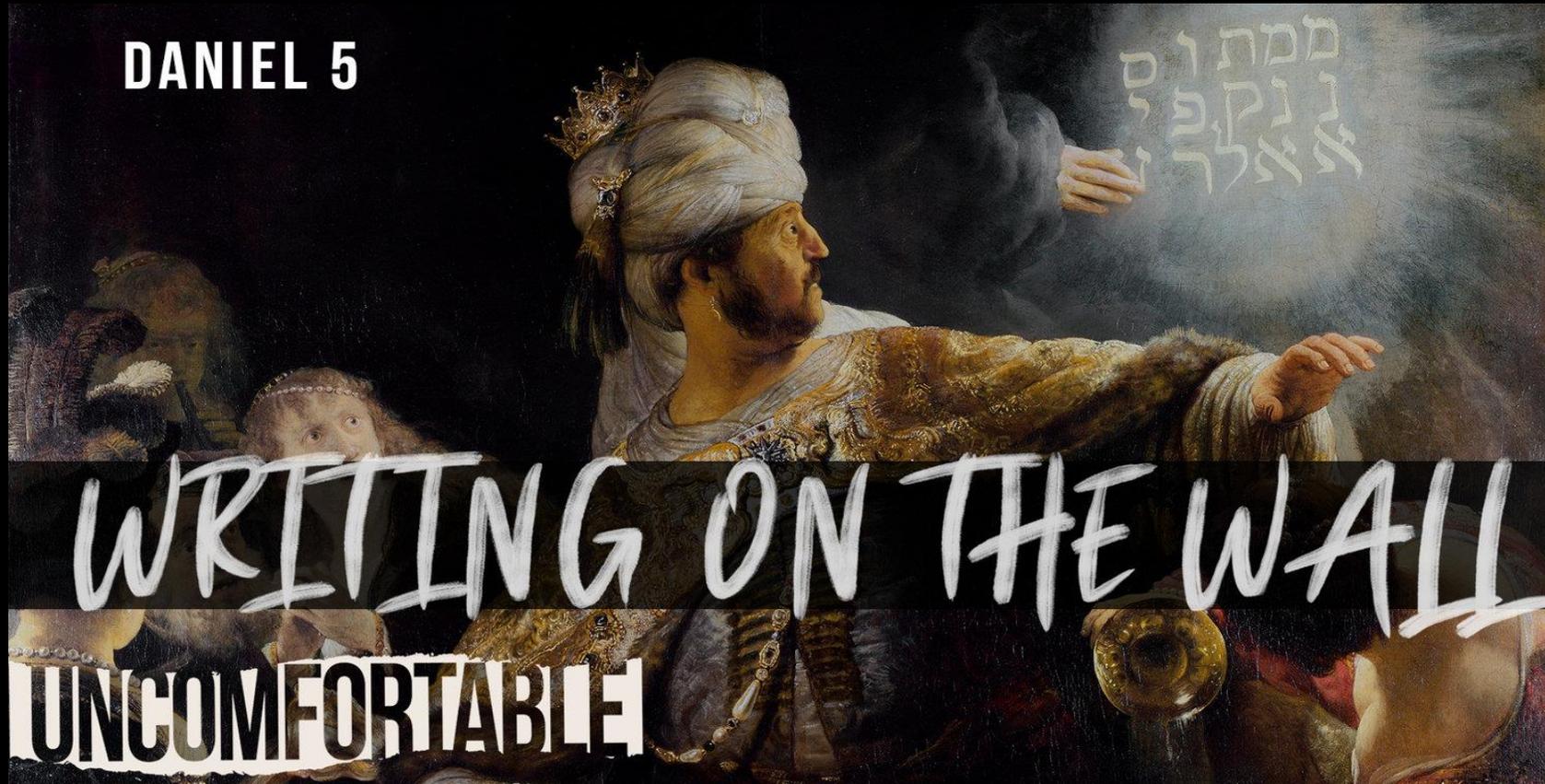


# *Daniel Chapter 5 – Part 2*

## *Weighed and Found Wanting*



Past > Present > Future



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# ***Enter The Ark of Hope***

The Great Controversy between God and  
Satan is primarily over

**“WORSHIP”**

Who will you Choose?



