bloodshed!

the great city of Babylon fell to [Cyrus the Great](#) of the Persian Empire in a single night in October 539 BCE

While the city was captured overnight, the actual war leading up to it took several months, and the broader [Fall of Babylon](#) marked the end of the entire Neo-Babylonian Empire. [1, 2, 3]

Chat GPT

Exactly **one** sovereign nation was conquered in a single day: the [Sultanate of Zanzibar](#). Fought on August 27, 1896, the conflict against the United Kingdom lasted just **38 minutes**, making it the shortest war in recorded human history. 1896

While many empires have collapsed over centuries, only a few fell in mere days or a single stroke of battle: [1, 2, 3]

Zanzibar (1896): Following the death of the pro-British Sultan, a new ruler took power without UK approval. The British Royal Navy bombarded the palace, and the sultan surrendered in 38 minutes. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

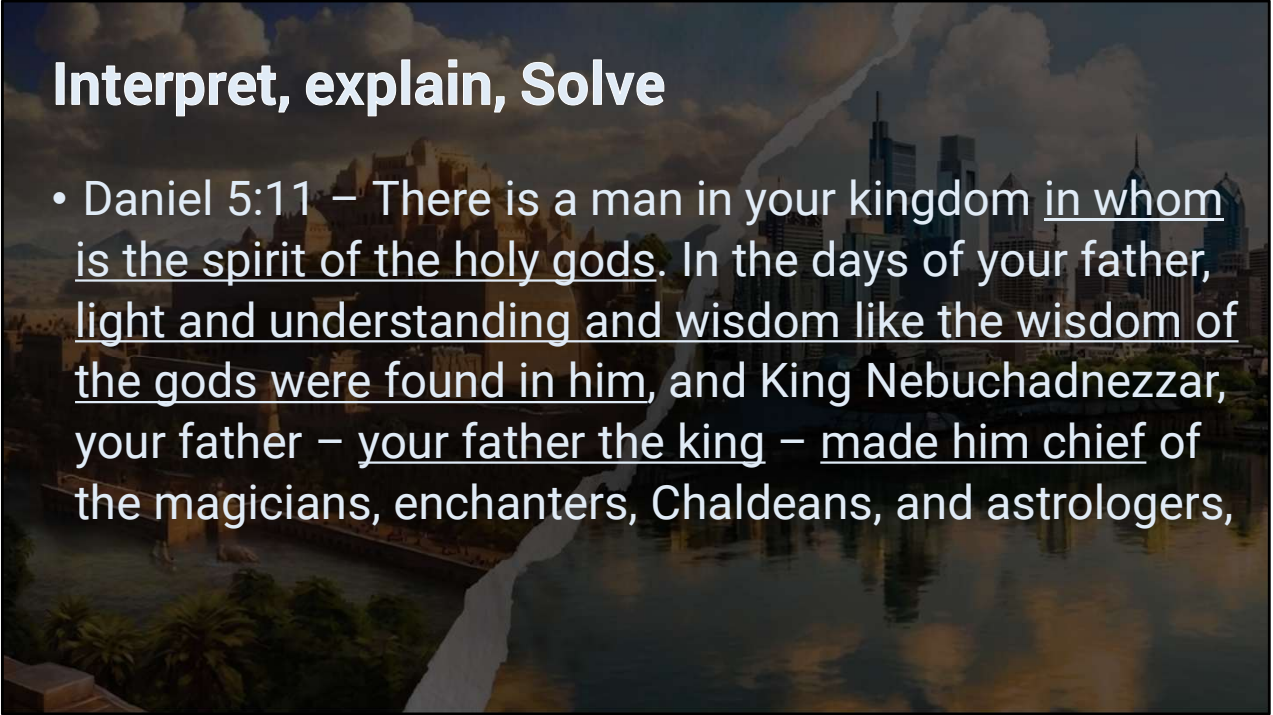
Vijayanagara Empire (1565): At the Battle of Talikota, this mighty South Indian empire was unexpectedly defeated by a coalition of five Muslim sultanates. The

loss dismantled the empire in a single day, leaving behind the ruins of their former capital, Hampi. [1]

Dahomey Kingdom (1892): The West African kingdom fell in a very brief campaign to French colonial forces armed with superior weapons.

The Aztecs and Incas: While their ultimate collapse took years, the sudden capture of their emperors (Montezuma and Atahualpa) paralyzed their military commands within single key battles. [1, 2]

Throughout history, most conquests were long processes of sieges, political takeovers, or gradual unifications,



Interpret, explain, Solve

- Daniel 5:11 – There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father – your father the king – made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers,

Dan 5:11 There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father--your father the king--made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers, Dan 5:12 because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation."

[1Ch 12:32 ESV] 32 Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command.

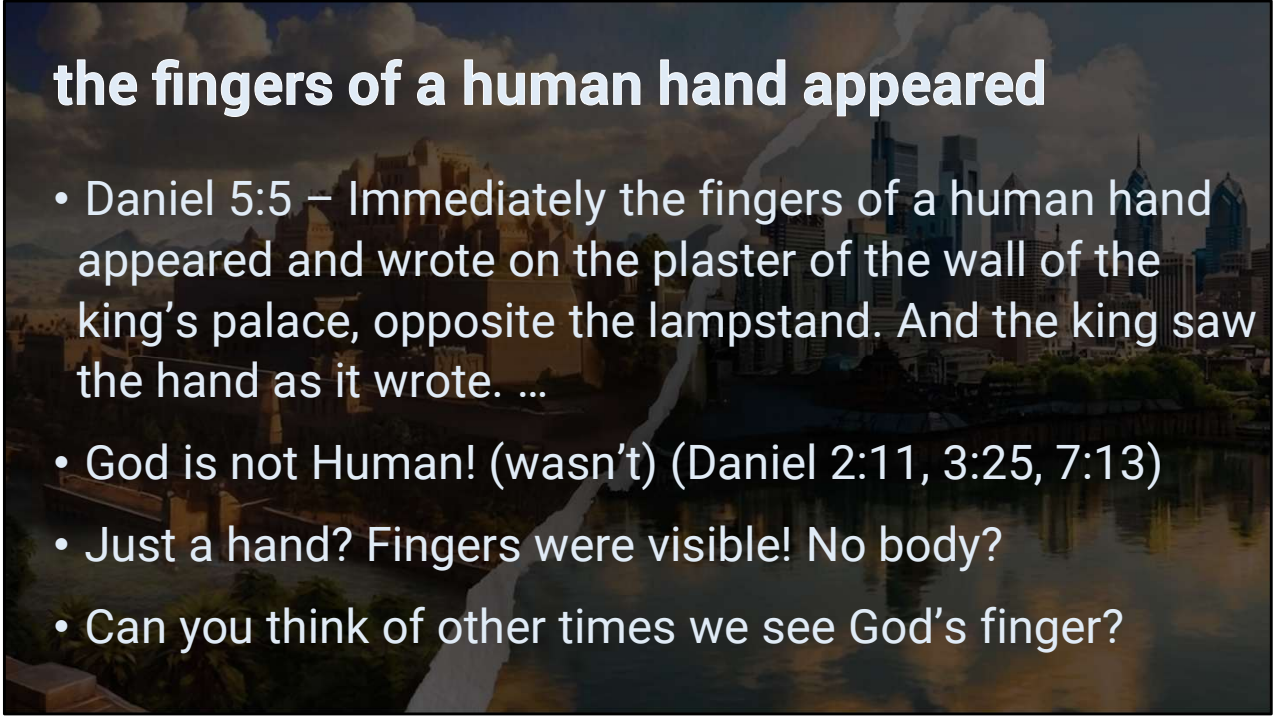
Interpret, explain, Solve

- Daniel 5:12 – because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel ...



