

Daniel 5: “King Belshazzar”

Now, for those who may not know or remember, king Belshazzar is the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar or as the Bible calls him the son of Nebuchadnezzar. After Daniel received visions from God regarding the future, we have the fulfillment starting to take place with king Belshazzar. These visions of Daniel took place in Daniel 2, 7, and 8 regarding the rise and fall of these kingdoms. Some of them took place in the time of king Nebuchadnezzar and in the time of his grandson Belshazzar. Belshazzar had no relationship with Daniel whatsoever. We will learn about that in this sermon.

So here, we have the time period where king Cyrus is soon to take the helm of things with Darius, and we will find out why. If we go back into the history of the Bible, we have previously learned some great things about Cyrus who would destroy Babylon because of her sins. Cyrus was a type of Christ who would free God’s people from Babylon just as Christ will free them too in the end forevermore. He was anointed by God to do His bidding. Amen. Furthermore, Daniel would continue through the years of Babylon and into the time of Cyrus.

Daniel 1:21, “And Daniel continued [even] unto the first year of king Cyrus.”

Daniel would end up having a relationship with this king in regard to the Lion’s Den that we will be going over in our next study of Daniel 6, and after Daniel 6, we will head back into Daniel 9.

But first, we will learn about Belshazzar, the king of Babylon, who took over after his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar died.

We do have a sad lesson here today to learn from. As we all know, the lives of those who are recorded in the Bible are ensamples for us so that we may know the ways of those who choose to folly around in the world and try to mock God. So, let us begin with Daniel chapter 5 verse 1...

Daniel 5:1, “Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.”

For a nation who has been witnessing the hand of the Lord for some time now, they began to tread on dangerous ground with drunkenness and what have you. As we know, when we are given the truth and we fail to walk in it, then probation will eventually close as you will learn. Babylon had learned of the God of heaven and earth for many decades and had witnessed firsthand the life of their king Nebuchadnezzar who the Creator is, but they chose to engage in drunkenness. God cannot work with such things, so a curse would come unto them.

Deuteronomy 11:27-28, “A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.”

But Babylon's rulers were not afraid and made a feast so they could drink wine and be merry in sin.

Proverbs 20:1-2, "Wine [is] a mocker, strong drink [is] raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. The fear of a king [is] as the roaring of a lion: [whoso] provoketh him to anger sinneth [against] his own soul."

There is no new thing under the sun. Babylon had learned the depths of God and they turned His love aside to do evil before heaven in sinning against their own soul.

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10, "The thing that hath been, it [is that] which shall be; and that which is done [is] that which shall be done: and [there is] no new [thing] under the sun. Is there [any] thing whereof it may be said, See, this [is] new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us."

And to make things worse, check out what they did next in...

Daniel 5:2-4, "Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which [was] in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein. Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which [was] at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone."

You see here, it is the same story as in the times before this period. Nothing is truly new under the sun. The only thing that is new is the souls who get tested to see where they stand with God. Are they going to be found worthy of Heaven in obedience or for destruction in disobedience? Nebuchadnezzar learned and chose to love the Creator, but his grandson chose the hand of wickedness instead of falling on the good ground, which in is an honest and good heart, having heard of God and knowing His depths of truths and love, and repented, and brought forth fruits of gold with patience. After the passing of Nebuchadnezzar, it is clear that Babylon was put on probation. They were brought to their test and proved to fail after all these years the Lord stretched out His hands.

So, what do you supposed happened next?

Daniel 5:5, "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."

And as a youth growing up under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar where Belshazzar learned of God, what do you suppose happened next when he saw the hand writing?

Daniel 5:6, “Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.”

He was afraid. He knew something was terribly wrong and all those around them. They were not ignorant of the past and all that had happened in the time of Nebuchadnezzar. And so, what did he do next?

Daniel 5:7, “The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. [And] the king spake, and said to the wise [men] of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and show 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.”

Ah...sounds familiar...eh? Nothing is truly new under the sun...And so...

Daniel 5:8, “Then came in all the king's wise [men]: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof.”

And yes, history repeats again. The king was then greatly troubled...

Daniel 5:9, “Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished.”

After all these years where the nation of Babylon was learning of the Creator, you just have to come to the conclusion that they knew what was going on because they were AFRAID. They just did not know what was being said in the writing of the hand put on the wall. But there was one who stood up and remembered the years of Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 5:10, “[Now] the queen by reason of the words of the king and his lords came into the banquet house: [and] the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed:”

She goes on to say...

Daniel 5:11-12, “There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom [is] the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, [I say], thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, [and] soothsayers; Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and showing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Beltshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.”

So here, you can clearly see that this king and Daniel had no relationship together. The king did not remember this servant to his grandfather, so he had to be informed by another of Daniel and who he is and what he can do...And so, Daniel was brought in before the king...

