

Daniel Lesson 5

Daniel 5

Take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and everything in it; consecrate it and all its furnishings, and it will be holy. ¹⁰ Then anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils; consecrate the altar, and it will be most holy. Exodus 40:9-10

- Have you ever heard the phrase, “He saw the handwriting on the wall” or “Your days are numbered?” Now you know the origin of these phrases.
- Daniel chapter 5 continues the overarching theme of God’s sovereignty. We also see the sub-theme of the sin of pride. However, unlike Nebuchadnezzar II, Belshazzar does not repent of his sin and is immediately slain.
 - The death of Belshazzar signals the end of the Babylonian empire. Looking back at the statue of Daniel 2, we now see God’s sovereignty at work. The head of gold which represented Babylon has been replaced by the Medes (or the Medo-Persians), represented by the chest and arms of silver.
- Nebuchadnezzar II died around October 562 BC. 3 kings followed and none ruled for very long.
 - Amel-Marduk (also called Evil-Merodach and referenced in 2 Kings 25:27 as the Babylonian king who released the Judean King Jehoiachin from prison)
 - Neriglissar
 - Labashi-Marduk
- In 556 BC, Nabonidus came to the throne. He was not of royal blood, but he married one of Nebuchadnezzar’s daughters. After rebuilding the temple of the moon-goddess Nanna-Sin in Haran, he later moved his residence 500 miles south to Tema, on the Arabian Peninsula, where he lived for the next 10 years.
 - While Nabonidus was gone, he left Babylon in the hands of his son Belshazzar as co-regent.
- While Nabonidus and Belshazzar were ruling Babylon, a young prince, Cyrus II of Persia, was ruling over an isolated district of Persia and was paying tribute to his grandfather, the Median king Astyages. (az tie a geez)

- Nabonidus urged Cyrus to join the Babylonians in a revolt against the Medes. Cyrus agreed. A brief war within Media-Persia resulted with Cyrus the winner over both empires.
- Cyrus then turned on the Babylonians. He marched on Babylon and defeated its army. According to the 5th century BC Greek historian Herodotus, Cyrus then diverted the flow of the Euphrates River and marched under the city walls to take the city by surprise in 539 BC.
 - The Nabonidus Chronicle, a cuneiform cylinder covering Nabonidus' reign, Cyrus II's reign, and the reign of Cyrus II's son Cambyses mentions Cyrus taking the city of Babylon but doesn't mention the diversion of the Euphrates River.
- Belshazzar was slain the night of the feast documented in Daniel Chapter 5 in 539 BC.
- The reference to Darius the Mede in Daniel 5: 31 is likely someone who was a vassal to Cyrus II and whom he put in charge of Babylon.
- Cyrus then dismantled the outer walls of Babylon. Nabonidus surrendered to Cyrus who treated him well, giving him the governorship of Carmania, a territory near the Persian Gulf that is now part of modern-day Iran.
- With the fall of Babylon to Cyrus II, Isaiah's prophecy from 150 years earlier had come to pass. Isaiah 21:9:
 - Look, here comes a man in a chariot with a team of horses. And he gives back the answer: 'Babylon has fallen, has fallen! All the images of its gods lie shattered on the ground!'
- On the night of the feast of Daniel 5:1, Belshazzar had to be aware of recent events:
 - Cyrus had, in the past few days, taken the city of Opis, which was 50 miles north of Babylon on the Tigris River.
 - Next, Cyrus crossed over the Euphrates River, where the city of Sippar surrendered without a fight.
 - Cyrus' army then marched towards the city of Babylon.
- Perhaps Belshazzar had no cause to worry. The city of Babylon was well-defended, and no enemy had stormed the city in 1000 years. Nebuchadnezzar II had reinforced the city walls during his reign.

