

DANIEL: CHAPTER 5

BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST

“NOW I, NEBUCHADNEZZAR, PRAISE AND
EXTOL AND HONOR THE KING OF
HEAVEN, ALL OF WHOSE WORKS *ARE* TRUTH,
AND HIS WAYS JUSTICE. AND THOSE WHO
WALK IN PRIDE HE IS ABLE TO PUT DOWN.”

Daniel 4:37

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

Daniel 5:1-12

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

539 BC: EVENTS OF DANIEL 5 (30+ YEARS AFTER DANIEL 4)

561 BC: DEATH OF KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR

BELSHAZZAR THE KING MADE A GREAT FEAST FOR A THOUSAND OF HIS LORDS, AND DRANK WINE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE THOUSAND. WHILE HE TASTED THE WINE, BELSHAZZAR GAVE THE COMMAND TO BRING THE GOLD AND SILVER VESSELS WHICH HIS FATHER NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAD TAKEN FROM THE TEMPLE WHICH *HAD BEEN* IN JERUSALEM, THAT THE KING AND HIS LORDS, HIS WIVES, AND HIS CONCUBINES MIGHT DRINK FROM THEM.

Daniel 5:1-2

“INDEED, BECAUSE HE TRANSGRESSES BY WINE,
HE IS A PROUD MAN,
AND HE DOES NOT STAY AT HOME.
BECAUSE HE ENLARGES HIS DESIRE AS HELL,
AND HE *IS* LIKE DEATH, AND CANNOT BE SATISFIED,
HE GATHERS TO HIMSELF ALL NATIONS
AND HEAPS UP FOR HIMSELF ALL PEOPLES.”

Habakkuk 2:5

Foreshadowing of the Anti-Christ

BUT JESUS DRANK WINE, SO WHAT IS THE WORD OF GOD REALLY INSTRUCTING US ABOUT?

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”

-Matthew 26:27-29

IT IS NOT FOR KINGS, O LEMUEL,
IT IS NOT FOR KINGS TO DRINK WINE,
NOR FOR PRINCES INTOXICATING DRINK;
LEST THEY DRINK AND FORGET THE LAW,
AND PERVERT THE JUSTICE OF ALL THE AFFLICTED.
GIVE STRONG DRINK TO HIM WHO IS PERISHING,
AND WINE TO THOSE WHO ARE BITTER OF HEART.
LET HIM DRINK AND FORGET HIS POVERTY,
AND REMEMBER HIS MISERY NO MORE.

Proverbs 31:4-7

SEE THEN THAT YOU WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY, NOT AS FOOLS BUT AS WISE, REDEEMING THE TIME, BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL. THEREFORE DO NOT BE UNWISE, BUT UNDERSTAND WHAT THE WILL OF THE LORD IS. **AND DO NOT BE DRUNK WITH WINE, IN WHICH IS DISSIPATION; BUT BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT,** SPEAKING TO ONE ANOTHER IN PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING AND MAKING MELODY IN YOUR HEART TO THE LORD, GIVING THANKS ALWAYS FOR ALL THINGS TO GOD THE FATHER IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, SUBMITTING TO ONE ANOTHER IN THE FEAR OF GOD.

Ephesians 5:15-21

FINDING JOY IN ANYTHING APART FROM OR IN PLACE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S COMPANIONSHIP IS IDOLATRY

- Food and Drink
- Exercise
- Shopping
- Sports, Entertainment and Vacations
- Serving at Church
- Family and Friends
- Material Possessions

DO NOT BE DECEIVED, MY BELOVED
BRETHREN. EVERY GOOD GIFT AND EVERY
PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE, AND COMES
DOWN FROM THE FATHER OF LIGHTS, WITH
WHOM THERE IS NO VARIATION OR SHADOW OF
TURNING.

James 1:16-17

THEN HE SAID TO THEM, “GO YOUR WAY, EAT THE FAT, DRINK THE SWEET, AND SEND PORTIONS TO THOSE FOR WHOM NOTHING IS PREPARED; FOR *THIS DAY IS HOLY TO OUR LORD*. **DO NOT SORROW, FOR THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH.**”

Nehemiah 8:10

THEN THEY BROUGHT THE GOLD VESSELS THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THE TEMPLE OF THE HOUSE OF GOD WHICH *HAD BEEN* 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 AND IRON, WOOD AND STONE.**

Daniel 5:3-4

IN THE SAME HOUR THE FINGERS OF A MAN'S HAND APPEARED AND WROTE OPPOSITE THE LAMPSTAND ON THE PLASTER OF THE WALL OF THE KING'S PALACE; AND THE KING SAW THE PART OF THE HAND THAT WROTE. THEN THE KING'S COUNTENANCE CHANGED, AND HIS THOUGHTS TROUBLED HIM, SO THAT THE JOINTS OF HIS HIPS WERE LOOSENED AND HIS KNEES KNOCKED AGAINST EACH OTHER.