Daniel 5:13, “Then was Daniel brought in before the king. [And] the king spake and said unto Daniel, [Art] thou that Daniel, which [art] of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry?”

The king goes on to say...

Daniel 5:14-16, “I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods [is] in thee, and [that] light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee. And now the wise [men], the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but they could not show the interpretation of the thing: And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and [have] a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.”

So here, we can see that Daniel and this king had no relationship whatsoever. The queen had to introduce Daniel to this rebellious king.

Then Daniel goes on to say...

Daniel 5:17-23, “Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation. O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour: And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down. But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and the took his glory from him: And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling [was] with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and [that] he appointeth over it whomsoever he will. And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this; But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath [is], and whose [are] all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:”

You can imagine the silence that was in the room and how they were all scared because they knew the God of Daniel. They were so afraid of what the writing said. And so...

Daniel continues to exclaim...

Daniel 5:24, “Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written.”

Daniel goes on to say...

Daniel 5:25, “And this [is] the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.”

Next Daniel proclaimed...

Daniel 5:26-28, “This [is] the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.”

So here, we can see that God numbered Belshazzar's kingdom because of his rebelliousness and was weighed in the balances (judged) and found wanting. This king's life record, his book was opened before our heavenly King and was found wanting. And the judgment was set when the Lord said, “thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.” WOW....

And then shortly after this, we can read what it says in Daniel 5 verse 29...

Daniel 5:29, “Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and [put] a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.”

And so, what do you suppose happened then in that very night...

Daniel 5:30-31, “In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom, [being] about threescore and two years old.”

Our Lord did not waste any time. Our King of Heaven has work to do and Belshazzar failed and was replaced. This is a lesson for us all brothers and sisters. If we are going to allow the wine of false doctrine corrupt us by playing around with it and not getting stable in the remnant church where God has placed you, there is a lesson here that when you engage in such things and get drunk with going to other websites or watching videos you should not be watching, or reading books you should not be reading, or going to the TV to get the false gospel there, or going into SDA preachers business today, sure enough, God reads the heart, HE Will weigh all and if we are found wanting, we will be removed because we want to play around with drinking the wine of Babylon or the wine of sisters who have fallen to BABYLON when we are called to proclaim the truth to the world. We cannot afford to engage in such things. The BIBLE is clear when it says that we are not to be children tossed to and fro. You know this and we get tossed to and fro by doing just what I have spoken this day. Let us not be a drunkard and go back into sinfulness of partaking in Babylon any longer. We have been called into God's wonderful light, so walk in it or we will be shaken out. It is all up to us. Anyways, read how the Prophet Isaiah proclaimed the fall of this king, the fall of Babylon in Isaiah....

Isaiah 47:1-15, “Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: [there is] no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet [thee as] a man. [As for] our redeemer, the LORD of

hosts [is] his name, the Holy One of Israel. Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms. I was wroth with my people, I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand: thou didst show them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke. And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: [so] that thou didst not lay these [things] to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it. Therefore hear now this, [thou that art] given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I [am], and none else beside me; I shall not sit [as] a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children: But these two [things] shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, [and] for the great abundance of thine enchantments. 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. 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. Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from [these things] that shall come upon thee. Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: [there shall] not [be] a coal to warm at, [nor] fire to sit before it. Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, [even] thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander every one to his quarter; none shall save thee.”

Now, take a look at what the prophet Jeremiah said before the time of Daniel. Jeremiah was the prophet that Daniel had studied often....

Jeremiah 50:9-46, “For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows [shall be] as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain. And Chaldea shall be a spoil: all that spoil her shall be satisfied, saith the LORD. Because ye were glad, because ye rejoiced, O ye destroyers of mine heritage, because ye are grown fat as the heifer at grass, and bellow as bulls; Your mother shall be sore confounded; she that bare you shall be ashamed: behold, the hindermost of the nations [shall be] a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert. Because of the wrath of the LORD it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be wholly desolate: every one that goeth by Babylon shall be astonished, and hiss at all her plagues. Put yourselves in array against Babylon round about: all ye that bend the bow, shoot at her, spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the LORD. Shout against her round about: she hath given her hand: her foundations are fallen, her walls are thrown down: for it [is] the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her. Cut off the sower from Babylon, and him that handleth the sickle in the time of harvest: for fear of the oppressing sword they shall

