



# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

## Daniel (Part-9) (5:1-31)

**The Feast (1-4):** Who was king Belshazzar? What was wrong about the feast? Is the Lord honored in our celebrations?

**The writing on the wall (5-9):** What did king see on the wall? How did he react? What caused him to be troubled? Does it seem rational that he was troubled? Why couldn't the wise men interpret? What was the reward for interpretation? Why wasn't Daniel called?

**Invitation to interpret (10-16):** Who recommends Daniel? How is Daniel described? How would others describe us?

**Interpretation by Daniel (17-29):** Why didn't Daniel accept the gifts? How does Daniel reflect on the life of king Nebuchadnezzar? What does Daniel point out as the reason(s) for failure of king Belshazzar? What was the interpretation of the writing? What admirable qualities of Daniel are demonstrated in his communicating the interpretation to the king? How did the king reward Daniel?

**The fall of king (30-31):** What caused the fall of king? How did his life end? Did the king get an opportunity to repent and change his ending? In your experience, What is the consequence of delayed obedience?

**Key verse (II Timothy 3:16-17):** What verse will be good to commit to memory?



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The fall of king (30-31)

Attributes of God

Key verse

# Daniel gives insights on/for



**PAST**

**PRESENT**

**FUTURE**



**HISTORY**

**APPLICATION**

**PROPHECY**



Grand Feast to a Great Fall

(History, Application, Prophecy)





# The Grand Feast

Who was king Belshazzar?

What was wrong about the feast?

Is the Lord honored in our celebrations?

# king Belshazzar

- No elaborate historical background of Belshazzar given. There is time gap between chapters 4 & 5.
- Eldest son of **Nabodinus**, last king of Babylon (around 555-539BC)
- **Belshazzar** co-ruled with his father ... as suggested by the reward for interpreting the writing on the wall (3rd ruler, not 2<sup>nd</sup> ruler) (7, 16, 29)
- **Nebuchadnezzar** referred as “father” of Belshazzar (2,11,13,18,22) – not as a biological father, but ancestry (just as Abraham is referred as Father Abraham)

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# What was wrong with the feast?

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Drinking

Idol worship

Irreverence to holy vessels

- Surprisingly, grand feast is going on while Babylon was under siege ... perhaps false confidence in the security of Babylon (Babylon protected by 17-miles long outer wall that was 22 feet thick and 90 feet high, Strong Gates, and Moat)
- Revelation 17:1-5

# Do we honor the Lord in our celebrations?

(birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, graduation, promotion, etc.)

How can we honor the Lord?



The background image shows a hand holding a pen, poised to write on a whiteboard. The whiteboard is covered with various chemical diagrams and text, including DNA structures, chemical structures, and the phrase "The Writing on the Wall". The overall theme is scientific and religious.

**God interrupts the party ...**  
**The Writing on the Wall (5-9)**

God interrupted  
the party ...  
with The writing  
on the wall

Has God ever interrupted your party?

1. What did king see on the wall?
2. How did he react? What caused him to be troubled?
3. Does it seem rational that he was troubled?
4. Why couldn't the wise men interpret? What was the reward for interpretation?
5. Why wasn't Daniel called?

Writing on the  
wall

In the same hour came forth  
fingers of a man's hand, and  
wrote over against the  
candlestick upon the plaster  
of the wall of the king's  
palace: and the king saw the  
part of the hand that wrote  
(5)





king's reaction (6,7) ...  
terrified and anxious!

Countenance changed

Troubled thoughts

Joints loosed

Knees smote against one another

Frantically seeks interpretation

Does the reaction seem rational?

Why  
couldn't the  
wise men  
interpret

Maybe afraid to give bad news

Or

unable to read Hebrew language and interpret (8)





# Reward for interpretation

Appointed as Third ruler in the kingdom (7)  
(Position and riches)

Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom (1<sup>st</sup> = King Nabonidus; 2<sup>nd</sup> = son Belshazzar, co-ruler; 3<sup>rd</sup> = interpreter)

**Genesis 41:40** ... **Joseph** was made second ruler (Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou)





# Why was Daniel not called?

Maybe not present in the area

Maybe considered junior to other wise men

Maybe discrimination:  
Daniel was a foreigner

# Invitation to interpret (10-16)

Who recommends Daniel? How is Daniel described?

How would others, especially unbelievers, describe us?

Queen's  
recommendation  
(10-12)

Who is the Queen? ...  
maybe Belshazzar's mother

Queen's perception of  
Daniel ...

- excellent spirit of the holy gods
- light, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding
- Confident that he can interpret

Our  
testimony,  
inside &  
outside the  
church,  
matters

Moreover, he must have a good testimony among those who are outside (I Timothy 3:7, re: leaders)

For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man (II Corinthians 8:21, re: Titus in administering the gift from Macedonian believers)



# Exhortation, Expectation & Aspiration of believers to be Blameless

**Philippians 2:15** That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

**I Thessalonians 2:10** Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

**I Corinthians 1:8** who will also confirm you to the end, *that you may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Psalms 119:80** Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, That I may not be ashamed.