- Not only has Belshazzar forgotten about the very existence of Daniel, but he seems to have forgotten about or has totally ignored the prophecy of the statue from Daniel 2.
- Further, Belshazzar and his nobles had faith in the Babylonian gods. We see this in Daniel 5:4:
 - As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.
 - One might also read into this statement a reliving of the defeat of Yahweh at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC, when he crushed Zedekiah's revolt, destroyed Jerusalem, and took captive to Judah all but the poorest of the poor.
- Belshazzar has previously ordered that someone retrieve the gold and silver goblets which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the Temple in Jerusalem and stored in the treasure house of his god.
 - These goblets had not been melted down because Nebuchadnezzar recognized them as sacred objects.
 - Daniel, in verse 5:23, will take Belshazzar to task for using goblets which had been consecrated to God (Numbers 40:9-10) in a profane manner and for toasting the Babylonian idols with the sacred objects.
- Belshazzar is clearly frightened by a detached human hand, writing words on the wall.
 - In Middle Eastern culture, a detached hand was the mark of a defeated enemy. Armies numbered their casualties by cutting off the right hands of the dead.
 - This hand is no defeated enemy. It is alive!
- Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin
 - Why couldn't Belshazzar's wise men read the writing or interpret it?
 - In their book NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible, Dr. John Walton and Dr. Craig Keener state that nothing in the Daniel text suggests that the writing was in code or that it was an unusual language.
 - Rather, they suggest that the Aramaic may have been written without vowels and without word divisions. Thus, the writing may have appeared as a string of consonants such as mn'tqlprs.

- Or, the meaning of the words could have depended on how they were voiced.
- Lastly, some Jewish scholars have suggested that the words were written vertically, making a horizontal reading unintelligible.
- Who is the queen of Daniel 5:10 who encourages Belshazzar to call Daniel to interpret the writing?
 - Daniel 5:2 tells us that Belshazzar’s wives were present at the banquet.
 - This queen may be Nabonidus’ wife (Belshazzar’s mother), or even a wife of Nebuchadnezzar II. She would be the queen mother then.
 - Whoever this queen is, she chides Belshazzar for his un-kinglike behavior. She also gives him a slight dig when she reminds Belshazzar that Nebuchadnezzar put great store in Daniel’s abilities.
- When Daniel arrives, he first reads the words on the wall as nouns for Babylonian weights:
 - The mina
 - The shekel
 - The peres (parsin means two peres). A peres can mean either a half mina or a half shekel.
 - So, the phrase is mina, mina, shekel, and a half.
- There is word play at work in this interpretation.
 - When Daniel delivers the interpretation, he changes the words to the verbs m-n-h, “numbered”, t-q-l, “weighed”, and p-r-s, “divided.” In the case of “divided”, his kingdom is to be divided among the Medes and the Persians.
 - In the Middle East, scales and weights were also used to depict divine evaluation and judgment. One such example is in the Egyptian Book of the Dead.
 - In Belshazzar’s case, he is found wanting on God’s scales. He is judged for his pride and lack of repentance.

- The City of Babylon fell on the 16th of the Babylonian month Teshrit. Babylonians identified this month with the constellation The Scales, which we call Libra.
- Peres may be a word play on Persia.
- As the last verses of Daniel 5 tell us, Babylon is brought down. God's sovereignty over human history here fulfills the prophecies of Daniel 2, 7, and 8 and sets the stage for the Jews returning home to Judah as a result of the Edict of Cyrus of Persia in 539 BC, as noted in Ezra 1:1-4.

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1. Read Daniel 5:1-4.
 - a. Who is the Babylonian king? Note: the term “father” is used loosely in this chapter. Belshazzar was actually the son of Nabonidus, who may have married a daughter of Nebuchadnezzar.
 - b. What is the king doing?
 - c. What orders does the king give?
 - d. From Daniel 1:2, where have the vessels been kept?
 - e. What did the king and his guests do as they drank?
 - f. What do these verses tell you about this king’s attitude towards God?
 - g. What do the king and his guests worship instead?
 - h. Contrast Nebuchadnezzar’s attitude towards these vessels with Belshazzar’s attitude.

2. According to Daniel 5:5-9,

- a. What happens next at the party?
- b. Whose hand is this? (Use Exodus 8:19 and Exodus 31:18 for context.)
- c. How does the king react?
- d. Whom did the king summon and why?
- e. If someone was successful, what would be his reward?
- f. Was anyone successful?
- g. What is the reaction of the king and his nobles?

