

NABONIDUS AND BELSHATZAR: CO-REGENTS



- Last verse of Daniel 4 to first verse of Daniel 5 transitions from 43 year reign of *Nebuchadnezzar* to final days of Babylonian Empire
- *Nabonidus*, a military man, felt more comfortable leading military expeditions than ruling from the throne
- *Belshazzar* ruled for his father “as king” in his stead¹

WAS NEBUCHADNEZZAR REALLY BELSHATZAR'S FATHER?

Kings of Babylon

Ruler	Reigned	Comments
Nabopolassar	626 – 605 BC	First king of Neo-Babylonian Empire
Nebuchadnezzar	605 – 562 BC	Son
Amel-Marduk	562 – 560 BC	Son, murdered
Neriglissar	560 – 556 BC	Brother in law
Labashi-Marduk	556 BC	Son, probably still a child, murdered
Nabonidus	556 – 539 BC	Son is Belshatzar

- Not possible that *Nebuchadnezzar* was *Belshatzar's* father
- Father (*abba*) used 8 different ways in the bible
- Bible criticism insists on ONLY using the meaning “biological father” for this passage because it is the bible and it fits an agenda



[Religion & Philosophy]

- The goal of the school of bible criticism is to get students to believe in a Jesus-philosophy, but not in Yeshua the Savior, or the Word of God
- We don't have to chalk-up our firm belief in the bible only to "faith", because much of it is provable with diligent study and guidance of the Holy Spirit

DANIEL 5: BELSHATZAR'S GRAND PARTY



- We're not told the reason for the party, except to get drunk with wine
- Rabbis say it was to celebrate that Babylonians thought the 70 year prophecy of Jeremiah had passed, and Babylon still stood!

DEFILING THE TEMPLE VESSELS

- The King was drunk, and had lost any sense of appropriateness
- The Temple vessels had been locked away since the days of **Nebuchadnezzar**
- C.F. Kiel *“ The wickedness lay in this: that they drank out of the holy vessels of the Temple....to glorify their heathen gods in songs of praise”*
- **Belshatzar** had just picked a fight with God !!



THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL !

- Not only the king, but everyone saw the writing
- Vs. 5 “.....writing on the plaster of the palace wall..”
- Archeologists found that the palace of Babel was plastered with painted white plaster
- “Loins loosened” is an idiom
- Loins were the seat of emotion for fear and anxiety
- The King offered royal status and the position of 3rd in command for the person who could interpret the writing



WHO IS “THE QUEEN”?



- Queen seemed to know *Nebuchadnezzar* well, and his reasons for calling upon Daniel
- May have been wife of *Nebuchadnezzar*
- Could have been wife of *Nabonidus*, and therefore mother of *Belshatzar*
- The Queen strongly insists that *Belshatzar* summon Daniel to interpret the writings

DANIEL NOT IN THE BOOKS OF THE PROPHETS

- *Nevi'im* = Prophets
- *K'tuvim* = Writings
- *K'tuvim* is not the place where writings of “lesser inspiration” are put !!
- *Nevi'im* sub-divided:
 - 1) Early Prophets
 - 2) Later Prophets
- Definition of prophets and prophecy changed over time



NEW TESTAMENT AS MIDRASH



- Prophecy didn't ONLY mean predictions
- Could mean bringing God's Word to mind
- **Midrash** = Scripture quoted and debated to extract meaning
- Paul, Peter, John generally quoted O.T. and then applied it to Messiah's advent
- Biblical categories are humanly created and imprecise



DANIEL ARRIVES BUT GIVES THE KING BAD NEWS

- Daniel said he had no interest in rewards
- Daniel reminds the king of the greatness of Nebuchadnezzar
- God Most High gave Nebuchadnezzar everything
- But he failed to give due glory to YHWH and so was given the mind of an animal



BALSHATZAR DOESN'T MEASURE UP TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR

- Technically the Babylonian Empire belonged to Nabonidus
- Vs.22 Daniel says that despite **KNOWING** what happened with ***Nebuchadnezzar***, and why, this new king trespassed even deeper upon God
- God offered **NO** chance for repentance or grace
- ***Belshatzar*** had been judged and it could not be altered



A COSMIC LINE IN THE SAND



- An old pattern repeated in the New Testament
- A line is drawn, known only to the Lord
- Hebrews 10:23 – 29
- *“...For if we deliberately continue to sin after receiving knowledge of the truth, then there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins....only....judgment..”*