**Revelation 14:5** No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.



# The interpretation (17-23)

# The interpretation

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Why didn't Daniel accept the gifts?

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How does Daniel reflect on the life of king Nebuchadnezzar?

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What does Daniel point out as the reason(s) for failure of king Belshazzar?

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What was the interpretation of the writing?

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What admirable qualities of Daniel are demonstrated in his communicating the interpretation to the king?

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How did the king reward Daniel?

# The interpretation

1. Why didn't Daniel accept the gifts? (17)
  - Maybe to avoid conflict of interest (gift must not influence his interpretation of God's word)
  - Maybe considered interpretation as part of his service to the king

## 1 THESSALONIANS 2:4-6

<sup>4</sup> But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. <sup>5</sup> For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: <sup>6</sup> Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

- It does not mean God's servants cannot be paid (1 Timothy 5:18)

# The interpretation

2. How does Daniel reflect on the life of king Nebuchadnezzar from ch.4? (18-21)

- A great king, blessed with great kingdom, majesty, glory, and honor
- A proud king humbled by God, until he recognized the sovereignty of God

# The interpretation

3. What does Daniel point out as the reason(s) for failure of king Belshazzar? (22-23) ... **you knew all this but did nothing! (22)**

- Pride
- Used temple vessels for drinking wine
- Worshipped idols
- Not glorified God

“and thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, **though thou knewest all this**; (we are no different from the king...we know it all, yet choose to disobey God’s word)

The  
interpretation:  
message from  
God (24-28)

**MENE** – kingdom days are numbered

**TEKEL** – fallen short of God's standards or expectations

**PERES** – kingdom divided  
(given to Medes and Persians)

# The interpretation

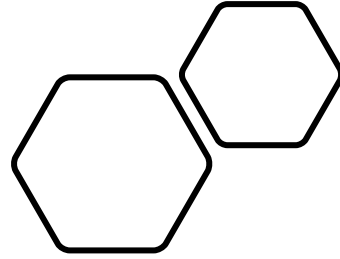
5. What admirable qualities of Daniel are demonstrated in his communicating the interpretation to the king?

- Courage
- Truthfulness

6. How did the king reward Daniel?

- Daniel promoted again (29)
- Occupied the 3<sup>rd</sup> ruler position (but only for a few hours)
- Daniel's age ... likely in his 70s

# The fall of king (30-31)



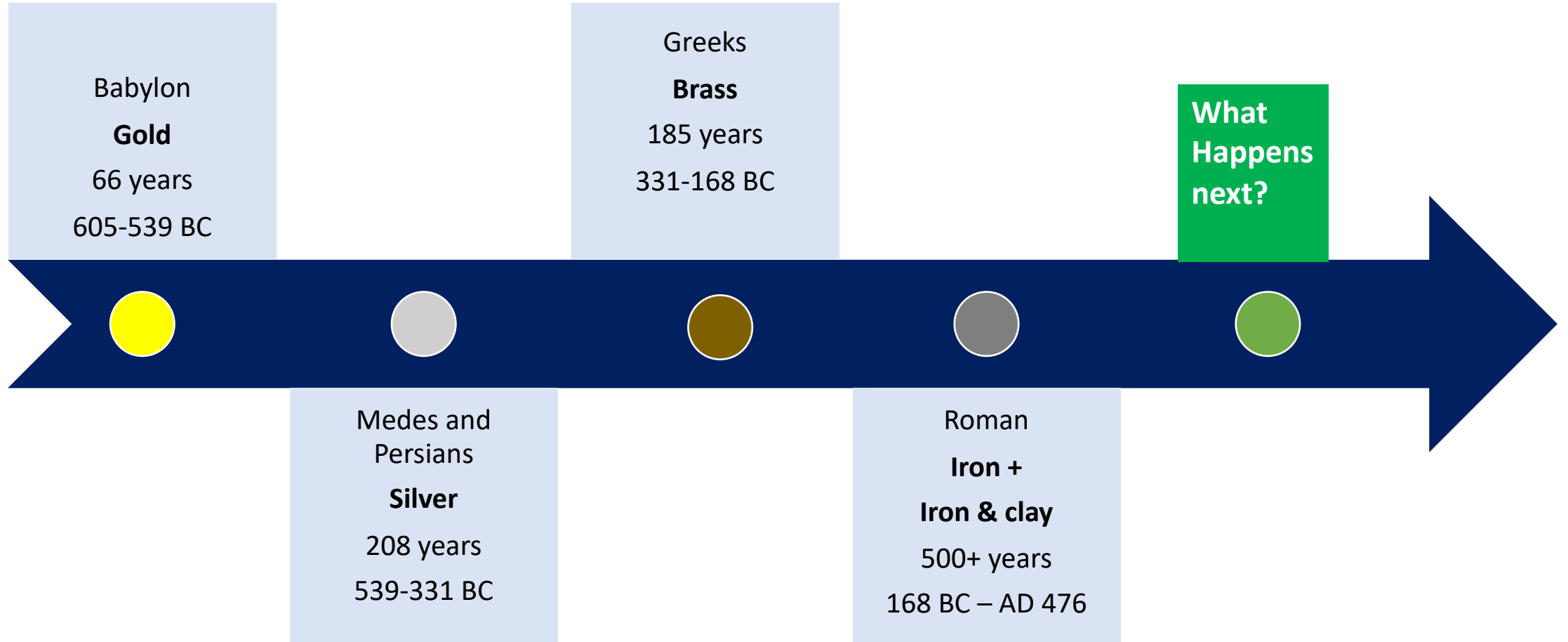
- What caused the fall of king?
- How did his life end?
- Did the king get an opportunity to repent and change his ending?
- In your experience, What is the consequence of delayed obedience?



