



BYKOTA  
Verse by  
Verse  
Journey  
Through  
The Book  
of Daniel

**Week 12**

After Nebuchadnezzar died, his son, Amel-Marduk, took over the rule of Babylon. After only 2 years of reign he was murdered by Nebuchadnezzar's brother-in-law Neriglassar.

Neriglissar died four years later and was succeeded by his son, Labashi-Marduk, who was just a young boy at the time and only lasted nine months until he was beaten to death by conspirators attempting to overthrow the government.

After this coup the conspirators appointed Nabonidus as king, although he was not related to Nebuchadnezzar so he didn't have a right to the royal line.

Nabonidus was apparently very intimidated by not being a member of Nebuchadnezzar's family, so he married a widow of Nebuchadnezzar therefore marrying into the royal family.

This widow of Nebuchadnezzar had a son by Nebuchadnezzar named Belshazzar who was a remaining child of royalty who had not laid claim to the throne and because of that had not been assassinated.

Nabonidus knew he could be assassinated at any time so he wisely moved the capital and his palace down to a town called Tayma in the middle of Arabia.

Nabonidus wanted to enjoy  
the power and pleasure of  
being king without the risk  
of being assassinated  
so he appointed  
Nebuchadnezzar's son  
Belshazzar, who is now his  
step-son, as co-king or  
co-regent.

Please note this is  
Belshazzar and not  
Belteshazzar which is  
the name given to Daniel  
by Nebuchadnezzar.

So at the opening of Daniel chapter 5 we have co-kings. Belshazzar occupies the throne in Babylon and Nabonidus has this throne down in Tayma, living a life of luxury without setting foot in Babylon.

Also, at the opening of this chapter the breast and the arms of silver from Nebuchadnezzar's dream in chapter 2 , which are the Medes and Persians, are preparing to topple the head of gold!

## Daniel 5: 1(NASB)

*Belshazzar the king held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.*

The first scene in the chapter opens with what history describes as an orgy. It is filled with desecration, blasphemy, sexual perversion and evil acts.

All great civilizations seem to follow the following pattern of destruction:

- It is blessed
- It becomes prideful
- It becomes self-indulgent and materialistic
- It begins to descend into degeneration, sexual perversion, debauchery, and evil
- It blasphemes and mocks God as it descends, and then it is destroyed

## Daniel 5: 2(NASB)

*When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem,*

# Daniel 5: 2(NASB)

*so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.*

# Question

How did they get the gold and silver vessels from the Temple of God?

## Daniel 1: 1 (NASB)

In the third year of the  
reign of Jehoiakim  
king of Judah,  
Nebuchadnezzar king  
of Babylon came to  
Jerusalem and  
besieged it.

## Daniel 1: 2 (NASB)

The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god.

# Question

What is Belshazzar doing with the gold and silver vessels from the Temple of God?

Why are they doing this?

# Galatians 6: 7

*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.*

# Question

Do you see our society  
today mocking God?