3. From Daniel 5:10-12,

- a. Who has a solution?
- b. Why do you think this person was not at the party?
- c. What is the solution?

- d. How is Daniel described?

- e. What do the facts that Daniel was not readily present and that it was someone else who thought to summon him say about Daniel's relationship with this king?

4. Read Daniel 5:13-17.

- a. What does verse 13 tell you about the king's opinion of Daniel?

- b. What reward does the king offer Daniel if he can interpret the writing on the wall?

- c. Contrast Daniel 4:9 with Daniel 5:14,16.

- d. What is Daniel's response to the king's offer?

- e. Why do you think Daniel responded with these words?

5. From Daniel 5:18-24,

- a. How does Daniel contrast Nebuchadnezzar with Belshazzar?

- b. What was Nebuchadnezzar's sin?
 - c. What happened to Nebuchadnezzar?
 - d. What are Belshazzar's sins? (Hint: Also see Psalm 135:15-18 and look up the meaning of blasphemy in a dictionary.)
 - e. Who brought judgment against Nebuchadnezzar?
 - f. Who is going to bring judgment against Belshazzar? (Hint: Romans 14:10.)
6. From Daniel 5:26-28,
- a. What did the words on the wall mean?
 - b. From Daniel 4, we read that God gave Nebuchadnezzar 12 months to mend his ways before God carried out judgment against him. When will judgment against Belshazzar occur?

7. Read Daniel 5:29-30.

- a. Despite Daniel's statement in Daniel 5:17, what does the king do for Daniel?

- b. Do you think Belshazzar took the interpretation of the writing on the wall seriously?

- c. Did the reward given to Daniel have any value? Why or why not?

8. How is Daniel 5 a fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy in Jeremiah 50?

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1. Read Daniel 5:1-4.
 - a. Who is the Babylonian king? Note: the term “father” is used loosely in this chapter. Belshazzar was actually the son of Nabonidus, who may have married a daughter of Nebuchadnezzar.
 - Belshazzar
 - b. What is the king doing?
 - He was giving a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles.
 - c. What orders does the king give?
 - While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. Daniel 5:2
 - d. From Daniel 1:2, where have the vessels been kept?
 - They were kept in the treasure house of the temple of Nebuchadnezzar’s god in Babylonia.
 - e. What did the king and his guests do as they drank?
 - As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone. Daniel 5:4
 - f. What do these verses tell you about this king’s attitude towards God?
 - Belshazzar had no respect for God. He had disdain for God and for the furnishings from God’s house (the Temple in Jerusalem).
 - g. What do the king and his guests worship instead?
 - Idols of bronze, iron, wood, and stone.
 - h. Contrast Nebuchadnezzar’s attitude towards these vessels with Belshazzar’s attitude.
 - When Nebuchadnezzar took the items, at least he stored them respectfully in a treasury for the length of his reign. Belshazzar had contempt for the items.

2. According to Daniel 5:5-9,

- a. What happens next at the party?
 - Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. Daniel 5:5
- b. Whose hand is this? (Use Exodus 8:19 and Exodus 31:18 for context.)
 - Since the gnats were on people and animals everywhere, ¹⁹ the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said. Exodus 8:18-19
 - When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the covenant law, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God. Exodus 31:18
 - The hand of God.
- c. How does the king react?
 - His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his legs became weak and his knees were knocking. Daniel 5:6
- d. Whom did the king summon and why?
 - The king summoned the enchanters, astrologers, and diviners to read the writing and tell him what it meant.
- e. If someone was successful, what would be his reward?
 - Whoever reads this writing and tells me what it means will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around his neck, and he will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom. Daniel 5:7
- f. Was anyone successful?
 - None of the wise men whom the king summoned could read the writing or interpret it.
- g. What is the reaction of the king and his nobles?
 - So King Belshazzar became even more terrified and his face grew more pale. His nobles were baffled. Daniel 5:9

