

# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*

Dan 5:1 **Belshazzar** the king held a great feast ...

Wait! What happened to king **Nebuchadnezzar?**  
So far it was just him. (Dan 1:1; 2:1; 3:1 & 4:1)



Right here (5:1) is a jump of **20+ years**.  
*This date now is 539\* BC (see Dan 5:30-31)*

**Nebuchadnezzar** was king (634-562 BC)

Amel-Marduk son of Neb (562-560)

Neriglissar Son-in-law of Neb (560-556)

Labashi-Marduk grandson of Neb (560)

**Nabonidus** co-conspirator, (556-539)

**Belshazzar** son of Nab & co-regent (died 539)

This is Babylon's fall & end of Jews' captivity.



# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*

Dan 5:1 Belshazzar the king held *a great feast for a thousand of his nobles*, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.



**Feasts for 1,000 nobles  
are not a big deal!**

**Alexander fed 10,000 once  
at a marriage festival.**

**Belshazzar provided daily food  
for 15,000 people of the  
Babylonian court.**

# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*

Dan 5:2 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...*

---

King *Nebuchadnezzar* looted the temple and carried it all to Babylon (2Chron 36:18)





# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*

***Nebuchadnezzar*** looted  
the Jerusalem Temple

King  
Nebuchadnezzar



Mediterranean  
Sea

Jerusalem

Babylon



King Belshazzar

***Belshazzar*** was partying  
when his city Babylon fell to the Persians

**BABYLONIAN EMPIRE**



# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*

Dan 5:3 And *the king and his nobles, his wives, and his concubines drank from them.* v4 They drank the wine and praised the *gods [made] of gold & silver, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone.*



# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*



Dan 5:5  
Suddenly the *fingers of a man's hand emerged and began writing* ...on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace and the king saw *the back of the hand that did the writing.*



# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*



v.6 Then the king's *face* grew pale and his *thoughts* alarmed him, and his *hip* joints went slack and his *knees* began knocking together.

The *blood* drained from the king's face!

The king who moments ago defied the Almighty God now can't walk and is in *abject fear*!



# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*

Dan 5:7 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,

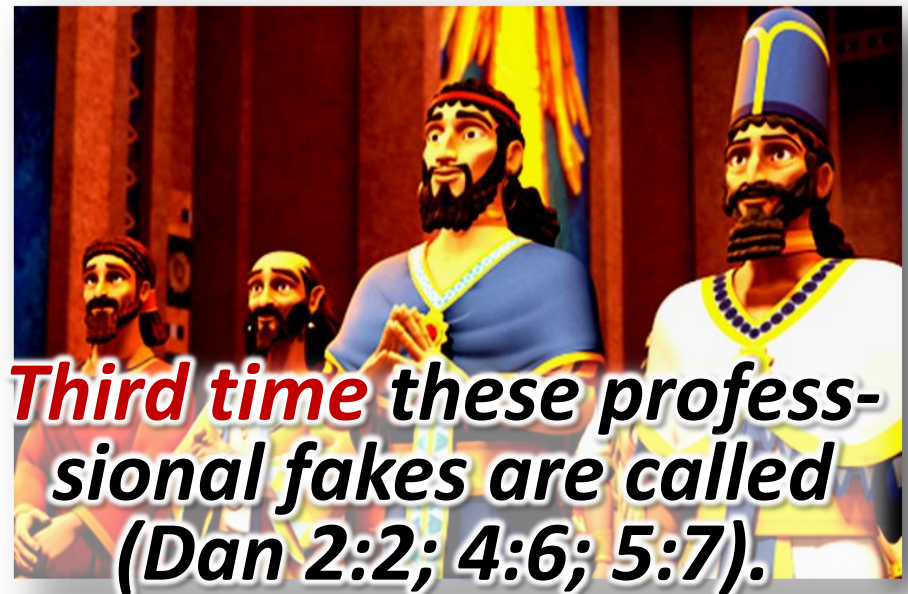
*"Any man who can read this inscription & explain its interpretation to me will be*

(1) *Clothed w/ purple,*

(2) Have **a necklace**

**of gold** around his neck, and have

(3) Authority as *third ruler in the kingdom.*"



# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*

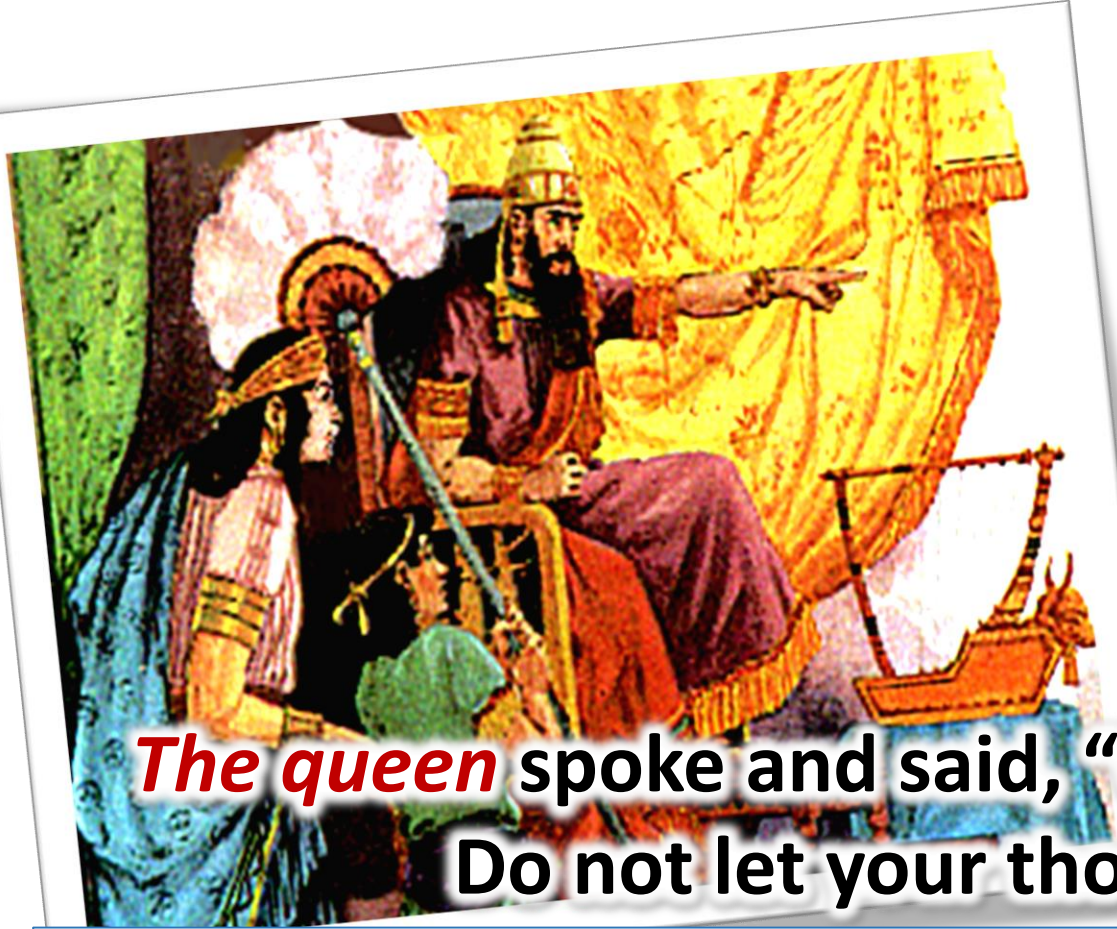
Dan 5:8 Then all the king's wise men came in,  
*but they could not read the inscription* or  
make known its interpretation to the king.

So it wasn't Hebrew, Chaldee, or Aramaic  
which they all should have immediately known.



Dan 5:8 Then King Belshazzar  
was greatly alarmed, his  
*face grew even paler,*  
his nobles were perplexed.

# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*



Dan 5:10  
*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 ...”

His wives and concubines were already there (v3)

Was this the queen-wife or Royal queen-mother?  
Being older may have known of Daniel (v.10-12)



# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*



Dan 5:13 **Belshazzar** asks Daniel regarding his origin.

v.14 Belshazzar tells what he's *learned of Daniel*.

v.15 King states that the *conjurers were useless*.

v.16 Co-King Belshazzar offers Daniel the rewards:

1. **Purple robe** - Elevated to royalty. *(for 6 hours?)*
2. **Gold Necklace** - Elevated authority. *But can't use.*
3. **Third Ruler** – Behind Nabonidus & Belshazzar.

*(And perhaps be killed by the Persians by morning light?)* <sub>11</sub>

# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*



(Dan 5:17a)  
Then Daniel  
answered &  
said before  
the king,  
***“Keep your  
gifts for  
yourself,  
or give your  
rewards to  
someone  
else.”***

(v17b) ***“However, I will  
read the inscription to the king &  
make the interpretation known.”***



# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*



## Nebuchadnezzar

Dan 5:18 *Nebuchadnezzar's* power & sovereignty came from **God**.

Dan 5:19 His grandeur came from **God** too.

Dan 5:20 But he was arrogant and he *was deposed*.

Dan 5:21 He was driven from mankind until he should learn that the **Most High** rules in the kingdom of men,



# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*



## Belshazzar

Dan 5:22 "Yet you ... *Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart,* even though you knew all this.

Dan 5:23 *But you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven;* and they have brought the vessels *of His house* ... you & your nobles, wives and your concubines have *been drinking wine* from them..”

*“You have praised the gods [made] of silver & gold* ... But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and your ways, you have not glorified.”

# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*



5:24-28 The *meaning* of the writing on the wall.

Dan 5:25 Now this is the *inscription* that was written out: **"MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN."**

***Mene:*** Numbered. ***Tekel:*** Weighed. ***Upharsin:*** Split.

Dan 5:26 "This is the *interpretation* of the message: ***MENE*** God has *numbered* your kingdom & ended it.  
v27 ***TEKEL:*** "You have been *weighed* on the scales & found *deficient.*" (You're not sufficient as ruler).  
v28 ***PERES/ Upharsin*** "Your kingdom has been *divided* & given over to the Medes & Persians."

# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*

Dan 5:29 Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they *clothed Daniel with purple* and put a *necklace of gold* around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he now had *Authority as the third ruler in the kingdom.*





# Daniel 5 *The Handwriting on the Wall*

Dan 5:30 *That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain.*

31 So *Darius the Mede* received the kingdom at about the age of 62.



*At the very time of the Handwriting*—the Medes and Persians were entering the city unnoticed—having dug a canal & diverted water for the moat. Bible.org