# ***Get into the Ark*** **Sanctuary**



**And let them  
make me a  
sanctuary;  
that I may dwell  
among them.**

– Exodus 25:8

**Psalms 77:13**



# Health Snippet – Hydrotherapy: Cold Water

## 5 Surprising Benefits of Cold Water Therapy (Seek Medical Advice)

Experts say that when practiced on a regular basis, cold water immersion can provide long-lasting changes to your body's immune, lymphatic, circulatory and digestive systems that enhance the overall quality of your life.

1 **Fire Up Your Lymphatic System**: Causes lymph vessels to contract forcing lymphatic system to pump lymph fluids throughout body & flush waste out and triggers the immune system's white blood cells.

2 **Improve Circulation and Heart Health**: With improved circulation, we can boost heart health, enhance mental performance, support the immune system and metabolism.

3 **Reduce Inflammation**: Cold water immersion, along with an alkaline-based diet, has been scientifically proven to help counteract side effects of inflammation and sore muscles.

4 **Boost Your Mood**: More beneficial than prescription medications in lifting moods. Due to the stimulation of the dopaminergic transmission in the mesocorticolimbic and nigrostriatal pathway.

5 **Strengthen Hair, Skin, and Nails**: struggle with dry skin and hair, helps reduce size of pores, tightens skin & stimulates hair follicles, which naturally helps in increasing its thickness and length as well.

• ***Go Take The Plunge - Wish you a happy cold shower!***



## How to Do It - *You've got this!*

**Start** by slowly decreasing the amount of hot water you use in your shower and ease yourself into cooler showers. You could jump right into it by not using hot water at all, but this could be a bit of a shock to the system.

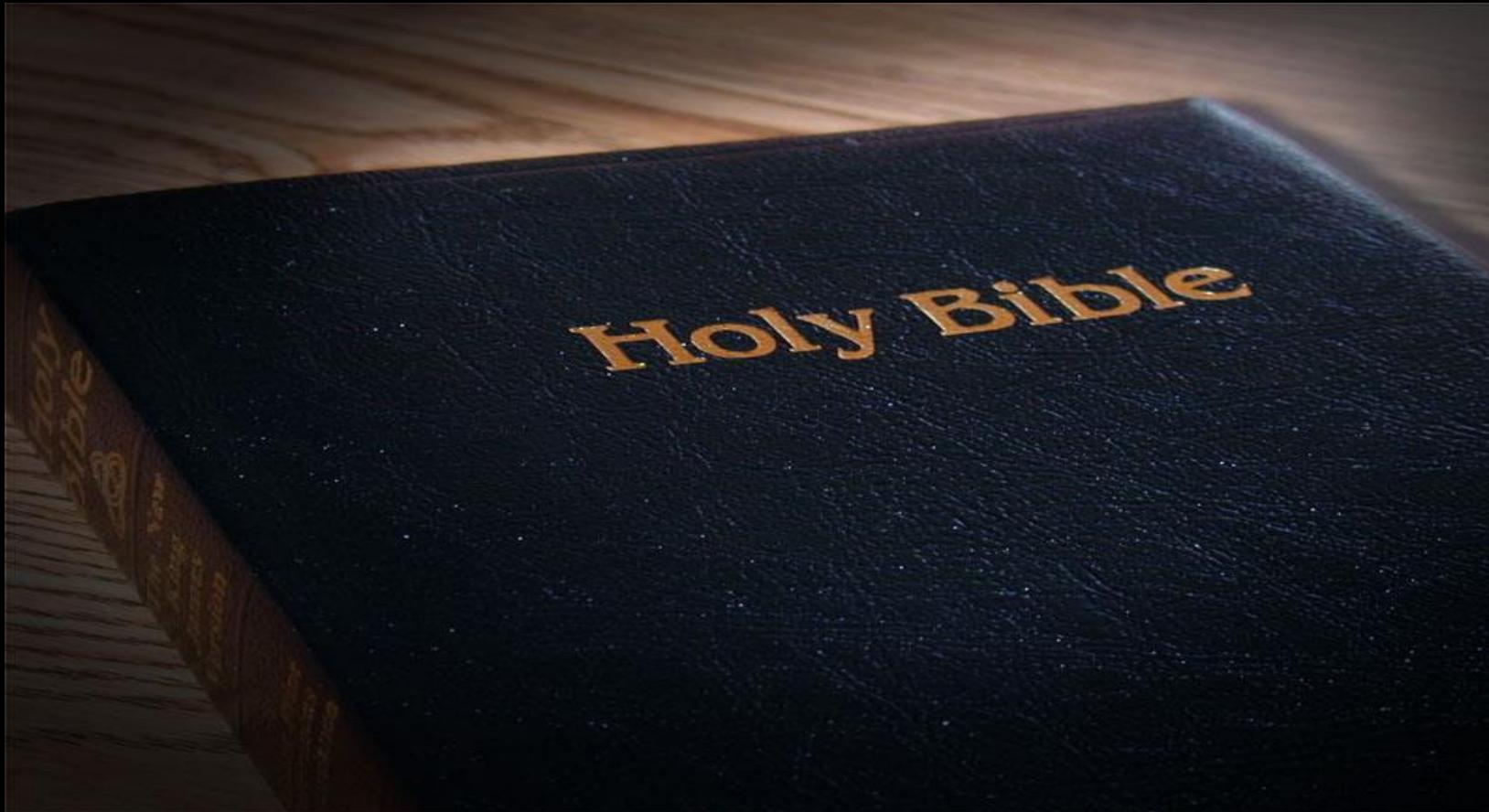
**With** temperature that's right for you, enter the shower slowly & take a few deep breaths. **Then** start getting wet slowly with your hands, then feet, then the rest of your body.

