

Daniel 5.1-31

"Read the Writing on the Wall!"

As we Step into Daniel chapter 5....

Fast-Forward couple DECADES in History of Babylon – Neb Dead & Gone  
HEAD of GOLD buried DEEP Beneath the MIRY CLAY

Young Man occupies THRONE of Father, Serving as KING in his Absence  
BELSHAZZAR = ‘Bel (god in Babylon) PROTECT the KING’

Like teenagers have HUGE PARTY when Parents NOT Home, BEL.throws...

## 1. Epic Party in the Palace!

### a. Size

v. 1 King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand.

1000 Nobles plus many WIVES and CONCUBINES – WINE Flowed

LAUGHTER filled the PALACE – Everyone who was Anyone was THERE!

Belshazzar’s banquet was sheer bravado, the last fling of a terrified ruler unsuccessfully attempting to drown his fears. Joyce Baldwin

CRITICS long claimed Neb NO SON, No RECORD of King Named Belshazzar

Discovery Extensive Historical Findings > Slowly Catching Up with BIBLE

Belshazzar = May Actually have been GRANDSON or Nephew of NEB

During Nabonidus’ reign Belshazzar was the effective authority for his father in Babylon. The Babylonian texts reveal that Nabonidus was an eccentric ruler. He did not treat the gods of Babylon in the approved way. Instead he worshipped the moon god. So he stayed away from Babylon for over a decade to worship the moon god and not clash with the powerful priesthood. Biblical Archeology Review

WHY best could OFFER Daniel 3<sup>rd</sup> Highest Office – Dad 1<sup>st</sup>, BEL was 2<sup>nd</sup>

If you want to look very wise in the world's eyes and are willing to look risk looking foolish years from now, you can make a reputation for yourself by pointing out the 'errors' in the Bible. There are always facts we do not know and things we fail to understand, so it will always be possible to point to certain items and say that they are errors. But these things tend to become explained. As time passes and the data from archeology, history, and other disciplines accumulate, these alleged 'errors' tend to explode in the faces of those who propounded them...The Bible is seen to be more reliable, not less, as time passes. James Boice

## b. Superiority

vs. 2-4 Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Babylonian History records Great Banquet on Final Night of Kingdom

Persian Enemies BANGING on City Gates > Under Siege for Several Months

Invited 1000 as STRONG, Public Support of gods of Babylon > WE Believe!

REAL King moved to Far-Away corner of Empire to Worship MOON god

Strained Relations with PRIESTS – held Power & Influence over Citizens

SHOW of Support by SON > his Father Refused to Believe in gods of Babylon

Bel SPITS in Eye of True God & INVITES gods of Stone to SAVE HIM!

gods of Babylon had Names, Followers, Rituals, Priests, Shrines, Ceremonies

Holidays where Histories were Recounted / Costly Sacrifices made to Them

v. 4 gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone >> ALL they Are

People rever Tall Budha carved in Mountain, Sleeping, Laughing, Standing

v. 4 like LITTLE Boy in Emperor's New Clothes ***“Hey, King is NAKED!”***

NOT a god!! JUST gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, stone > MADE by GOD

No Amount Pebbles, Pixels, Plaster, Paint, Precious Stones > CAPTURE God  
 No IMAGE can Adequately EXPRESS Enormity, Omnipresent, Invisible God

NOT only does Bel. DECLARE Babylon gods > DISHONORS God of ISRAEL  
 Ch 1 > Neb TOOK Vessels of Temple, Wise Enough to LEAVE them Alone  
 Bel. Brings to Brawl --- Disrespect > Blasphemy > Idolatry >>> DEATH

POINT is NOT that God is So CONCERNED about POTS & PANS

If you go back your ROOM this Afternoon > Find All STUFF piled in Hallway  
 Angry STUFF was DISRESPECTED > Bigger PROBLEM > Kicked Out Home!  
 Your STUFF is OUT and SO ARE YOU! > Bel thot Finally Rid of YAHWEH!