[Dan 5:10-11 ESV] 10 The queen, because of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting hall, and the queen declared, "O king, live forever! Let not your thoughts alarm you or your color change. 11 There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers,

[Dan 5:13 ESV] 13 **Then Daniel was brought in before the king.** The king answered and said to Daniel, "You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah.



the fingers of a human hand appeared

- Daniel 5:5 – Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote. ...
- God is not Human! (wasn't) (Daniel 2:11, 3:25, 7:13)
- Just a hand? Fingers were visible! No body?
- Can you think of other times we see God's finger?

God gave the King the fingers!

[Dan 2:11 ESV] 11 The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."

[Dan 3:25 ESV] 25 He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

[Dan 7:13 ESV] 13 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

Actually, We see here what we often are oblivious to, God is always present, INVISIBLE, yet reaches into our world from the spiritual one!



[Exo 8:19 ESV] 19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said. (gnats)

[Exo 31:18 ESV] 18 And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

[Luk 11:20 ESV] 20 But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

[Jhn 8:6 ESV] 6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

all the times we see the hand of God in bible:

[Isa 48:13-14 ESV] 13 My hand laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand forth together. 14 "Assemble, all of you, and listen! Who among them has declared these things? The LORD loves him; he shall perform his purpose on Babylon, and his arm shall be against the Chaldeans.

[Psa 139:10 ESV] 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

[Jhn 10:29 ESV] 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

[Exo 3:19-20 ESV] 19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go **unless compelled by a mighty hand**. 20 So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go.

[1Ki 18:46 ESV] 46 And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

[1Sa 5:11 ESV] 11 They sent therefore and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it return to its own place, that it may not kill us and our people." For there was a deathly panic throughout the whole city. The hand of God was very heavy there.

[Mat 26:64 ESV] 64 Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

"the hand of God" is used forty-six times in the Old Testament.

[1Pe 5:6-7 ESV] 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

[Heb 10:31 ESV] 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

[Isa 41:10 ESV] 10 fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

4x "Finger" of God

[Exo 8:19 ESV] 19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

[Exo 31:18 ESV] 18 And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God. [Deu 9:10](#)

[Luk 11:20 ESV] 20 But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

[Jhn 8:6 ESV] 6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

[2Co 3:3 ESV] 3 And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

[Heb 8:10 ESV] 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Forewarned! I will fulfill to you my promise!

- Isaiah 45:1-6 – Cyrus, to open doors...that gates may not be closed...call you by your name!
- Isaiah 47:5-11 – two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day...suddenly
- Jeremiah 25:11-12, 29:10, Daniel 9:2 – ‘after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon

Let's make it a date!

[Isa 45:1-6 ESV] 1 Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: 2 "I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, 3 I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. 4 For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. 5 I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, 6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.

[Isa 47:5-11 ESV] 5 Sit in silence, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; for you shall no more be called the mistress of kingdoms. 6 I was angry with my people; I profaned my heritage; I gave them into your hand; you showed them no mercy; on the aged you made your yoke exceedingly heavy. 7 You said, "I shall be mistress forever," so that you did not lay these things to heart or remember their end. 8 Now therefore hear this, you lover of pleasures, who sit securely, who say in

your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me; I shall not sit as a widow or know the loss of children": 9 These two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day; the loss of children and widowhood shall come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many sorceries and the great power of your enchantments. 10 You felt secure in your wickedness; you said, "No one sees me"; your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray, and you said in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me." 11 But evil shall come upon you, which you will not know how to charm away; disaster shall fall upon you, for which you will not be able to atone; and ruin shall come upon you suddenly, of which you know nothing.

[Jer 25:11-12] This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 12 Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, declares the LORD, making the land an everlasting waste.

[Jer 27:6-7 ESV] 6 Now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, my servant, and I have given him also the beasts of the field to serve him. 7 All the nations shall serve him and his son and his grandson, until the time of his own land comes. Then many nations and great kings shall make him their slave. (3 generations until the end!) ((70 years!))

[2Ch 36:21 ESV] 21 to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

[Jer 29:10 ESV] 10 "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

[Dan 9:2 ESV] 2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

[Dan 5:31 ESV] 31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

[Dan 1:21 ESV] 21 And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

[Dan 6:28 ESV] 28 So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

[Dan 10:1 ESV] 1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.

Critics have long questioned the historicity of Daniel. They challenge Daniel's reference to the accession of Darius (vv. 1, 28; 9:1; called Darius the Mede in 5:31) because there is no historical evidence outside the Bible for his reign. However, several

explanations are possible: (1) Darius may have been another name for Cyrus. Daniel 6:28 may be translated, "So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius, even the reign of Cyrus the Persian." It was common for ancient rulers to use different names in various parts of their realms. Thus Darius may have been a localized name for Cyrus. (This is the view of D. J. Wiseman, "Some Historical Problems in the Book of Daniel," (2) A second explanation is that Darius was appointed by Cyrus to rule over Babylon, a comparatively small portion of the vast Medo-Persian Empire.

Pentecost, J. D. (1985). . In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1347). Victor Books.