Daniel 5:5-6

THE KING CRIED ALOUD TO BRING IN THE ASTROLOGERS, THE CHALDEANS, AND THE SOOTHSAYERS. THE KING SPOKE, SAYING TO THE WISE *MEN* OF BABYLON, “WHOEVER READS THIS WRITING, AND TELLS ME ITS INTERPRETATION, SHALL BE CLOTHED WITH PURPLE AND *HAVE* A CHAIN OF GOLD AROUND HIS NECK; AND HE SHALL BE THE THIRD RULER IN THE KINGDOM.” NOW ALL THE KING’S WISE *MEN* CAME, BUT THEY COULD NOT READ THE WRITING, OR MAKE KNOWN TO THE KING ITS INTERPRETATION. THEN KING BELSHAZZAR WAS GREATLY TROUBLED, HIS COUNTENANCE WAS CHANGED, AND HIS LORDS WERE ASTONISHED.

Daniel 5:7-9

THE QUEEN, BECAUSE OF THE WORDS OF THE KING AND HIS LORDS, CAME TO THE BANQUET HALL. THE QUEEN SPOKE, SAYING, “O KING, LIVE FOREVER! DO NOT LET YOUR THOUGHTS TROUBLE YOU, NOR LET YOUR COUNTENANCE CHANGE. THERE IS A MAN IN YOUR KINGDOM IN WHOM *IS* THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLY GOD. AND 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, ASTROLOGERS, CHALDEANS, *AND* SOOTHSAYERS. INASMUCH AS AN EXCELLENT SPIRIT, KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING, INTERPRETING DREAMS, SOLVING RIDDLES, AND EXPLAINING ENIGMAS WERE FOUND IN THIS DANIEL, WHOM THE KING NAMED BELTESHAZZAR, NOW LET DANIEL BE CALLED, AND HE WILL GIVE THE INTERPRETATION.”

Daniel 5:10-12

DANIEL EXPLAINS THE MYSTERY

Daniel 5:13-31

THEN DANIEL WAS BROUGHT IN BEFORE THE KING. THE KING SPOKE, AND SAID TO DANIEL, “*ARE* YOU THAT DANIEL WHO IS ONE OF THE CAPTIVES FROM JUDAH, WHOM MY FATHER THE KING BROUGHT FROM JUDAH? I HAVE HEARD OF YOU, THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD *IS* IN YOU, AND *THAT* LIGHT AND UNDERSTANDING AND EXCELLENT WISDOM ARE FOUND IN YOU. NOW THE WISE *MEN*, THE ASTROLOGERS, HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN BEFORE ME, THAT THEY SHOULD READ THIS WRITING AND MAKE KNOWN TO ME ITS INTERPRETATION, BUT THEY COULD NOT GIVE THE INTERPRETATION OF THE THING. AND I HAVE HEARD OF YOU, THAT YOU CAN GIVE INTERPRETATIONS AND EXPLAIN ENIGMAS. 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.”

Daniel 5:13-16

THEN DANIEL ANSWERED, AND SAID BEFORE THE KING, “LET YOUR GIFTS BE FOR YOURSELF, AND GIVE YOUR REWARDS TO ANOTHER; YET I WILL READ THE WRITING TO THE KING, AND MAKE KNOWN TO HIM THE INTERPRETATION.

O KING, THE MOST HIGH GOD GAVE NEBUCHADNEZZAR YOUR FATHER A KINGDOM AND MAJESTY, GLORY AND HONOR. AND BECAUSE OF THE MAJESTY THAT HE GAVE HIM, ALL PEOPLES, NATIONS, AND LANGUAGES TREMBLED AND FEARED BEFORE HIM. WHOMEVER HE WISHED, HE EXECUTED; WHOMEVER HE WISHED, HE KEPT ALIVE; WHOMEVER HE WISHED, HE SET UP; AND WHOMEVER HE WISHED, HE PUT DOWN.

Daniel 5:17-19

BUT WHEN HIS HEART WAS LIFTED UP, AND HIS SPIRIT WAS HARDENED IN PRIDE, HE WAS DEPOSED FROM HIS KINGLY THRONE, AND THEY TOOK HIS GLORY FROM HIM. THEN HE WAS DRIVEN FROM THE SONS OF MEN, HIS HEART WAS MADE LIKE THE BEASTS, AND HIS DWELLING WAS WITH THE WILD DONKEYS. 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 RULES IN THE KINGDOM OF MEN, AND APPOINTS OVER IT WHOMEVER HE CHOOSES.