Do WE misuse the HOLY Things of God for our Pleasures, Misuse HIS Name  
 BEL. gets Party MORE DRUNK as they DEFILE Sacred Vessels of God  
 Confession of gods of Metal > CHALLENGE to True GOD their MAKER

### c. Surrender

City Under Siege for 3 Months by CYRUS of PERSIA > HOPE was Fading  
 vs. 30,31 That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. And Darius  
 the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

Historian HERODOTUS > Persians blocked River flowed under city WALL  
 Then WALKED Up RIVERBED – UNDER City Wall – Into Unsuspecting City  
 SURPRISE Attack – Captured KING and Destroyed EMPIRE in One STROKE

v. 2 Belshazzar, *when he tasted the wine...* > MORE than just TASTE, DRUNK  
 Tries to DROWN his Sorrows with WINE, WOMEN, and WITCHCRAFT

“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

1 Corinthians 15.32

Several BAD things happen when PEOPLE are DRUNK in the BIBLE  
 NAKED NOAH wakes up & CURSES his DISRESPECTFUL Son – Tribe

King Ahasuerus SHAMED by Queen Vashti refuses Delight Drooling Drunkards  
 Forces him Make ROYAL Decree that WIVES must OBEY their HUSBANDS!

King HEROD is trapped by HERODIAS to give HEAD of John the BAPTIST

REAL Problem was NOT ALCOHOL but ARROGANCE > DEFIES God

Alcohol NOT SIN – GIFT of God – ABUSED to EXCESS can lead to Much SIN

“religion is the opiate of the people”

Karl Marx

Meant Religion puts people to SLEEP > their Oppressors maintain Supremacy

Bible teaches OPPOSITE > Message of God WAKE Us UP! Repent! Believe!

## 2. Party-Crashing Hand

### a. Signature

v. 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.

BEL brought out Vessels INVITED God of Israel to his Epic PARTY

God SHOWS Up! HAND wrote 10 Commands, now writes they're BROKEN!

Special WORD from God for this Man thinks SO Special he can Blaspheme God

Belshazzar's party was the ultimate act of folly: he was feasting on the brink of the grave and celebrating on the edge of extinction

Iain Duguid

### b. Shock

v. 6 Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together.

Lit. LOST Control of Bodily Functions > YELLOW Puddle appeared at FEET  
BEL becomes GIBBERING WRECK > TOGA turning BROWN

v. 7-9 The king called loudly to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers. The king declared to the wise men of Babylon, “Whoever reads this writing, and shows me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.” Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation. Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, and his color changed, and his lords were perplexed.

Babylonian DREAM Team INVITED One More Time to PERFORM Wizardry  
Again BUZZER SOUNDS – One more Time SCORE is 0,0,0 – Never Took Shot

What MAKES Us become UNDONE – Moved out Ginko Hall, Visa Problems,  
Money Problems, Health Prob., Fail Test, Lose Job, De-friended on Facebook  
Too often our HEARTS are CENTERED on Secondary Things > NOT GOD!

### c. Shame

If BLADDER BURSTING not BAD Enough...even MORE Shame

v. 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.

v. 2 WIFE already in Hall – QUEEN MOTHER – His? In-Law? NEB’s Wife?  
MOMMY needs to Tell this BAD LITTLE Boy what TO DO...

vs. 11,12 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, 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.”

Name DANIEL 5 X's in 2 Verses > You Really Need to CALL Daniel, Daniel!  
You SHOULD Know Better – NEB got it RIGHT – He call DANIEL!

### 3. Reluctantly Invited Preacher

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. *Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.* John 2.1,2

Happy to Know Jesus & Disciples INVITED to Wedding Party in Cana, Galilee

DANIEL did not make CUT of GUEST LIST for Extravaganza in Babylon

1000 other People MADE IT – But Daniel NEVER got the SNAP-CHAT

More than 20 yrs Passed since last Seen – Neb DEAD, Daniel in OBSCURITY

#### a. Disrespect

v. 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.

Served Faithfully in Babyl DECADES but BEL reminds him Still Foreign Slave

v. 14-16 I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, but they could not show the interpretation of the matter. But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems.

“I have heard” NON-COMITAL Response – So they Say – MIGHT be TRUE?

How BLIND & FOOLISH we can be when God's Savior is right in Front of US!

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles 1 Corinthians 1.22,23

To speak of a crucified Messiah is like saying ‘clean filth’ or ‘delicious vomit.’ A damned Messiah couldn’t be a saving Messiah; he must be mighty, not mangled...For the Jews, the Messiah must be mighty; for the Greeks, he must be slick. Jews want strength, Greeks style. Jews want power, Greeks want packaging; Jews focus on force, Greeks on finesse...Divine foolishness in the face of our desperation. You are not so different from Belshazzar: a cast-off Jew of the God you have despised is your only hope. Dale Ralph Davis

## b. Direct

vs. 16-17 Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.” Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation.