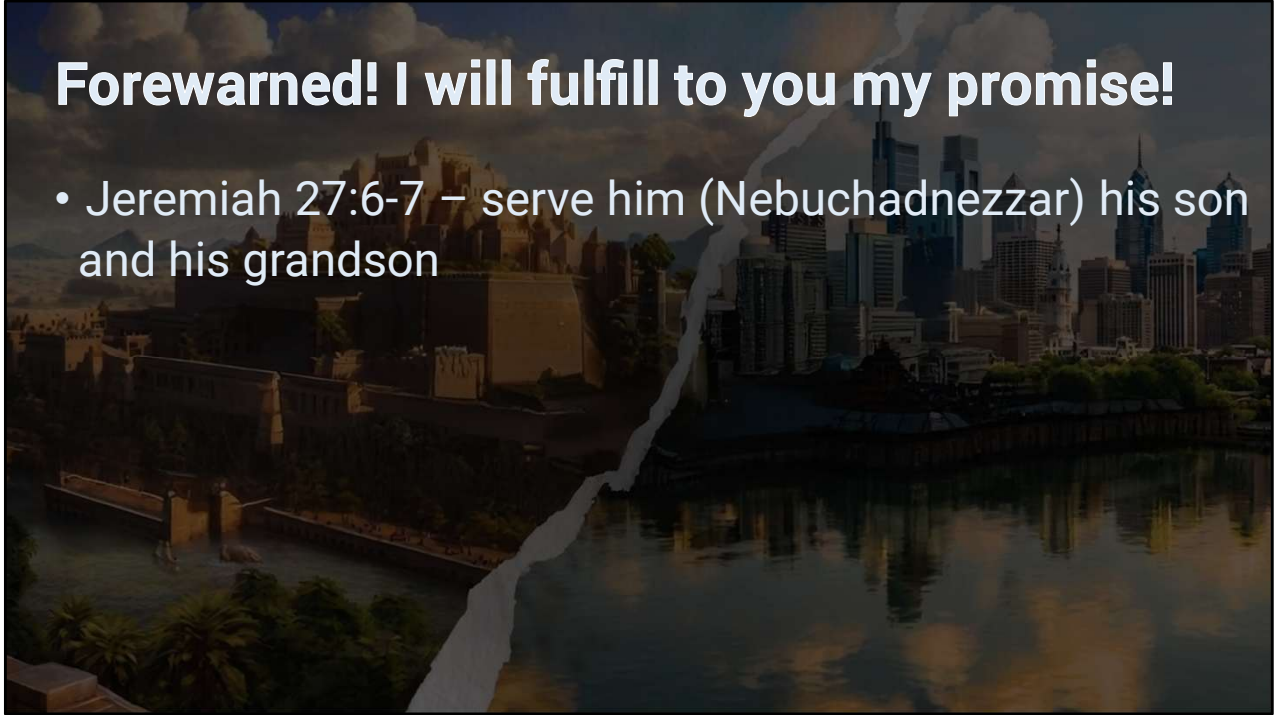
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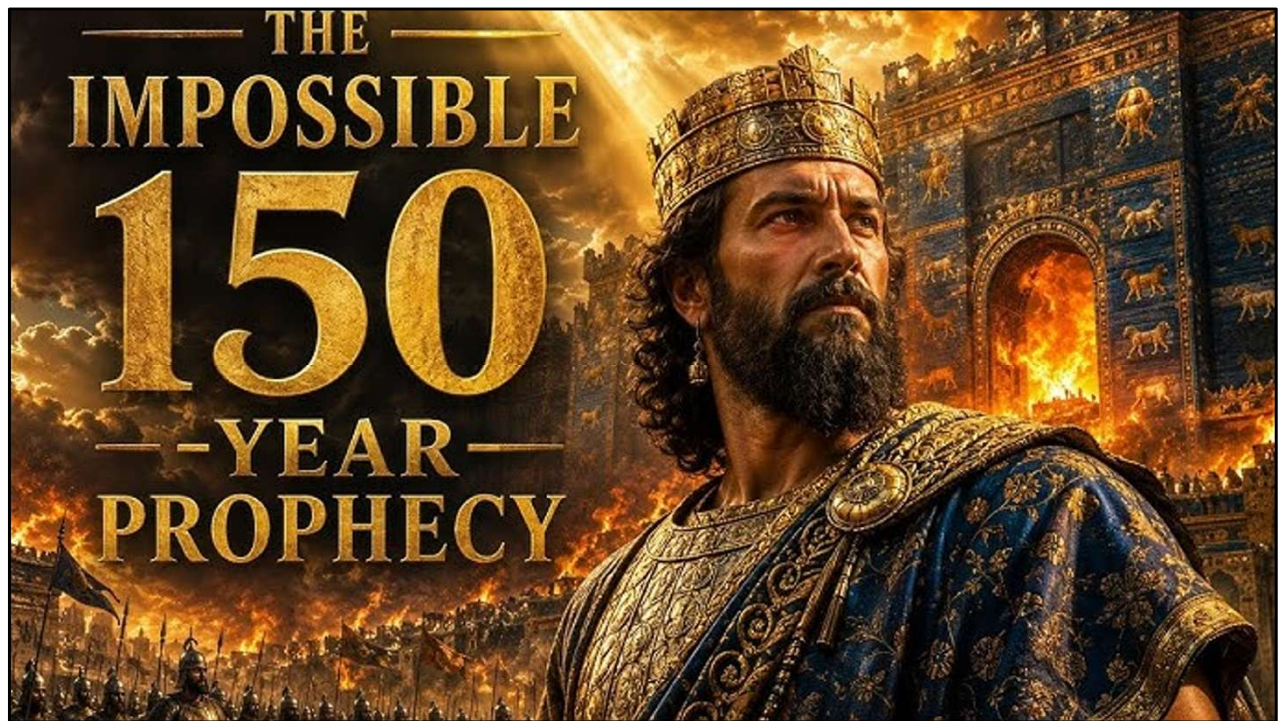
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Forewarned! I will fulfill to you my promise!

- Jeremiah 27:6-7 – serve him (Nebuchadnezzar) his son and his grandson





From Europe/Egypt to India

[2Ch 36:22-23 ESV] 22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: 23 "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the LORD his God be with him. Let him go up.'"

[Ezr 1:1-2, 7 ESV] 1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: 2 "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. ... 7 Cyrus the king also brought out the vessels of the house of the LORD that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and placed in the house of his gods.

[Ezr 4:5 ESV] 5 and bribed counselors against them to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

[Ezr 5:13 ESV] 13 However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, Cyrus the king made a decree that this house of God should be rebuilt.

[Ezr 6:3, 14 ESV] 3 In the first year of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king issued a decree: Concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, let the house be rebuilt, the place where sacrifices were offered, and let its foundations be retained. Its height shall be sixty cubits and its breadth sixty cubits, ... 14 And the elders of the Jews built and prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. They finished their building by decree of the God of Israel and by decree of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes king of Persia;

Isaiahs prophecy was 150 years earlier!!!

God predicted the Destruction of Babylon!

By a succeeding King (Silver)

By Name!! Cyrus!! How many moms named their kid Cyrus??!

That he will rebuild Jerusalem!! Set the captives free!

[Isa 44:28 ESV] 28 who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'"

[Isa 45:1 ESV] 1 Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed:

[Dan 1:21 ESV] 21 And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

[Dan 6:28 ESV] 28 So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

[Dan 10:1 ESV] 1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.

“numbered, numbered, weighed, divided.”

- Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote (the very hand of God)
- MENE – “numbered”, Measured!
- MENE – “numbered”, Immediate repetitions = emphasis
- Tekel – “weighed”
- Parsin/Upharsin – “to break in two, to divide, “divided”

meant “numbered, numbered, weighed, divided.”

