

## Daniel Part 7 - Daniel 5:1-31

### History between chapters 4 and 5

- Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 BC after reigning for 43 years.
- Nebuchadnezzar's son, Merodach, ruled for one year before being assassinated by his brother-in-law.
- Neriglissar, the brother-in-law, ruled for approximately four years.
  - His son ruled for a month before a coup overthrew him.
- Nabonidus became king and would rule from 555-539 BC.
  - Nabonidus worshiped the moon god, Sin, to such a degree that all the clergy and priests of Babylon became alarmed. He was relocated to Taima/Tema, an oasis in the North Arabian Desert - over 500 miles from Babylon.
  - Belshazzar, his son, ruled Babylon and was the *de facto* king of the empire from 553-539 BC. He was a supporter of the god Marduk, which kept the local clergy happy.
- Between chapter 4 ending and chapter 5 beginning there is a gap of about 20 years.

### A party to mock God (Daniel 5:1-4)

- Belshazzar throws a party, much more likely an orgy.
- He does this to mock the God of the Bible.
- *You felt secure in your wickedness; you said, "No one sees me"; your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray, and you said in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me." But evil shall come upon you, which you will not know how to charm away; disaster shall fall upon you, for which you will not be able to atone; and ruin shall come upon you suddenly, of which you know nothing.*  
// Isaiah 47:10-11

### The Finger of God (Daniel 5:5-7)

- *And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.* // Exodus 31:18

- *But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.* // Luke 11:20

### The wise men fail again (Daniel 5:8-9)

- *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.'" And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.* // Exodus 8:16-19

### Daniel is summoned and gives a sermon (Daniel 5:10-23)

- Daniel's main point: God is the Most High God not Belshazzar
  - Reminds him of what God has done (the story of Nebuchadnezzar)
  - Confronts his sin (*"you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of Heaven" vs. 23*)
  - Proclaims God's Word to him
- *"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.* // Exodus 20:2-3
- *"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."* // Romans 3:10-12

### The end of Babylon (Daniel 5:24-31)

- Numbered, Numbered, Weighed, Divided
- *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* // Romans 3:23 and 6:23