3. From Daniel 5:10-12,

- a. Who has a solution?
 - The queen

- b. Why do you think this person was not at the party?
 - She wasn't invited to this raucous drinking party which the king was hosting.
 - c. What is the solution?
 - Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means. Daniel 5:12
 - d. How is Daniel described?
 - There is a man in your kingdom **who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods. Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners.** ¹² He did this because **Daniel, whom the king called Belshazzar, was found to have a keen mind and knowledge and understanding, and also the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems.** Daniel 5:11-12
 - e. What do the facts that Daniel was not readily present and that it was someone else who thought to summon him say about Daniel's relationship with this king?
 - It appears that Daniel was not a close adviser to Belshazzar, as he had been to king Nebuchadnezzar.
 - Belshazzar did not even know who Daniel was.
 - Daniel was no longer the chief of the Babylonian wise men.
4. Read Daniel 5:13-17.
- a. What does verse 13 tell you about the king's opinion of Daniel?
 - He thought that Daniel was just another exile from Judah; nothing special.
 - b. What reward does the king offer Daniel if he can interpret the writing on the wall?
 - If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, you will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around your neck, and you will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom. Daniel 5:16
 - c. Contrast Daniel 4:9 with Daniel 5:14,16.
 - In Daniel 4:9, Nebuchadnezzar says that Daniel has the spirit of the holy gods in him, and that no mystery was too difficult for him to solve.
 - In Daniel 5: 14,16, Belshazzar says, "I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in you" and that Daniel had the ability to give interpretations and to solve difficult problems.

- Daniel's ability is a confirmed fact with Nebuchadnezzar but that is not so with Belshazzar.
- d. What is Daniel's response to the king's offer?
- You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Daniel 5:17
- e. Why do you think Daniel responded with these words?
- Daniel did not want to serve Belshazzar.
 - Daniel did not respect Belshazzar.
 - Daniel knew that Belshazzar would soon be overthrown by the Medes and the Persians. (Daniel 5:28)
5. From Daniel 5:18-24,
- a. How does Daniel contrast Nebuchadnezzar with Belshazzar?
- God gave Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty, greatness, glory, and splendor. All nations and peoples of every language dreaded and feared him. When his heart became filled with pride, God deposed him from his royal throne, and he was given the mind of an animal until he acknowledged the sovereignty of God.
 - Belshazzar had not humbled himself, although he knew about Nebuchadnezzar. Belshazzar had set himself against God. He and his nobles drank wine from the goblets of God's temple. He did not honor God.
- b. What was Nebuchadnezzar's sin?
- The sin of pride
- c. What happened to Nebuchadnezzar?
- He was insane and had the mind of an animal for 7 years until he acknowledged God's sovereignty.
- d. What are Belshazzar's sins? (Hint: Also see Psalm 135:15-18 and look up the meaning of blasphemy in a dictionary.)
- The idols of the nations are silver and gold, made by human hands. ¹⁶ They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see. ¹⁷ They have ears, but cannot hear, nor is there breath in their mouths. ¹⁸ Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them. Psalms 135:15-18
 - According to Wikipedia, **Blasphemy**, as defined in some religions or religion-based laws, is an insult that shows contempt, disrespect or a lack of

reverence concerning a deity, an object considered sacred or something considered inviolable.

- Belshazzar's sins are pride, blasphemy, and idol worship.

e. Who brought judgment against Nebuchadnezzar?

- God

f. Who is going to bring judgment against Belshazzar? (Hint: Romans 14:10.)

- For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. Romans 14:10

- God will bring judgment against Belshazzar.

6. From Daniel 5:26-28,

a. What did the words on the wall mean?

- Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.

- Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

- Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

b. From Daniel 4, we read that God gave Nebuchadnezzar 12 months to mend his ways before God carried out judgment against him. When will judgment against Belshazzar occur?

- That night (of the feast).

7. Read Daniel 5:29-30.

a. Despite Daniel's statement in Daniel 5:17, what does the king do for Daniel?

- Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom. Daniel 5:29

b. Do you think Belshazzar took the interpretation of the writing on the wall seriously?

- No, because he went ahead and made Daniel the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

c. Did the reward given to Daniel have any value? Why or why not?

- The reward had no value because Belshazzar was slain that night and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom.