# Leviticus 18: 22

*'You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.*



A MARTIN SCORSESE PICTURE

# THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST

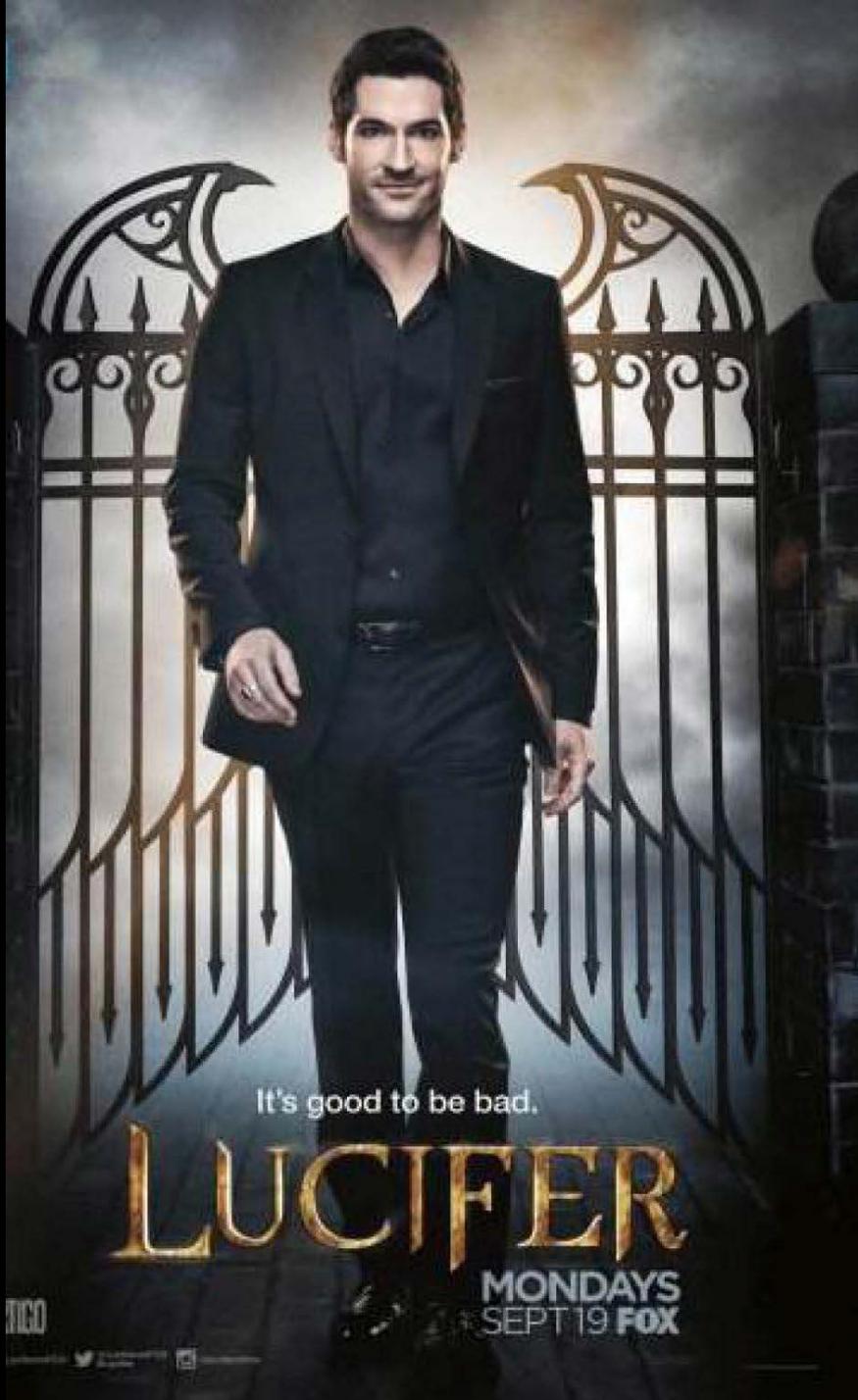


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## Daniel 5: 3(NASB)

*Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God which was in Jerusalem; and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them.*

## Daniel 5: 4(NASB)

*They drank the wine and  
praised the gods of gold  
and silver, of bronze, iron,  
wood and stone.*

They used the very  
utensils that were set  
apart and used for  
worshipping the true Holy  
God to worship all their  
false gods, all the way  
down to the rocks, in an  
unholy, perverted,  
drunken orgy!

# Question

Why has God not  
destroyed our nation  
when we are doing the  
same thing?

## 2 Chronicles 36: 15

*he LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place;*

## 2 Chronicles 36: 16

*but they continually  
mocked the messengers of  
God, despised His words  
and scoffed at His  
prophets, until the wrath  
of the Lord arose against  
His people, until there was  
no remedy.*

## Daniel 5: 5(NASB)

*Suddenly the fingers of a man's hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing.*

Lamp stands were usually placed for the brightest lighting at the point where the king sat because the spotlight was on him, he was the center of attention.

It is very likely, since the king sat with the lamp stand beside him, that those fingers appeared and began writing across the plaster wall right over his head!

The archeologist Koldewey, who excavated Babylon, found a large room in the remains of a palace from the time of Belshazzar. This room was 55 feet wide and 169 feet long with plaster walls.