turn every one to his people, and they shall flee every one to his own land. Israel [is] a scattered sheep; the lions have driven [him] away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones. Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria. And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead. In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and [there shall be] none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve. Go up against the land of Merathaim, [even] against it, and against the inhabitants of Pekod: waste and utterly destroy after them, saith the LORD, and do according to all that I have commanded thee. A sound of battle [is] in the land, and of great destruction. How is the hammer of the whole earth cut asunder and broken! how is Babylon become a desolation among the nations! I have laid a snare for thee, and thou art also taken, O Babylon, and thou wast not aware: thou art found, and also caught, because thou hast striven against the LORD. The LORD hath opened his armoury, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation: for this [is] the work of the Lord GOD of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans. Come against her from the utmost border, open her storehouses: cast her up as heaps, and destroy her utterly: let nothing of her be left. Slay all her bullocks; let them go down to the slaughter: woe unto them! for their day is come, the time of their visitation. The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, the vengeance of his temple. Call together the archers against Babylon: all ye that bend the bow, camp against it round about; let none thereof escape: recompense her according to her work; according to all that she hath done, do unto her: for she hath been proud against the LORD, against the Holy One of Israel. Therefore shall her young men fall in the streets, and all her men of war shall be cut off in that day, saith the LORD. Behold, I [am] against thee, [O thou] most proud, saith the Lord GOD of hosts: for thy day is come, the time [that] I will visit thee. And the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up: and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The children of Israel and the children of Judah [were] oppressed together: and all that took them captives held them fast; they refused to let them go. Their Redeemer [is] strong; the LORD of hosts [is] his name: he shall thoroughly plead their cause, that he may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon. A sword [is] upon the Chaldeans, saith the LORD, and upon the inhabitants of Babylon, and upon her princes, and upon her wise [men]. A sword [is] upon the liars; and they shall dote: a sword [is] upon her mighty men; and they shall be dismayed. A sword [is] upon their horses, and upon their chariots, and upon all the mingled people that [are] in the midst of her; and they shall become as women: a sword [is] upon her treasures; and they shall be robbed. A drought [is] upon her waters; and they shall be dried up: for it [is] the land of graven images, and they are mad upon [their] idols. Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell [there], and the owls shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation. As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbor [cities]

thereof, saith the LORD; [so] shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein. Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. They shall hold the bow and the lance: they [are] cruel, and will not show mercy: their voice shall roar like the sea, and they shall ride upon horses, [every one] put in array, like a man to the battle, against thee, O daughter of Babylon. The king of Babylon hath heard the report of them, and his hands waxed feeble: anguish took hold of him, [and] pangs as of a woman in travail. Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan unto the habitation of the strong: but I will make them suddenly run away from her: and who [is] a chosen [man, that] I may appoint over her? for who [is] like me? and who will appoint me the time? and who [is] that shepherd that will stand before me? Therefore hear ye the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Babylon; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make [their] habitation desolate with them. At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth is moved, and the cry is heard among the nations.”

What a massive praise of God and to see and hear how all this came to pass. Just amazing!! And this will happen again in the last days with the pope who claims to be king over all the earth. How amazing it is to see how every nation that has come upon the stage of action has been permitted to occupy its place on the earth, that the fact might be determined whether it would fulfill the purposes of the Watcher and the Holy One of the universe or would walk after Satan. Prophecy has traced the rise and progress of the world's greatest empires--Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. With each of these, as with the nations of less power, history has repeated itself. Each has had its period of test; each has failed, its glory faded, its power departed, but there is one nation that is coming that will never wither away, the ROCK, THE HOLY CITY OF GOD. And with that said, as history will repeat herself again, but one last time, we read what will soon happen with the beast Rome in...

Revelation 18:4-10, "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong [is] the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come."

And so, we see how Babylon learned of God, she rejected Him, as she continues to do today and was replaced and will be replaced to never rise again. Just like the Medes and Persians destroyed Babylon, so shall God whip her off the face of the earth with her final destruction, just as He has done with all nations who have turn the Kingdom of God aside.

Isaiah 24:1-6, "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof; . . . because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate."

This is where we will continue next time with Daniel 6: The Lion's Den where Darius and Daniel are together in the picture together as prophesied about.

Remember dear family, time is running out. We have to wake up the lost, not of just our own household but those around us. Bring them the truth so that they may have a chance to change as you have been given the truth that is changing you. It is not fair that we would think to hide the light of truth from others. Enlighten the earth as others have done before you. Depart from fear and gain understanding in this last great work that stands before you this day. Go out and prepare the way of the Lord and do it now. The day cometh when we will not be able to work, so make the path straight and flatten the hills and make the light shine in the darkest places where light is not penetrating. Shout from the roof tops and help make other's election sure and true for the Lord. Call the sinners to repent by love. Be an example for all. When the world turns her back on people, be the arm for Christ and lift them up out of darkness. Be that channel for the Lord. Breakdown the doors of the wicked that have been shut and locked by the enemy and let them see the light and the path out of this cold dead world. The day of vengeance is coming, and the Lord will repay. It is NO LONGER JUST around the corner, but it stands at the door. Prepare for the doors to open and the four winds to be let loose. The bands of Orion are coming. Shout it from the roof tops O' Israel till the Lord cometh....