King Belshazzar and his wise men could not understand the message because the words were a hidden spiritual verdict from God. While the words were written in Aramaic (the common language of the region), they were cryptic because they acted as a wordplay of weight measurements, requiring divine revelation to decipher. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

The term "Upharsin" was a play on words that means both "divided" and a measurement of value. The wise men could not read it for several reasons: [1, 2, 3]

No Vowels or Spaces: The ancient words were written on the wall as consonants without spacing, making them difficult to parse. [1, 2, 3, 4]

Double Meanings: The words also served as everyday names for weights and coins (a mina, a shekel, and half-minas). **The wise men likely stared at a list of market weights, completely missing the hidden meaning behind them.** [1, 2, 3]

Spiritual Blindness: Biblical commentators note that Belshazzar had just mocked the God of Israel by drinking wine from the sacred temple cups. **As a result, God withheld the wisdom to understand the warning.** [1, 3, 4]

First Daniel read the inscription which the wise men were unable to read. It was brief, containing only three words with the first word repeated. Mene (*menē*) is an Aramaic noun referring to a weight of 50 shekels (a mina, equal to 1 1/4 pounds). It is from the

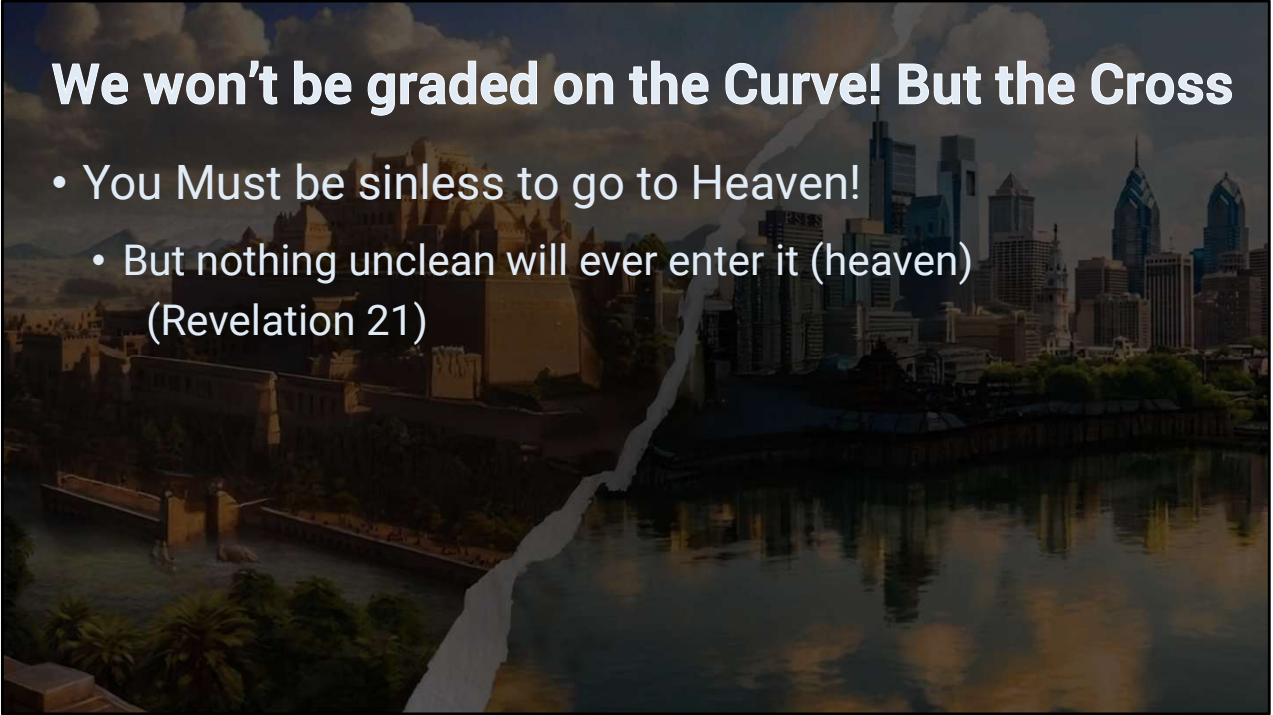
verb menâh, "to number, to reckon." Tekel (teqēl) is a noun referring to a shekel (2/5 of an ounce). It is from the verb teqāl, "to weigh." Parsin (parsîn) is a noun meaning a half-mina (25 shekels, or about 2/3 of a pound). It is from the verb peras, "to break in two, to divide." The word on the wall was actually Ūparsîn, which means "and Parsin" (niv marg.).

Even if the wise men could have read the words (which they couldn't), they could not have interpreted them for they had no point of reference as to what had been numbered, weighed, and divided.

Pentecost, J. D. (1985). . In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1346). Victor Books.

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We won't be graded on the Curve! But the Cross

- You Must be sinless to go to Heaven!
 - But nothing unclean will ever enter it (heaven)
(Revelation 21)

4 Powerful Pronouncements

Immediately **the fingers of a human hand** appeared and wrote (the very hand of God)

Mene, God has **numbered the days of your kingdom** and brought it to an end; that night!

Tekel, you have been **weighed in the balances and found wanting**;

Peres, **your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.**"

Must be Sinless

[Rev 21:27 ESV] 27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

[1Co 6:9-10 ESV] 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

[Gal 5:19-21 ESV] 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

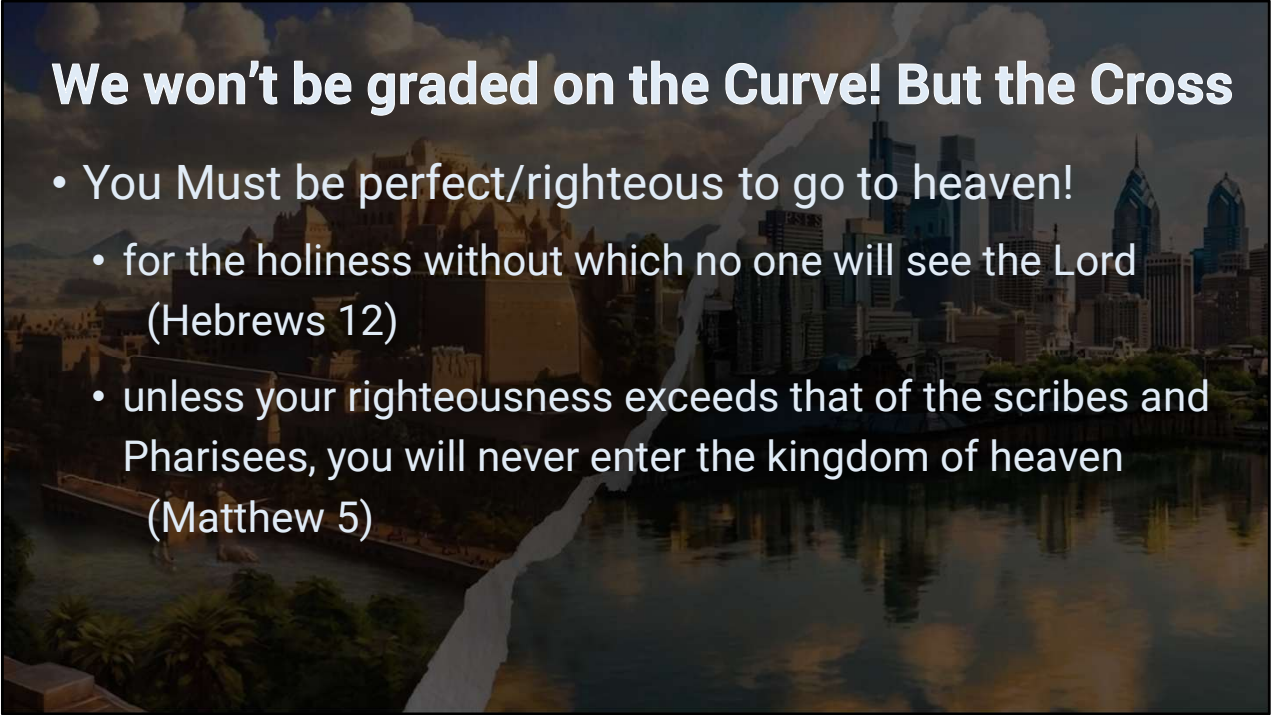
[Eph 5:5 ESV] 5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

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[Heb 12:14 ESV] 14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord..