Daniel’s Services were NOT for SALE – JEHOVAH-JIREH his PROVIDER

Daniel > GOOD Example we must Share Good News even w/ those Don’t Like!

vs.18,19 O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty. And because of the greatness that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whom he would, he killed, and whom he would, he kept alive; whom he would, he raised up, and whom he would, he humbled.

BEL wants his PROBLEM SOLVED – Daniel delivers a HISTORY Lesson

Because he wants to SOLVE BEL’s DEEPEST Problem > With GOD

NEB not BEL immediate FATHER – Father of Empire, KING he should Follow

BEL probably thot “What does a COOL KID like Me need to learn from Neb?”

“When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.” Mark Twain

NEB – Built Empire, Great City, Massive Statues, Hanging Gardens

All you MADE BEL is DRUNKEN PARTY!

God gave GLORY & Splendor to NEB, all you do BEL is SOIL the CARPET

vs. 20,21 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. 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.

FINAL Words of Neb showed MERCY of God Fully Restored RIGHT Mind

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Daniel 4.37

If God can BRING Down Mighty NEB, No hope for Empty Windbag BEL.

vs. 22,23 And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, 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.

Some NICE Churches let Visitors & Unbelievers OFF Hook at Offering

No Worries – Offering Bag Not for You – Only for Poor-Suckers go all Time

Some Preachers will say “You don’t Owe God Anything!”

Other Preachers will say “God owes YOU Something”

I am NOT that Nice Preacher > You OWE God Everything

I love that Existential Moment when Offering Bag passes thru CHURCH Hall



MOMENT with You & God – 100 kwai on Club Last Night / 10 kwai for Church  
 NOT gonna Tell you How Much to Put in that Bag > I'm Not your Judge

If that Bag reflects What we OWE God > We should CLIMB INTO the Bag  
 Throw in our Phones, Credit Cards, Degrees, Keys Cars and Houses

The king foolishly honored gods of silver and gold who cannot see, hear, or understand, while dishonoring the true God who held Belshazzar's life and all his ways in his divine cosmic scales. He had stored up wrath against himself, and now he was going to experience the humiliation of the judgement of God.

Rodney Stortz

Daniel NOT telling BEL anything NEW > Stories Well-Known > Just Happened  
 But LESSONS of NEB Great HUMBLING were NOT Well-Learned  
 HUMILITY Might have been GOOD for Neb. But that is NOT My PROBLEM!

BEL problem NOT Lack of Education > USA think CURE World > Education  
 We have become MOST EDUCATED SINNERS in the WORLD!

Not ENOUGH simply to have WORDS – Even WORD of God, BIBLE  
 Need to RECEIVE Word, REPENT, RESTORED to God & Man, Reconciliation

Need WORD & Spirit > Prophets: New Heart, New Spirit / Jesus: Born Again  
 Paul: New Creation, Risen with Christ / James: God gives Grace to HUMBLE  
 Want to KNOW Word, be FILLED w/ Spirit /// Filled w/ Spirit > KNOW Word

c. Decree of God

vs. 24-29 “And this is the writing that was inscribed: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin. This is the interpretation of the matter: Mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; Peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

### 3 ARAMAIC Words indicating MEASURES of WEIGHT

MENE = Numbered, REPEATED to mean ‘your TIME is UP!’

TEKEL = Weighed, your are UNDERSIZED, ‘found too light’

PARSIN = Divided, Broken “your kingdom is done, given over to Persians”

Only Thing MORE CERTAIN than Death & Taxes > FINAL Judgment of God

Belshazzar’s feast is set before us every day, and many around us are mortgaging their futures for an invitation to the ball.  
Iain Duguid

Writer of Book of DANIEL – Wants us SEE Stark CONTRAST – Chs 4 & 5

Daniel NOT History of Babylon but TRACT for ISRAELITE FAITH

COMPARE 2 Babylonian Kings – Powerful, Godless, Lifted up in PRIDE

MESSENGER of God gives them LIVING WORD of ETERNAL GOD

1 Receives / 1 Rejects – 1 Pardoned / 1 Perishes – 1 Heaven / 1 Hell

Daniel was there for Belshazzar as he had been for Nebuchadnezzar...he could have spoken the same kind of pastoral saving word...To Belshazzar he preaches as one standing on the other side of the great chasm...a sermon without any trace of an appeal...the facts that justify the condemnation that has been pronounced in the writing on the wall.  
Ronald Wallace

Daniel was MORE than a PREACHER > He was Preacher AND PROPHET

He knew Neb would REPENT, & BEL was REPROBATE / REAL Gone Case

“I have no doubt that Daniel meant to speak roughly to the ungodly Belshazzar, a man beyond hope.”  
John Calvin

We are JUST Preachers – Given a Word that Can SAVE WORST Sinners

We are Called to Extend FREE OFFER of Gospel > Whosoever Will can COME!