8. How is Daniel 5 a fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy in Jeremiah 50?

- Babylon will be captured Jeremiah 50:2
- A nation from the north will attack her and lay waste her land. Jeremiah 50:3
- For I will stir up and bring against Babylon an alliance of great nations from the land of the north. They will take up their positions against her, and from the north she will be captured. Their arrows will be like skilled warriors who do not return empty-handed. ¹⁰ So Babylonia will be plundered; all who plunder her will have their fill," declares the LORD. Jeremiah 50:9-10
- How broken and shattered is the hammer of the whole earth! How desolate is Babylon among the nations! ²⁴ I set a trap for you, Babylon, and you were caught before you knew it; you were found and captured because you opposed the LORD. ²⁵ The LORD has opened his arsenal and brought out the weapons of his wrath, for the Sovereign LORD Almighty has work to do in the land of the Babylonians. Jeremiah 50:23-25
- Summon archers against Babylon, all those who draw the bow. Encamp all around her; let no one escape. Repay her for her deeds; do to her as she has done. For she has defied the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. Jeremiah 50:29
- A sword against the Babylonians!" declares the LORD— "against those who live in Babylon and against her officials and wise men! Jeremiah 50:35

Daniel 5

Chapter 5 Theme

- Continues the Overarching Theme of God's Sovereignty
- Sub-Theme of the Sin of Pride
 - Unlike Nebuchadnezzar II, Belshazzar Does Not Repent of His Sin
- The Death of Belshazzar Signals the End of the Babylonian Empire
 - The Head of Gold of Daniel 2, Representing Babylon, Which Has been Replaced by the Medes (or the Medo-Persians), the Chest and Arms of Silver

After Nebuchadnezzar II

- Nebuchadnezzar II Died Circa October 562 BC
- 3 Kings Followed; None Ruled Very Long
 - Amel-Marduk (AKA the Evil-Merodach Who Released Judean King Jehoiachin From Prison; 2 Kings 25:27)
 - Neriglissar
 - Labashi-Marduk
- In 556 BC, Nabonidus Came to the Throne; Not of Royal Blood, But Married One of Nebuchadnezzar's Daughters

Nabonidus

- After Rebuilding the Temple of the Moon-Goddess Nanna-Sin in Haran, He Moved 500 Miles South to Tema, on the Arabian Peninsula, Where He Lived for the Next 10 Years
 - Nabonidus Made His Son Belshazzar Co-Regent
- Young Prince Cyrus II of Persia Was Ruling an Isolated District of Persia and Paying Tribute to His Median Grandfather Astyages
- Nabonidus Urged Cyrus to Join the Babylonians in a Revolt Against the Medes; Cyrus Won Both Media and Persia After a Brief War

Cyrus II

- Cyrus Turned on the Babylonians, Defeating Its Army
- Per Herodotus, Cyrus Diverted the Flow of the Euphrates River and Marched Under the City Walls of Babylon to Take the City in 539 BC
- The Nabonidus Chronicle, Covering the Reigns of Nabonidus, Cyrus II, and Cambyses, Mentions Cyrus Taking Babylon But Does Not Mention the Diversion of the Euphrates River
- Belshazzar Was Slain the Night of the Feast in Daniel 5 in 539 BC

The Nabonidus Chronicle;

The British Museum, London, England,
United Kingdom; Copyright:
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Cyrus II

- Darius the Mede in Daniel 5:31 is Likely a Vassal to Cyrus II and Whom He Put in Charge of Babylon
- Cyrus Dismantled the Outer Walls of Babylon
- Nabonidus Surrendered to Cyrus; He Was Given the Governorship of Carmania, Near the Persian Gulf in Iran
- With the Fall of Babylon to Cyrus, Isaiah 21:9 Had Come to Pass

Belshazzar

- On the Night of the Feast of Daniel 5:1, He Had to Be Aware of Recent Events:
 - Cyrus Had Taken Opis, 50 Miles North of Babylon on the Tigris River
 - Cyrus Crossed Over the Euphrates; Sippar Surrendered Without a Fight
 - Cyrus' Army Was Marching Towards Babylon