We won't be graded on the Curve! But the Cross

- You Must be perfect/righteous to go to heaven!
 - for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord
(Hebrews 12)
 - unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven
(Matthew 5)



Egyptian , bottom left Set of scales, a common picture of judgment day

We will NOT be judged by our good works outweighing our bad deeds!!

We will be judged compared to Christ!!

[Job 31:6 ESV] 6 (Let me be weighed in a just balance, and let God know my integrity!)



Expiation, sins removed!! Miracle enough

[Gen 3:7 ESV] 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

[Eze 36:17 ESV] 17 "Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds. Their ways before me were like the uncleanness of a woman in her menstrual impurity.

[Isa 64:6 ESV] 6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

A Mentruous cloth

5708† [עֲדָה] noun feminine menstruation, so Vrss (properly *time, period*); – plural absolute עֲדִים בְּגָד [Isaiah 64:5](#) i.e. stained garment (figurative of best deeds of guilty people;

From 5710, 5749

[Isa 53:6 ESV] 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

[Job 14:4 ESV] 4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? There is not one.

[Job 15:14 ESV] 14 What is man, that he can be pure? Or he who is born of a woman, that he can be righteous?

[Job 25:4 ESV] 4 How then can man be in the right before God? How can he who is born of woman be pure?

[Job 42:6 ESV] 6 therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

[Psa 51:5 ESV] 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

[Rom 7:18, 24 ESV] 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ... 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

[Eph 2:1-2 ESV] 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience--

[Tit 3:3 ESV] 3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

[Phl 3:9 ESV] 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith--

[Rev 3:17-18 ESV] 17 For you say, "I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing," not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

[Rev 7:13 ESV] 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?"



Propitiation – Righteousness added?!
 Clothed in Christ!
 Gifted HIS Righteousness!
 We're covered!

[Gen 3:21 ESV] 21 And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

[Isa 61:10 ESV] 10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

[Luk 15:20-24 ESV] 20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

[Gal 3:27 ESV] 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

[1Jo 2:1 ESV] 1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

[Rom 3:25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

[Heb 2:17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

[1Jo 2:2 ESV] 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

[1Jo 4:10 ESV] 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

[Isa 61:10 ESV] 10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

[Isa 61:3 ESV] 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

[Isa 52:1 ESV] 1 Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean.

[2Ch 6:41 ESV] 41 "And now arise, O LORD God, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. Let your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let your saints rejoice in your goodness.

[Psa 132:9, 16 ESV] 9 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your saints shout for joy. ... 16 Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy.

[Luk 15:22 ESV] 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.

[Rom 13:14 ESV] 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

[Rom 14:17 ESV] 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

[Gal 3:27 ESV] 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

[Phl 3:9 ESV] 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith--

[Rev 4:4 ESV] 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on

their heads.

[Rev 7:9-10, 13-14 ESV] 9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ... 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

[Rev 21:2 ESV] 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

[Rev 19:7-8 ESV] 7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

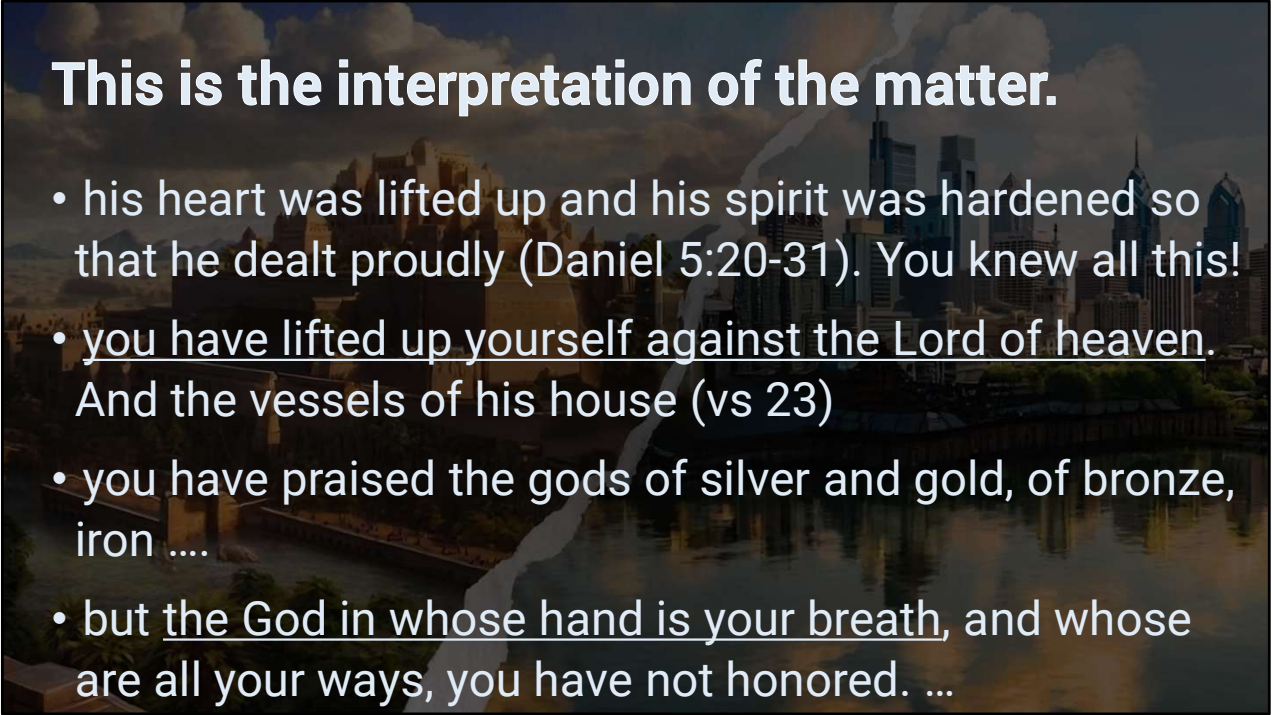
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[Exo 28:2 ESV] 2 And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.

[Zec 3:1-5 KJV] 1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. 2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: [is] not this a brand plucked out of the fire? 3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. 4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. 5 And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.