In one of the walls they found an alcove in the wall where they believe the king sat elevated within the wall so he would be the center of attention.

## Daniel 5: 6(NASB)

*Then the king's face grew pale and his thoughts alarmed him, and his hip joints went slack and his knees began knocking together.*

# Question

What is happening now?

## Daniel 5: 7(NASB)

*The king called aloud to bring in the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners. The king spoke and said to the wise men of Babylon, “Any man who can read this inscription in the kingdom.”*

## Daniel 5: 7(NASB)

*and explain its interpretation to me shall be clothed with purple and have a necklace of gold around his neck, and have authority as third ruler in the kingdom.”*

# Question

Does this reaction sound familiar?

Why is he saying he will make the one who can interpret the writing the third ruler?

## Daniel 5: 8(NASB)

*Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the inscription or make known its interpretation to the king.*

# Question

Does this sound familiar?

Remember, Daniel is in his mid 80s and most likely has retired and is living away from any interaction with the Babylonian government.

## Daniel 5: 9(NASB)

*Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, his face grew even paler, and his nobles were perplexed.*

# Question

What is happening now?

## Daniel 5: 10(NASB)

*The queen entered the banquet hall because of the words of the king and his nobles; the queen spoke and said, “O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts alarm you or your face be pale.*

Notice now instead of  
Daniel entering on the  
scene the queen enters  
the scene.

## Daniel 5: 11(NASB)

*There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, illumination, insight and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him.*

# Daniel 5: 11(NASB)

*And King*

*Nebuchadnezzar, your  
father, your father the  
king, appointed him chief  
of the magicians,  
conjurers, Chaldeans and  
diviners.*

# Question

What point does she  
keep making about  
Nebuchadnezzar to  
Belshazzar?

Note: This is most likely the wife of king Nabonidus who is also the widow of Nebuchadnezzar and the mother of Belshazzar.

# Question

How does she refer to  
the one True God?

Does this sound  
familiar?

## Daniel 5: 12(NASB)

*This was because an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and insight, interpretation of dreams, explanation of enigmas and solving of difficult problems were found in this Daniel,*

# Daniel 5: 12(NASB)

*whom the king named Belteshazzar. Let Daniel now be summoned and he will declare the interpretation.”*

## Daniel 5: 13(NASB)

*Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king spoke and said to Daniel, “Are you that **Daniel** who is one of the exiles from Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah?”*

# Question

Why does the king not know who Daniel is?

What does this tell us about Daniel?

## Daniel 5: 14(NASB)

*“Now I have heard about you that a spirit of the gods is in you, and that illumination, insight and extraordinary wisdom have been found in you.*

## Daniel 5: 15(NASB)

*Just now the wise men and the conjurers were brought in before me that they might read this inscription and make its interpretation known to me, but they could not declare the interpretation of the message.*

## Daniel 5: 16(NASB)

*But I personally have heard about you, that you are able to give interpretations and solve difficult problems. Now if you are able to read the inscription and make its interpretation known to me,*

## Daniel 5: 16(NASB)

*you will be clothed with purple and wear a necklace of gold around your neck, and you will have authority as the third ruler in the kingdom.”*

# Question

Daniel is promised great wealth and a position as the third ruler of the kingdom if he can reveal what the writing on the wall means, do you think he will take it?

## Daniel 5: 17(NASB)

*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.*

# Question

We see from his response that Daniel is the same at 85 as he was at 15. What can we learn about Daniel from this response?

# Daniel 5: 18(NASB)

*O king, the Most High God  
granted sovereignty,  
grandeur, glory and  
majesty to Nebuchadnezzar  
your father.*

# Daniel 5: 19(NASB)

*Because of the grandeur  
which He bestowed on him,  
all the peoples, nations and  
men of every language  
feared and trembled before  
him;*

# Daniel 5: 19(NASB)

*whomever he wished he killed and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated and whomever he wished he humbled.*

## Daniel 5: 20(NASB)

*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.*

## Daniel 5: 21(NASB)

*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.*

# Daniel 5: 22(NASB)

*Yet you, his son,  
Belshazzar, have not  
humbled your heart, even  
though you knew all this,*

# Question

What should  
Belshazzar have  
known?