Cyrus II's Invasion of Babylon; Copyright:
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*Babylonia
and the invasion of
Cyrus II*

miles | 100
kilometers

Belshazzar

- Perhaps He Had No Cause to Worry
 - The City of Babylon Was Well-Defended and No Enemy Had Stormed the City in 1000 Years
 - Nebuchadnezzar II Had Reinforced the City Walls
- Belshazzar Has Not Only Forgotten Daniel, He Has Forgotten or Ignored the Prophecy of Daniel 2
- Belshazzar and His Nobles Had Faith in the Babylonian Gods (Daniel 5:4)
- They Were Reliving Nebuchadnezzar's Defeat of Yahweh in 586 BC

Belshazzar's Party

- He Orders the Retrieval of the Gold and Silver Goblets Which Nebuchadnezzar Had Taken From the Jerusalem Temple and Stored in the Treasure House of His God
- The Goblets Had Not Been Melted Down; Nebuchadnezzar Recognized Them as Sacred Objects
- In Daniel 5:23, Daniel Will Take Belshazzar to Task for Using Goblets Consecrated to God (Numbers 40:9-10) in a Profane Manner and for Toasting the Babylonian Idols with the Sacred Objects

Handwriting on the Wall

- Belshazzar is Clearly Frightened by a Detached Human Hand, Writing Words on the Wall
- In Middle Eastern Culture, a Detached Hand Was the Mark of a Defeated Enemy
- Armies Numbered Their Casualties by Cutting Off the Right Hands of the Dead
- This Hand is No Defeated Enemy
- It Is Alive!



Belshazzar's Feast; Rembrandt;
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Egyptian Official Counting
Severed Hands; Mortuary
Temple of Ramesses III, Luxor,
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Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin

- Why Couldn't Belshazzar's Wise Men Read the Writing or Interpret It?
 - Dr. John Walton and Dr. Craig Keener State That Nothing in the Text Suggests That the Writing Was in Code or an Unusual Language
 - The Aramaic May Have Been Written Without Vowels and Without Word Divisions (mn'tqlprs)
 - Or, the Meaning of the Words Depended on How They Were Voiced
 - Some Jewish Scholars Suggest That the Words Were Written Vertically, Making Horizontal Reading Unintelligible

The Queen

- Who Is the Queen of Daniel 5:10?
 - Daniel 5:2 Tells Us That Belshazzar's Wives Were Present at the Banquet
 - This Queen May Have Been Nabonidus' Wife (Belshazzar's Mother), or Even a Wife of Nebuchadnezzar II; She Would Be the Queen Mother
- Whoever She Is, She Chides Belshazzar for His Un-Kinglike Behavior
- She Gives Him a Slight Dig When She Reminds Belshazzar That Nebuchadnezzar Put Great Store in Daniel's Abilities

Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin

- When Daniel Arrives, He First Reads the Words on the Wall as Nouns for Babylonian Weights:
 - The Mina
 - The Shekel
 - The Peres (Parsin Means 2 Peres); A Peres Can Be Either a Half Mina or a Half Shekel
- So, the Phrase Is: Mina, Mina, Shekel, And a Half

Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin

- There Is Word Play at Work in This Interpretation
- Daniel Changes the Words to the Verbs M-N-H, “Numbered”, T-Q-L, “Weighed”, and P-R-S, “Divided”; His Kingdom Is to Be Divided Among the Medes and the Persians
- In the Middle East, Scales and Weights Were Used to Depict Divine Evaluation and Judgment; An Example is the Egyptian Book of the Dead
- Belshazzar Has Been Found Wanting on God’s Scales; He is Judged for His Pride and Lack of Repentance
- Babylon Fell on the 16th of Teshrit, Associated with the Constellation The Scales (Libra)
- Peres May Be a Word Play on Persia



Babylon is Brought Down

- Per the Last Verses of Daniel 5, Babylon is Brought Down
- God's Sovereignty Over Human History Fulfills the Prophecies of Daniel 2, 7, and 8
- Sets the Stage for the Jews Returning Home to Judah Per the Edict of Cyrus of Persia in 539 BC (Ezra 1:1-4)



The Statue from Daniel 2 and the Beasts From Daniel 7

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