**Progress** through your normal routine of hair and body washing, getting out as soon as you feel you're getting too chilled.

**Soon**, will spend more time in the shower and lower the temperature of the water even more. **Of course**, always remember, breathe through it. Slow and steady breaths for the win.



# Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



# Yes we Can!

Like cold water to a weary soul  
is good news from a distant land.

– Proverbs 25:25 –



# *Daniel Chapter 5 – Part 2*

## *Weighed and Found Wanting*



Past > Present > Future



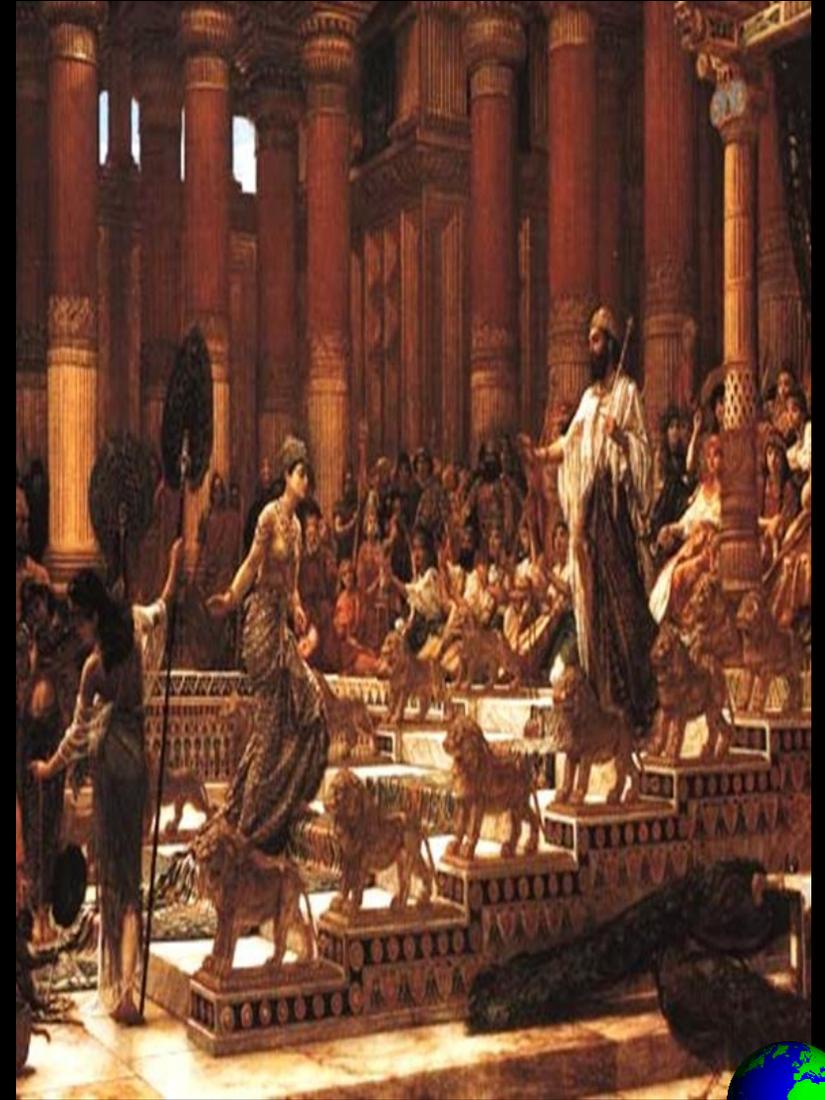
# Introduction

In vain the king tried to read the burning letters. But here was a secret he could not fathom, a power he could neither understand nor gainsay. In despair he turned to the wise men of his realm for help. His wild cry rang out in the assembly, calling upon the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers to read the writing... . But of no avail was his appeal to his trusted advisers, with offers of rich awards. Heavenly wisdom cannot be bought or sold. "All the king's wise men ... could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof." They were no more able to read the mysterious characters than had been the wise men of a former generation to interpret the dreams of Nebuchadnezzar. — Prophets and Kings, p. 527.



# Introduction (cont'd)

As the banquet hall is thrown into confusion because of the mysterious message on the wall, the queen comes and provides direction to the befuddled king. She reminds the king about Daniel, whose ability to interpret dreams and solve mysteries has been demonstrated during the time of Nebuchadnezzar. **If Belshazzar were as smart as his predecessor, he would have known where to turn to find the meaning of this mysterious writing. The intervention of the queen proves necessary for the king, who at this point seems utterly at a loss as to what to do next.** Her words sound like a rebuke to Belshazzar for having overlooked the only person in the kingdom who can interpret the mysterious writing. **And she also gives the king an oral resume of Daniel:** The prophet has the Spirit of the Holy God, light and understanding and divine wisdom, excellent spirit, knowledge; he is capable of understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas; he was chief of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers in Nebuchadnezzar's time (Daniel 5:11, 12).



# Introduction (cont'd)

Forced by the circumstances, the king resorts to consulting Daniel, but he seems to do so with reluctance. **This may tell more about the attitude of the king toward the God of Daniel than toward Daniel himself.**

**In turn,** Daniel's response to the king's offer of reward says a lot about Daniel's priorities and character. **It is also likely that Daniel, knowing the meaning of the mysterious words, realizes just how worthless the reward really is.**

**Daniel then indicts the king on three counts:**

**First, Belshazzar totally has ignored the experience of Nebuchadnezzar.** Otherwise he would have repented and humiliated himself like his predecessor.

**Second, Belshazzar has used the temple vessels in order to drink wine and to praise his idols.** Here Daniel mentions the six kinds of materials used to make idols in the same order noted previously.