Jesus, our advocate

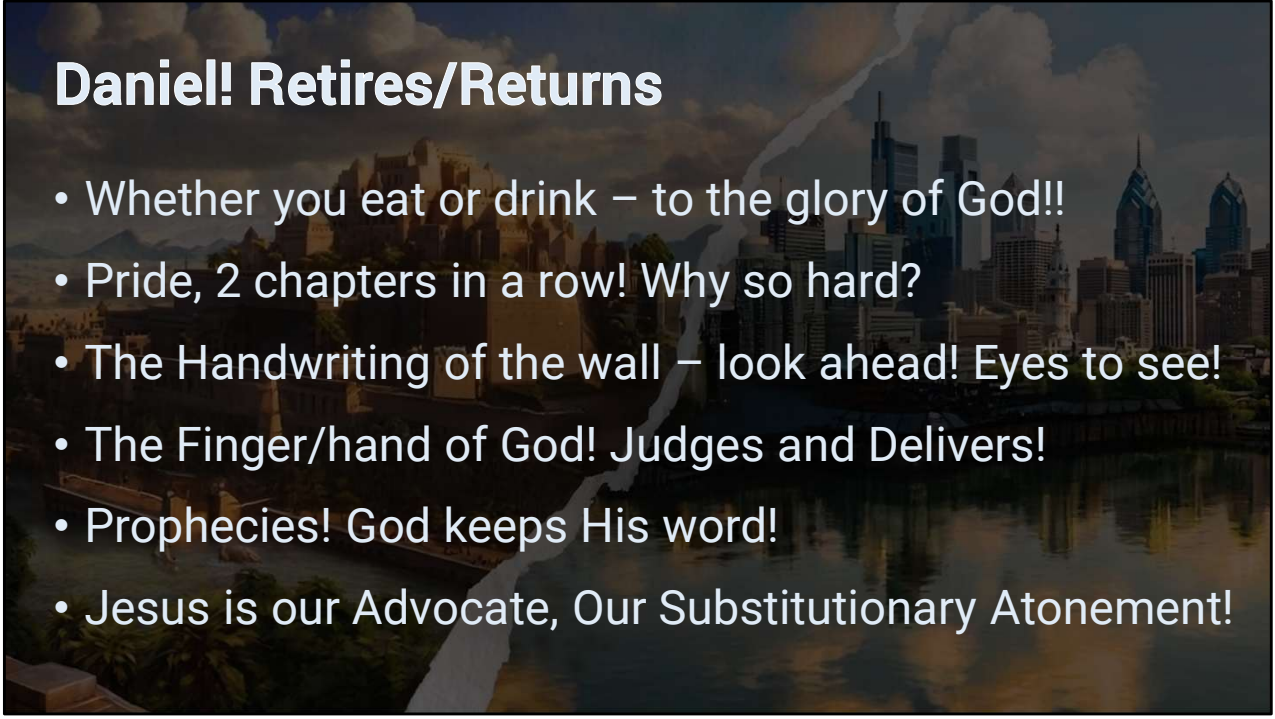


This is the interpretation of the matter.

- his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly (Daniel 5:20-31). You knew all this!
- you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house (vs 23)
- you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron
- but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored. ...

[Dan 5:20-23, 29-31 ESV] 20 But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken from him. 21 He was driven from among the children of mankind, and his mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. He was fed grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will. 22 And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, **though you knew all this**, 23 but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored. ... 29 Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. 30 That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. 31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.





Daniel! Retires/Returns

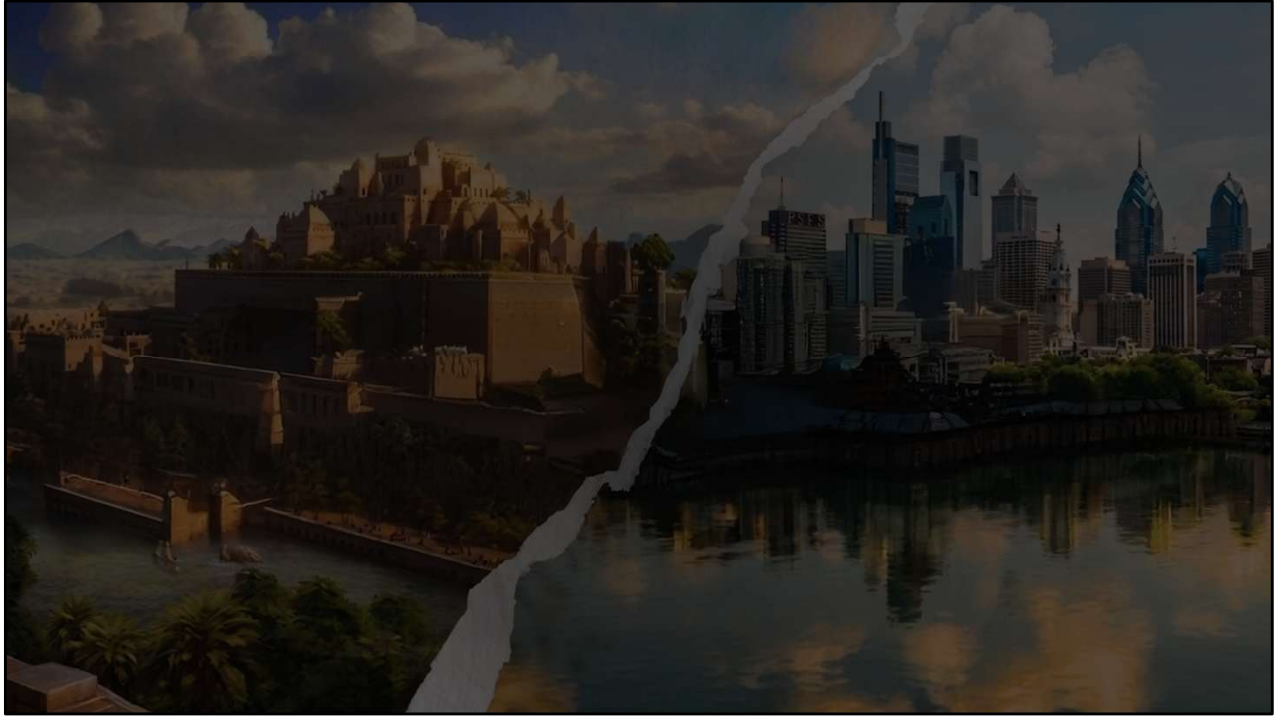
- Whether you eat or drink – to the glory of God!!
- Pride, 2 chapters in a row! Why so hard?
- The Handwriting of the wall – look ahead! Eyes to see!
- The Finger/hand of God! Judges and Delivers!
- Prophecies! God keeps His word!
- Jesus is our Advocate, Our Substitutionary Atonement!

Jesus has us Covered!

Daniel was rejected or retired but didn't stress it! He accepted that God was in control and happily served again when called upon!

Be ready in season and out









The Writing on the Wall: A Study of Arrogance and Divine Justice

The biblical account of King Belshazzar from Daniel 5, highlighting the dangers of pride and the inevitability of God's judgment.

The Anatomy of Arrogance

Blasphemy and Desecration
Belshazzar used sacred gold goblets from God's temple to praise Babylonian idols.

Blindness to Reality
The king held a massive banquet while the Medo-Persian army was at the gates.



The Roots of Pride
Belshazzar ignored the humbling lessons learned by his predecessor, King Nebuchadnezzar.

The Divine Verdict

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN

The Supernatural Warning
A human hand appeared, writing on the palace wall near a lampstand.

The Immediacy of Justice
Babylon fell and Belshazzar was slain that very same night.

Decoding the Divine Inscription



Numbered
God has numbered the days of the reign and ended it.



Weighed
The king has been weighed on scales and found wanting.