Daniel 5:20-21

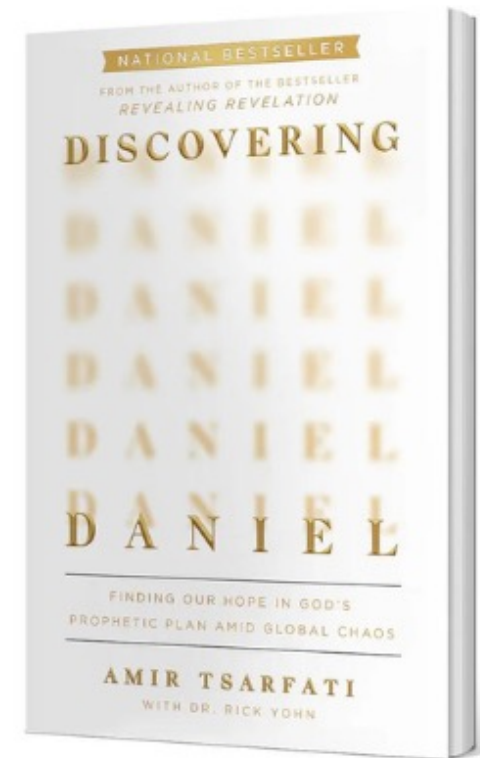
“BUT YOU HIS SON, BELSHAZZAR, HAVE NOT HUMBLLED YOUR HEART, ALTHOUGH YOU KNEW ALL THIS. AND YOU HAVE LIFTED YOURSELF UP AGAINST THE LORD OF HEAVEN. THEY HAVE BROUGHT THE VESSELS OF HIS HOUSE BEFORE YOU, AND YOU AND YOUR LORDS, YOUR WIVES AND YOUR CONCUBINES, HAVE DRUNK WINE FROM THEM. **AND YOU HAVE PRAISED THE GODS OF SILVER AND GOLD, BRONZE AND IRON, WOOD AND STONE, WHICH DO NOT SEE OR HEAR OR KNOW; AND THE GOD WHO *HOLDS* YOUR BREATH IN HIS HAND AND OWNS ALL YOUR WAYS, YOU HAVE NOT GLORIFIED.**

Daniel 5:22-23

AMIR:

“Belshazzar made three great mistakes. First, he took sacred vessels and used them for a common purpose. Second, instead of worshipping the God of heaven as he drank from them, he praised the gods of silver and gold. Finally, and most significantly, he took for himself that which belonged to God.”

-page 103-104



THEN THE FINGERS OF THE HAND WERE SENT
FROM HIM, AND THIS WRITING WAS WRITTEN.

“AND THIS IS THE INSCRIPTION THAT WAS
WRITTEN:
MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.”

Daniel 5:24-25

“THIS *IS* THE INTERPRETATION OF *EACH* WORD.

MENE: GOD HAS NUMBERED YOUR KINGDOM, AND FINISHED IT;

TEKEL: YOU HAVE BEEN WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES, AND FOUND WANTING;

PERES: YOUR KINGDOM HAS BEEN DIVIDED, AND GIVEN TO THE MEDES AND PERSIANS.”

Daniel 5:26-28

THEN BELSHAZZAR GAVE THE COMMAND, AND THEY CLOTHED DANIEL WITH PURPLE AND *PUT* A CHAIN OF GOLD AROUND HIS NECK, AND MADE A PROCLAMATION CONCERNING HIM THAT HE SHOULD BE THE THIRD RULER IN THE KINGDOM.

THAT VERY NIGHT BELSHAZZAR, KING OF THE CHALDEANS, WAS SLAIN. AND DARIUS THE MEDE RECEIVED THE KINGDOM, *BEING* ABOUT SIXTY-TWO YEARS OLD.

Daniel 5:29-31

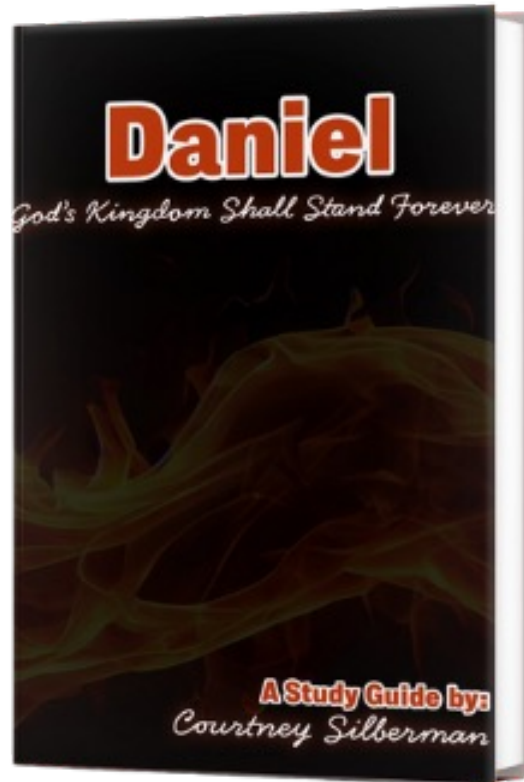
“I HAVE DECLARED THE FORMER THINGS
FROM THE BEGINNING;
THEY WENT FORTH FROM MY MOUTH, AND I
CAUSED THEM TO HEAR IT.
SUDDENLY I DID *THEM*, AND THEY CAME TO
PASS.”

Isaiah 48:3

Chiastic Structure: Aramaic Section

Daniel Chapters 2-7

Daniel 2: Prophecy of the Four Kingdoms	Oct. 24
Daniel 3: Trial's of God's Faithful	Oct. 31
Daniel 4: Prophecy to the Pagan King	Nov. 7
Daniel 4:37 - "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down."	
Daniel 5: Prophecy to the Pagan King	Nov. 14
Daniel 6: Trial's of God's Faithful	Nov. 21
Daniel 7: Prophecy of the Four Kingdoms	Dec. 5



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