**Third, the king has neglected to glorify God, the One "who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways" (Daniel 5:23).**



# **Daniel 5:18-24 – Knowest all the past**

**Daniel 5:18** O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour:

**19** And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down.

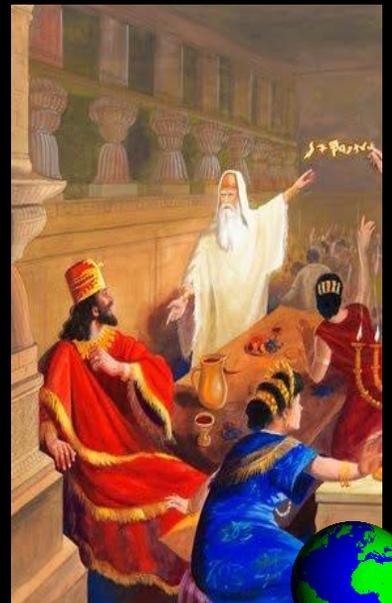
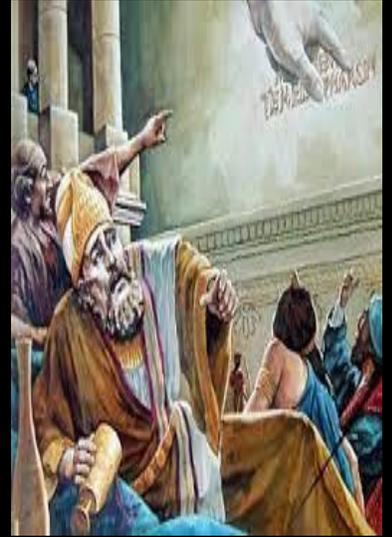
**20** But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him:

**21** And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: 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 ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.

**22** And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this;

**23** But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

**24** Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written.



# Examining what we just read...

We will not take the time to look at these verses in depth as we have already touched on this situation in the previous chapter. But we will bring to light the main points to Daniel's opening words to the king.

He shows the greatness of Nebuchadnezzar, but also the pride that he had when at his peak.

The judgment that passed upon Nebuchadnezzar because of his pride, which drove him to not acknowledge the God of heaven as the one Who is in charge of all things and gave him his greatness.

He tells Belshazzar that he has followed the same path in not humbling his heart, but lifting it up against the Lord of Heaven by desecrating the vessels of God through their pagan worship. Just a quick note as well; look at the order of metals in verse 23 compared to verse 4, gold and silver have been reversed as if to imply that the kingdom of Babylon is finished and the Medes and Persians have taken over. This we will see in the following verses.