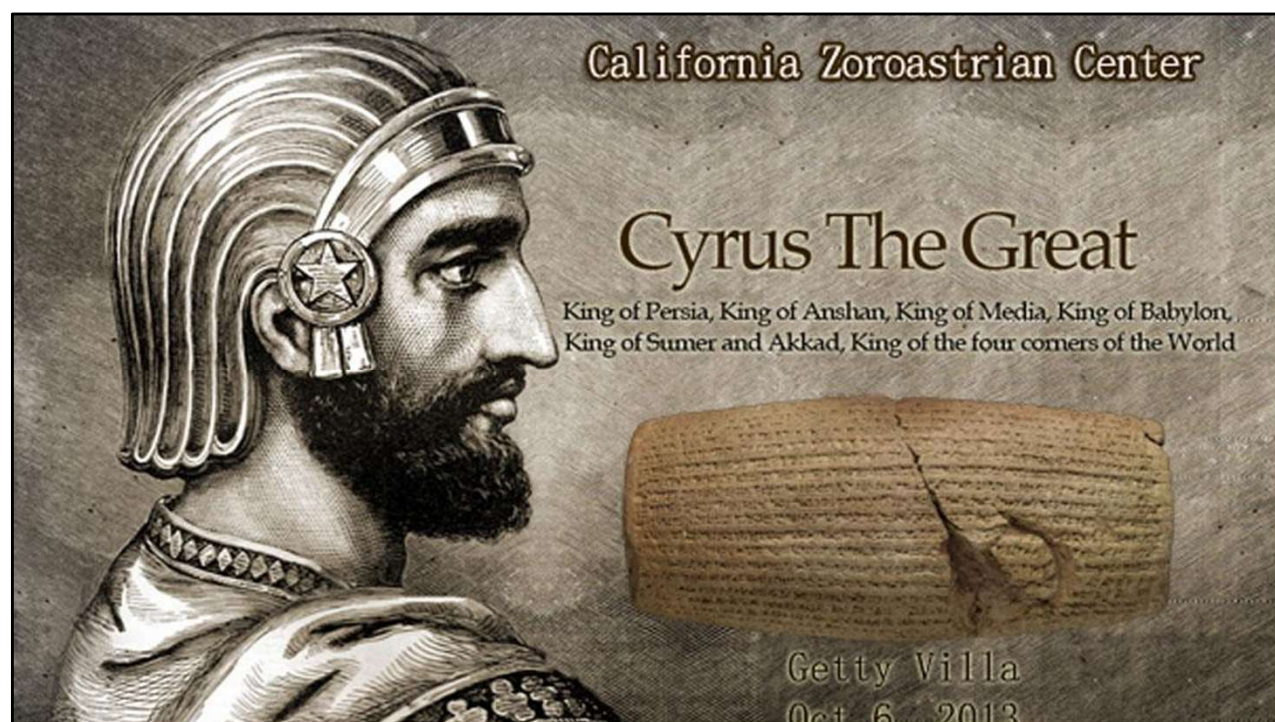


Divided
The Kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

The Call to Humility
True wisdom lies in choosing humility before God forces a humbling end.

NotebookLM





ISAIAH PROPHESED CYRUS

150 YEARS BEFORE HE WAS BORN.

AN ANCIENT PERSIAN KING...

IN THE LAND WE NOW CALL IRAN

TO RESTORE JERUSALEM

FROM ANCIENT PERSIA TO MODERN IRAN...

WHY PERSIA

→ WAS ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPERPOWERS

THE FIRST TRUE WORLD EMPIRE
 Founded by Cyrus the Great around 550 BCE, the Persian Empire became the largest empire the world had ever seen at that time.

AT ITS PEAK
 It stretched from parts of Europe and Egypt, all the way to India.

"We do not say that we are the best, but we say that we are different from the rest."
 — INSCRIPTIONS OF PERSES THE GREAT

THE PERSIAN EMPIRE AT ITS GREATEST (c. 500 BCE)

WHAT MADE PERSIA SO POWERFUL?

ROYAL ROAD Built an incredible network of roads for fast communication, trade, and military movement.	ADVANCED COMMUNICATION Control one of the world's first large-scale postal systems with horse messengers.	SMART ADMINISTRATION Used efficient governance, taxation, and a system of provinces (satrapies).	RESPECT & TOLERANCE Allowed many conquered peoples to keep their religions, languages, and traditions.	DISCIPLINED & STRONG MILITARY A highly organized army with diverse units and advanced strategies.	RESPECTED BY FRIENDS AND ENEMIES Terrorized like the Greeks and later the Romans respected Persian power, culture, and sophistication.
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→ INCREDIBLE ACHIEVEMENTS THAT INFLUENCED THE WORLD

POETRY	MATHEMATICS	ASTRONOMY	MEDICINE	ART & CARPETS	ENGINEERING & CANALS
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From poetry and art to engineering and medicine, Persia's innovations shaped civilizations for centuries.







AT A GLANCE



WHO
King Belshazzar of Babylon



WHAT
A night of pride, a divine warning, a kingdom's fall



WHERE
Babylon



WHEN
Belshazzar's final year as king



DANIEL 5

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY. HUMAN PRIDE.
A KINGDOM WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE.

"MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN"
DANIEL 5:25

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN

THE STORY IN ORDER

1

Belshazzar throws a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drinks wine. (v.1-4)

2

He commands that the gold and silver vessels taken from God's temple in Jerusalem be brought out to be used. (v.2-4)

3

As they drink and praise their gods, a hand appears and writes on the wall. (v.5)

4

The king is terrified and calls for his wise men, but none can read or explain. (v.6-9)

5

Queen Nitocris recommends Daniel, who is brought in. (v.10-12)

6

Daniel reads the writing, interprets it, and pronounces judgment on the king. (v.13-28)

7

That very night, Belshazzar is killed and the kingdom is given to the Medes and Persians. (v.29-31)

THE WRITING
DANIEL 5:25

מֵנֶה

MENE

God has numbered your kingdom and finished it.

קִשְׁקִשְׁ

TEKEL

You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting.

כְּכַדְּ

PERES

Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.



THE MESSAGE

Pride exalts until God weighs. God's kingdom is righteous, and His judgment is sure. PROVERBS 16:16

THE JUDGMENT



Belshazzar's pride and disrespect for God



God's warning through the writing



Immediate judgment that same night



A new kingdom given to the Medes and Persians



"THAT VERY NIGHT BELSHAZZAR THE KING OF THE BABYLONIANS WAS KILLED."

DANIEL 5:30

GOD SEES



No sin is hidden. No pride goes unnoticed. HEBREWS 4:13

GOD WEIGHS



What matters to God is righteousness, not status. 2 CHRONICLES 16:9

GOD JUDGES



When God speaks, history changes immediately. HEBREWS 12:29

GOD REIGNS



Human kingdoms rise and fall, but God's kingdom stands forever. DANIEL 2:44



PRIDE INVITES JUDGMENT. HUMILITY RECEIVES MERCY.

SUBMIT YOURSELF THEREFORE TO GOD, RESIST THE DEVIL, AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU. JAMES 4:7

39





EXODUS 8:19
PHARAOH'S MAGICIANS
"This is the finger of God."

EXODUS 31:18
GOD WRITING THE
TEN COMMANDMENTS
*"He wrote on the tablets
the words of the covenant,
the Ten Commandments."*

THE FINGER OF GOD

"And the finger of God is this..."