# The Fall

- What caused the fall of king? (22-23)
  - Pride, Idol worship, Defiling of holy vessels, not recognizing the true God
  - Before destruction, heart of man is haughty (Proverbs 18:12)
- How did his life end? (30)
  - Slain
    - Prophecy about Babylon fulfilled
    - 70 years after the dream (Daniel 2:39, Jeremiah 25:11-13; 51:11-13)
- Did the king get an opportunity to repent and change his ending?
  - Not likely ... king's end came soon after the interpretation.

# Metals = Gentile Kingdoms (from Daniel 2)



# Warning on Sudden fall of sinners

## Proverbs 6:15-19

15 Therefore shall his **calamity come suddenly**; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy. <sup>16</sup> These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: <sup>17</sup> A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, <sup>19</sup> A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

## ISAIAH 47:10-11

<sup>10</sup> For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me. <sup>11</sup> Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and **desolation shall come upon thee suddenly**, which thou shalt not know.

In your experience,  
What is the consequence of delayed obedience?

Are you feasting in the  
pleasures of this world?

Daniel 5 warns us that  
Fall will follow such a feast  
... let us make the right choice!

Making the  
right choice

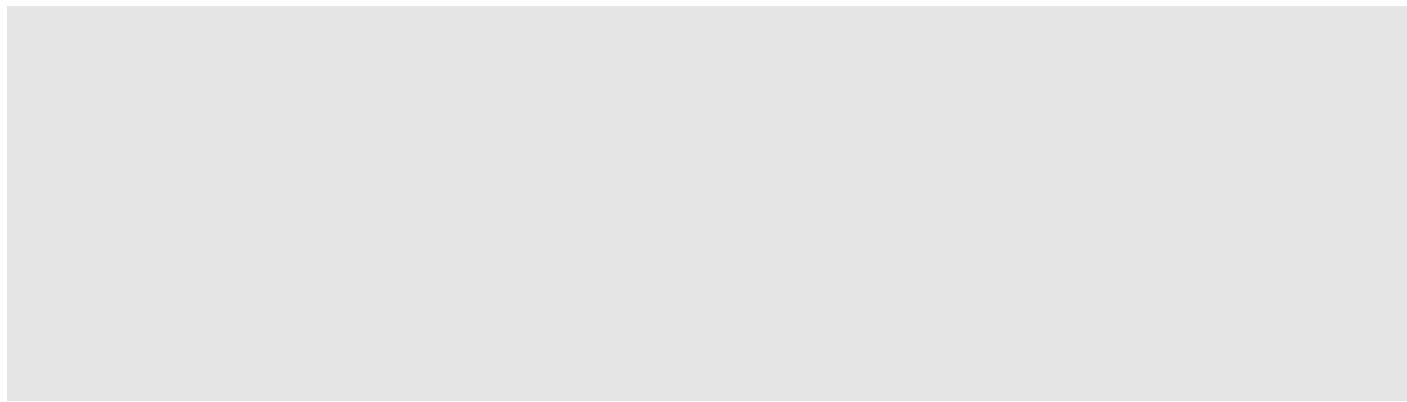
...

don't feast in  
sin

- **Moses made the right choice....** Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season (Hebrews 11:24)



What Attributes of God are seen  
in this chapter?



**God's  
unchanging  
Attributes  
(as seen in  
previous  
chapters 1-4)**

God knows everything

God is Just

God is merciful

God is our deliverer

God is always present (with us)

God is Sovereign (He is in absolute control)

God is Faithful (He honors those who honor Him)



# What memory verse?

Chapter 1:8a Chapter 2:22  
Chapter 3:17-18 Chapter 4:34



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