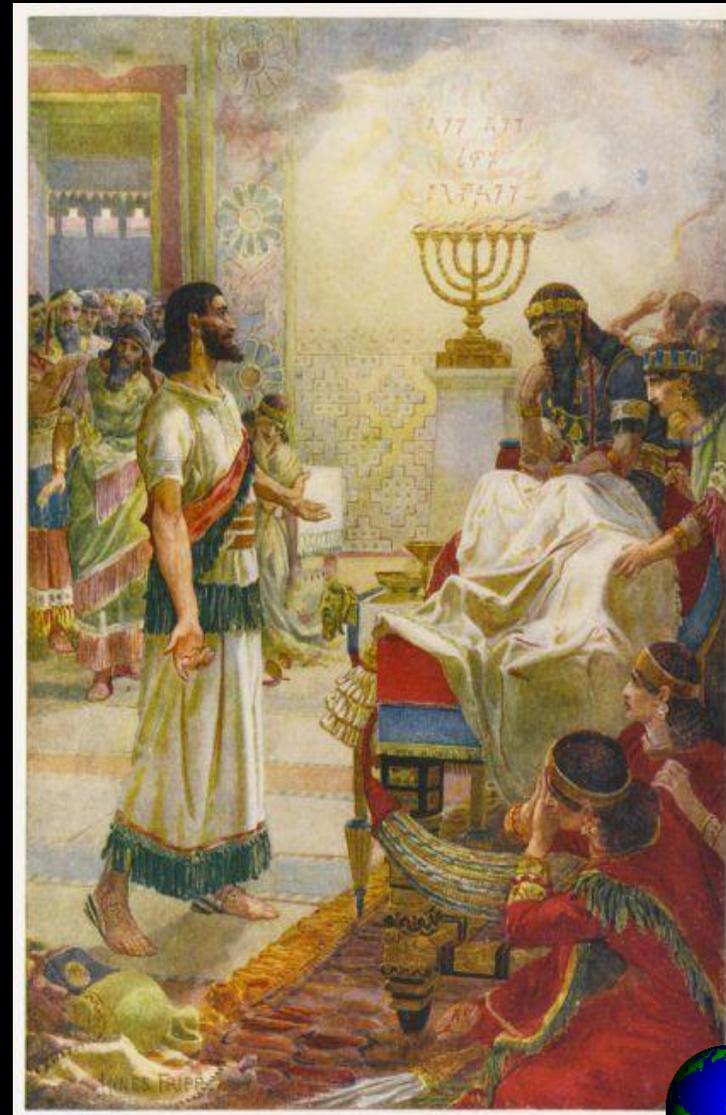
# *Daniel Rebukes the king*

Even though he knew all this, he still did not glorify the one that gives him life. It was at this time of self exaltation and lack of glorifying God, that finished filling their cup of iniquity and sealed Babylon's probation, thus the writing on the wall from the finger of God.

Fearlessly Daniel rebuked and chided Belshazzar and his blasphemous acts: "You knew" how God humbled your grandfather in his pride. Once again the text uses the word "father." The language of the Hebrews and Chaldeans had no word for grandfather; the word "father" is often used to mean "ancestor." Just as Jesus was called the "son" of David, we know that David was his "father" or ancestor.

Belshazzar's problem wasn't a lack of knowledge; it was the condition of his heart. Although he was well acquainted with the workings of God in his grandfather's life, Belshazzar rejected the light that God sent him. He chose to ignore God and follow a life of self-indulgence. He knew what was right, but he rejected it.

And after a time of mercy, God rejected him.



# Lessons to learn for ALL

Pride and exaltation of self are end-time issues. Belshazzar's behaviour reminds us of the Little Horn Power. See [Daniel 7:8-11](#) and [8:11](#). God's house and His holy vessels are to be treated with reverence and respect.

**The great day of the Lord is near at hand.** When Christ appears in the clouds of heaven, those who have not sought Him with all the heart, those who have allowed themselves to be deceived, will surely perish. Our only safety is to be found through repentance and conversion, and the blotting out of sins. Those who will now seek the Lord earnestly, humbling their hearts before Him, and forsaking their sins, will, through the sanctification of the truth, be fitted to unite with the members of the royal family, and will see the King in His beauty... .

**We are called to be the Lord's special people in a much higher sense than many have realized.