LUKE 11:20

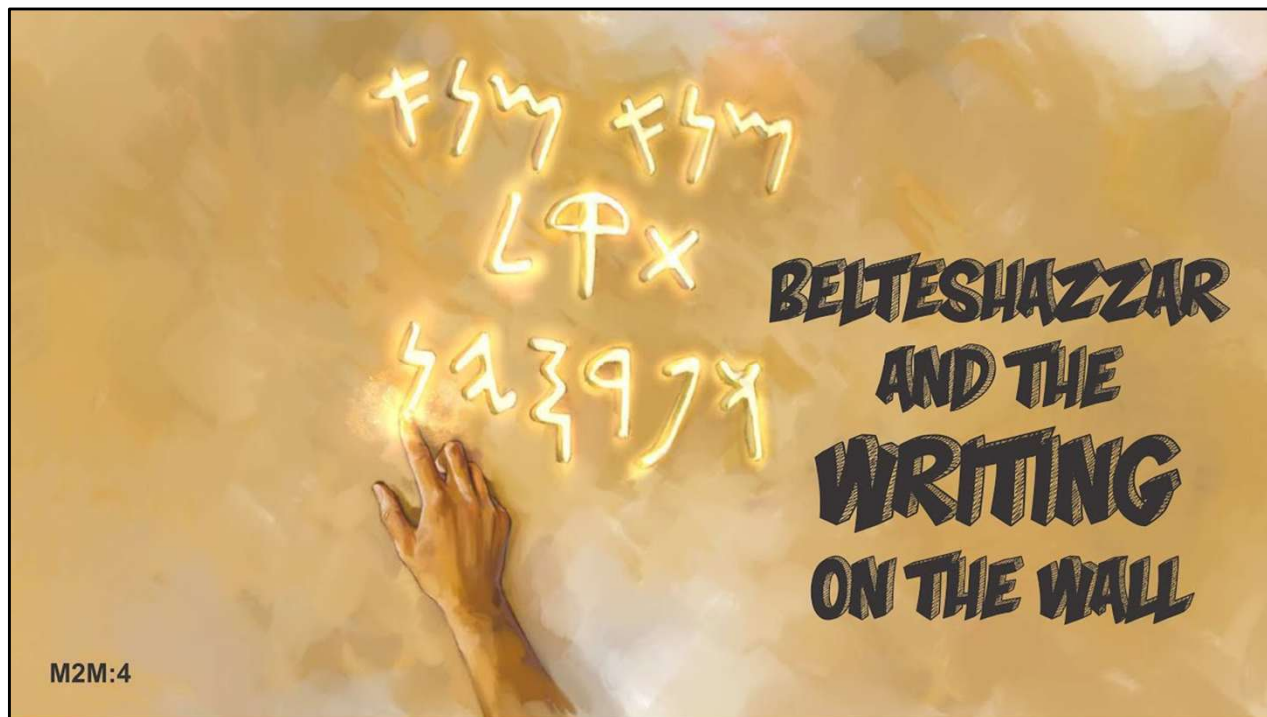
LUKE 11:20
JESUS CASTING
OUT DEMONS
*"But if it is by the
finger of God that
I cast out demons..."*

JOHN 8:6
JESUS WRITING
IN THE DIRT
*"Jesus stooped down
and wrote on the ground
with his finger."*









TWO FAITHFUL BREWS & THE GOOD NEWS

SEASON 3 • EPISODE 14

DANIEL 4

WHEN GOD DISTURBS THE PALACE

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

DANIEL 1



BABYLON TRIED TO
RENAME, RETRAIN,
AND RESHAPE.

DANIEL 2



GOD REVEALED
MYSTERIES.
BABYLON'S WISDOM
HAD LIMITS.

DANIEL 3



BABYLON DEMANDED
WORSHIP.
GOD DELIVERED HIS
FAITHFUL ONES.

DANIEL 4



NOW GOD BEGINS
DEALING WITH THE
PRIDE OF THE KING.

"HIS KINGDOM IS AN
EVERLASTING KINGDOM,
AND HIS DOMINION IS
FROM GENERATION
TO GENERATION."
DANIEL 4:3

TWO
FAITHFUL
BREWS
& THE GOOD NEWS

LIVING IN BABYLON, BUT NOT OF BABYLON.
CARRY REVELATION. STAY HUMBLE. KNOW THE VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD.



REAL CONVERSATIONS



BIBLICAL TRUTH



FAITH THAT BREWS

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twofaithfulbrewsandthegoodnews.riverside.com



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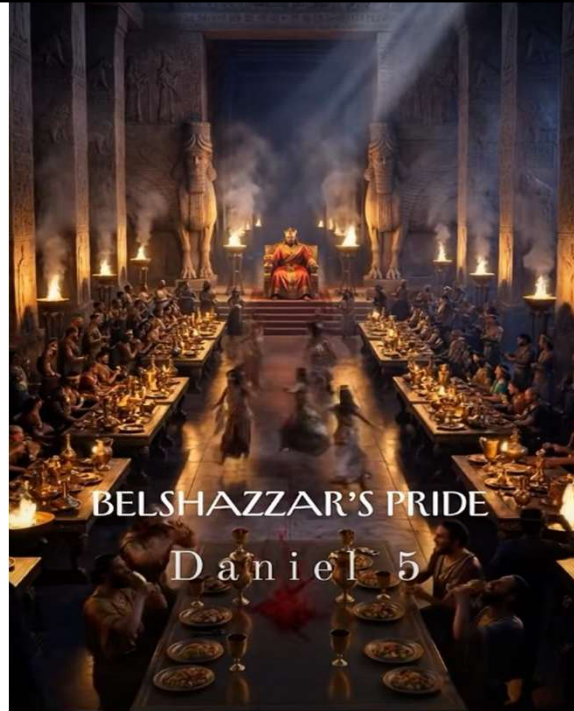
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Isaiah 44:28 named a Persian king called Cyrus and predicted he would rebuild Jerusalem — 150 years before Cyrus was born. When Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon in 539 BC he issued a decree allowing the Jews to return and rebuild their Temple. He did exactly what Isaiah said he would do. 150 years before he existed. Called by name.





PERSIA IN THE BIBLE

Key Figures & Events in Scripture



Cyrus the Great
c. 559–530 BC

"Thus says the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus..."
Isaiah 45:1



Darius the Mede
c. 539–522 BC

".. Your kingdom is given to the Medes and Persians."
Daniel 5:28



Queen Esther & King Ahasuerus
c. 486–465 BC

"For such a time as this..."
Esther 4:14



Artaxerxes I
c. 465–424 BC

"Let me go to Judah to rebuild the walls."
Nehemiah 2:5



Daniel's Prophecies
c. 605–536 BC

"The ram... represents the kings of Media & Persia."
Daniel 8:20–21

"Let the house of God in Jerusalem be rebuilt."
Ezra 1:1–2

"Daniel in the Lion's Den"
Daniel 6

Key Verses

- ◆ Isaiah 45:1
- ◆ Ezra 1:1–2
- ◆ Daniel 5:28
- ◆ Esther 4:14
- ◆ Nehemiah 2:5–8
- ◆ Daniel 8:20–21

- ✓ **Cyrus:** Freed the Jews
- ✓ **Darius:** Protected the Faithful
- ✓ **Esther:** Saved Her People
- ✓ **Persia as a Prophetic Symbol**





