



Babylon

a symbol of the religious & political pride of worldly nations

Genesis 11
the Tower of Babel.

Romans 1
the spirit of Idolatry.

Revelation 17-18
predicts the end of spiritual Babylon.

Daniel 5

records the spirit and downfall of historic Babylon.



Nebuchadnezzar the Great

Alexander the Great

Herod the Great

Rulers of the Neo-Babylonian Empire

1. Nabopolassar
625-605 B.C.

2. **Nebuchadnezzar**
605-562 B.C.

*Daniel's
70 year
ministry*

3. Evil-Meradoch
562-560 B.C.

Daughter married
4. Neriglissar
560-556 B.C.

Daughter married
6. Nabonidus
556-539 B.C.

5. Labashi-Marduk
556 B.C.

7. **Belshazzar**
553-539 B.C.

Historical background of chapter 5

1. We move ahead to the end of the Babylonian period (539 B. C.).
2. The events of ch.5 depict a nervous young prince who has enemies at his gates and is throwing a wild party as a final fling before losing all he has.
3. Daniel is probably in his 80's at this point.
4. Belshazzar (the king) was not technically the son of Nebuchadnezzar nor was he technically the king but functioned as a ruling prince. It was not unusual for O.T. writers to refer to rulers in this way. There is no word for "grandfather" in Hebrew or Chaldee.
5. Darius the Mede may be another name for Cyrus who is recognized as the Persian king who liberated the Jews from Babylon (2 Chron.36, Ezra 1).

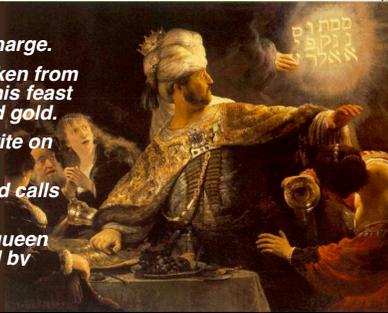
DANIEL 5

The King's feast
vs. 1-12

Daniel reads the writing
on the wall
vs. 13-28

Result
vs. 29-31

1. Belshazzar is now in charge.
2. He uses the vessels taken from the Jewish temple for his feast in worship of silver and gold.
3. Fingers emerge and write on the wall.
4. The king is nervous and calls for an interpretation.
5. He is informed by the queen that Daniel (recognized by



DANIEL 5

The King's feast
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“¹⁷ Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Keep your gifts for yourself or give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription to the king and make the interpretation known to him. ¹⁸ O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father. . . ²⁰ But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and *his* glory was taken away from him. ²¹ He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like *that of* beasts, and his dwelling place *was* with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and *that* He sets over it whomever He wishes.”

“²² Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this, ²³ but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand. But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and all your ways, you have not glorified. ²⁴ Then the hand was sent from Him and this inscription was written out.”

“²⁵ “Now this is the inscription that was written out: ‘MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.’ ²⁶ This is the interpretation of the message: ‘MENE’—God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it. ²⁷ ‘TEKEL’—you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient. ²⁸ ‘PERES’—your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians.”

²⁹ Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and *put* a necklace of gold around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he *now* had authority as the third *ruler* in the kingdom.

³⁰ That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. ³¹ So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.

numbered

Your days are numbered

weighed

You don't measure up

divided

Your empire will be taken away

The origin of the spirit of Babylon

Genesis 11:4

“They said, ‘Come, **let us build for ourselves** a city, and a tower whose top **will reach into heaven**, and **let us make for ourselves a name** otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.’”

Human pride

Human religious & political independence from God

The tower of Babel

Babylon

- the antithesis of God's Kingdom

Revelation 17:5

“Babylon the great, the mother of harlots (idolatry) and the abominations of the earth.”

Babylon

- a perpetual threat

Revelation 18:4

“Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;”

What can we learn

from Daniel in chapter 5?

1. Daniel understood the mystery of God's plan for the ages.
2. Daniel was not afraid to speak the truth to power even though it might cost him his position or his life.

1 Corinthians 2

“¹⁴ But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man. ¹⁶ For *who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him?* **But we have the mind of Christ.**”

Godly character involves seeing and understand things the world does not.

What do Christians see that the spirit of Babylon in our world does not see?

CROSS

The hand writing on our culture's walls

What do Christians see that the spirit of Babylon in our world does not see?

CROSS

The nature of human existence

The nature of the human dilemma

The path to life and freedom

Humans bear the image of God & are worth saving

The demand for a world on our terms

The Cross of Christ & His indwelling Spirit

1 Corinthians 1

“¹⁸ For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. . . . ²² For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

Warren W. Wiersbe



“Faith is not believing in spite of evidence—that’s superstition—but obeying in spite of consequences.”

Godly character includes courage to speak the truth to power without fear.

Matthew 3

“⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance;”

Mark 6:18-29

John the Baptist confronts Herod and loses his head as a result.

Courage is a virtue

but only when it is inspired by faith and hope in God

and motivated by grace, love, and truth

being sensitive to the moment and limits of responsibility.

Courage is a virtue between crassness and cowardice.

Worldly Crassness

Godly Courage

Worldly Cowardice

Insensitivity

Sensitive to time, place, & responsibility

Fear

Speaking YOUR mind

Speaking the truth in love

Spectating in silence

What can we learn about the spirit of Babylon in chapter 5?

1. It exposes the root of the world's spiritual choice of death over life & darkness over light.
2. It will encourage us to learn from those who have gone before us or to relearn through discipline.

Romans 1

“¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

Our problems start with our turning a deaf ear to the clear evidence of God's presence.

Romans 1

“²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

The refusal to recognize and honor God leaves us with prideful, foolish, speculation and a hard heart.

Romans 1

“²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.”

We become self diluted, prideful, and find our glory (identity) in the material world of nature.

Romans 1

“²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. ²⁵ For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

The fruit of idolatry is all immorality & materialism which cheapens & dishonors us.



Coming out of Babylon

1. **Learn from those who have gone before us** - The Scripture is given to make us wise so as not to repeat the mistakes of others.
2. **Don't be superficial in spiritual warfare** - Beliefs & behaviors have roots that must be addressed.

1 Corinthians 10

¹¹ **Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.”