** The world lies in wickedness, and God's people are to come out of the world, and be separate. They are to be free from worldly customs and worldly habits. They are not to accord with worldly sentiments, but are to stand out distinct, as the Lord's peculiar people, earnest in all their service. They are to have no fellowship with the works of darkness.—[This Day With God](#), p. 248.



Awakening the  
**REMNANT**



# Daniel 5:25-28 – The verdict from God

**Daniel 5:25** And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

**26** This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

**27** TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

**28** PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

**Daniel was again very courageous and willing to speak his mind. Of what does he accuse Belshazzar?**

- That he did not learn from Nebuchadnezzar's experience.
- That he opposed the true God and Lord who has everything in His hand (vv. 18–19, 21, 23; see Daniel 4)
- That he was proud as Nebuchadnezzar had been.
- That he did not use his knowledge in a responsible way.

Daniel's talk consisted of a review of Nebuchadnezzar's experience and a rebuke of Belshazzar.



# The Interpretation of the writing

Daniel interpreted the words written by the bloodless hand upon the wall. The interpretation revealed the fall of Babylon.

- a. Mene means “Numbered” - The kingdom of Babylon has been numbered.
- b. Tekel means “Weighed” - The kingdom of Babylon has been weighed in the balance and found wanting.
- c. Upharsin means “Divided” - Babylon would be divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

In that last night of mad folly, Belshazzar, and his kingdom had filled up the measure of their guilt. No longer could God's restraining hand ward off the impending evil. The Lord had attempted in many ways to teach the Babylonians of His love and mercy. He had sought to teach them reverence for His law and would have loved to heal them.