But like the WORD of Daniel – Our Gospel has TWO Different Effects...

For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?

2 Corinthians 2.15,16

We have NO CLAIM to God's Mercy and Grace – SOVEREIGNLY Given

For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy... So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

Romans 9.15-18

Abel Accepted / Cain Rejected – Jacob Loved / Esau Hated

Spirit LEFT Saul >> but FILLED David

Peter returned to Jesus Honored / Judas ran from Jesus Hung Himself

Neb Repented & Restored / Bel Rejected God and was REMOVED

Many PEOPLE are HUMBLISHED in Life but then get MORE HARDENED

Some POVERTY does NOT lead to PENANCE but to PROTEST against GOD

DESTRUCTION is Not always Followed by DELIVERANCE > Eternal Death

In one sense we are ALL Feasting at EDGE of the GRAVE > Life is Brief MIST

HANDWRITING is on the WALL – Judgment is Described in SCRIPTURE

Will you Do ONLY Thing that can DELIVER you from God's Fury & WRATH

What DETERMINES such Different Responses to God? Sovereignty of God

He has a PLAN, PEOPLE, and a PREDESTINED ETERNAL PURPOSE

"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit"... "Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues" Revelation 18.2,4

John sees ALL the Earth WEEP as Great Babylon FALLS FOREVER  
 BOOKS of God will be OPENED > We will be WEIGHED in his BALANCE  
 Our Works, Words, Thoughts, Intentions, Motives, Desires > LAID BARE  
 All of Us - TEKEL = Weighed, and found UNDERSIZED, 'found too light'

Great White Throne – All-Seeing Sovereign decree the Eternal SENTENCE  
 Your ONLY Hope before God of Holiness is PERFECTION, PURITY  
 Scales of His Perfect Justice must be TIPPED toward RIGHTEOUSNESS  
 Become a MEMBER of BICF Today?? BAPTISM?? Vows? Ceremonies?

As we'll REMEMBER the Reformation this Week > Stand on GOSPEL  
 Only ONE man Passed Test – Weighed in God's BALANCE > PERFECT  
 Holy, Righteous, True, Faithful, Good > WORTHY to SAVE All the ELECT  
 we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the  
 propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole  
 world  
 1 John 2.1,2

SOVEREIGN God extends SAVING GRACE – to All who Want to Come  
 Jesus: "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I  
 will never cast out."  
 John 6.37

As Babylon SMASHED in Judgment > People of God SHOUT for JOY  
 BEL's Party was CRASHED > Wedding Supper of Lamb CONSUMATION

FINAL Victory & VINDICATION of our God > Reigns Unrivaled Forever  
 After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in  
 heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our  
 God, for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute  
 who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood  
 of his servants." Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her  
 goes up forever and ever"...And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise  
 our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great." Revelation 19.1-5

Daniel 5.<sup>1</sup>King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand. <sup>2</sup>Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. <sup>3</sup>Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. <sup>4</sup>They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together. <sup>7</sup>The king called loudly to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers. The king declared to the wise men of Babylon, "Whoever reads this writing, and shows me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom." <sup>8</sup>Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation. <sup>9</sup>Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, and his color changed, and his lords were perplexed. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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, <sup>12</sup>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." <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. <sup>15</sup>Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, but they could not show the interpretation of the matter. <sup>16</sup>But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom." <sup>17</sup>Then Daniel answered and said before the king, "Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and

make known to him the interpretation. <sup>18</sup>O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty. <sup>19</sup>And because of the greatness that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whom he would, he killed, and whom he would, he kept alive; whom he would, he raised up, and whom he would, he humbled. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>“Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed. <sup>25</sup>And this is the writing that was inscribed: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin. <sup>26</sup>This is the interpretation of the matter: Mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; <sup>27</sup>Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; <sup>28</sup>Peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.” <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. <sup>31</sup>And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.