Aramaic	Noun	Verb
מנא	A “mina” – 60 gold shekels equal 1 mina	“mênă” To number
תקל	Aramaic spelling of a “shekel” – 1/60 <sup>th</sup> of a mina	“têkâl” To weigh
פרסינ	Plural form of פרס Half-minas	
פרס	“pêrēs” = half-mina “pârās” = Persia	“pêrās” To break apart



# Examining the verses...

The writing that was written - Now to read the writing and give the interpretation.

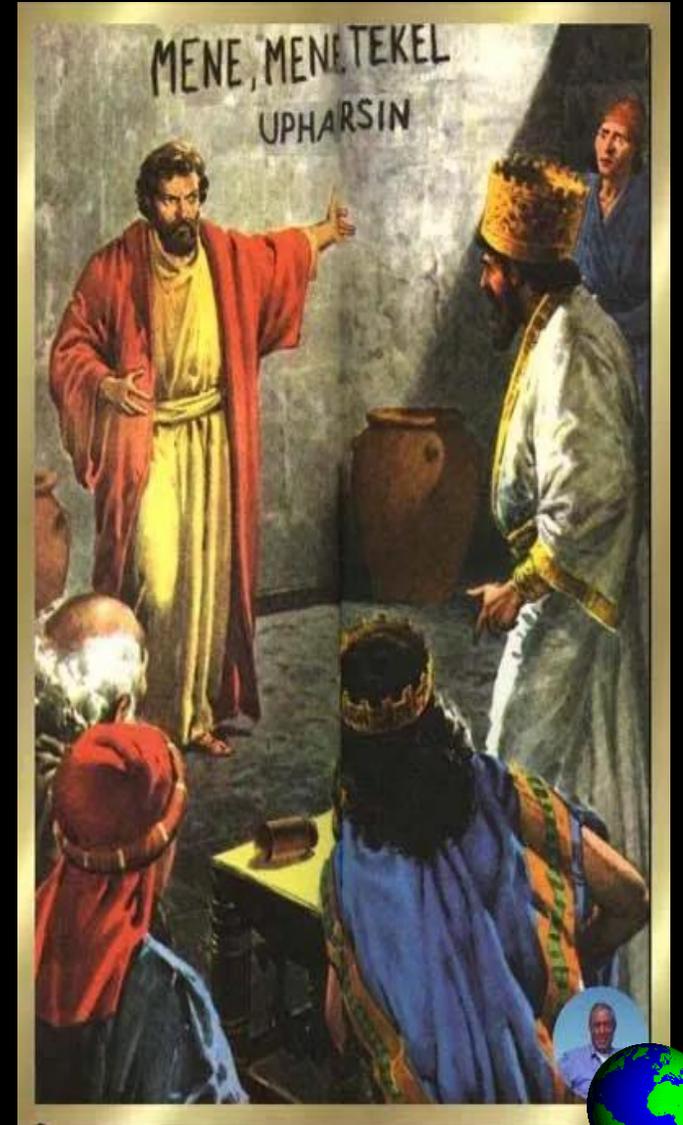
Mene - God, Who holds the kingdom of Babylon in His hand and has power to set up kings and pull them down, has numbered the kingdom and finished it. He finished the ruling days of the kingdom of Babylon.

Tekel - Weighed in the balances and found wanting. God had weighed Babylon in the balances and found it wanting of righteousness, for it was in rebellion against the God of heaven. God also weighs each of our actions (1 Samuel 2:3) and brings even the secret things into judgment.

(Ecclesiastes 12:14) As Peter says "what manner of persons ought ye to be", and in answering this he says to "be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." 2 Peter 3:11, 14.

Let us not be found wanting on the day of our visitation.

Peres - This is the singular root word for Upharsin. When used in the plural form it means pieces. We thus could say thy kingdom is broken into pieces. God had finished the kingdom of Babylon and divided it between the Medes and Persians.

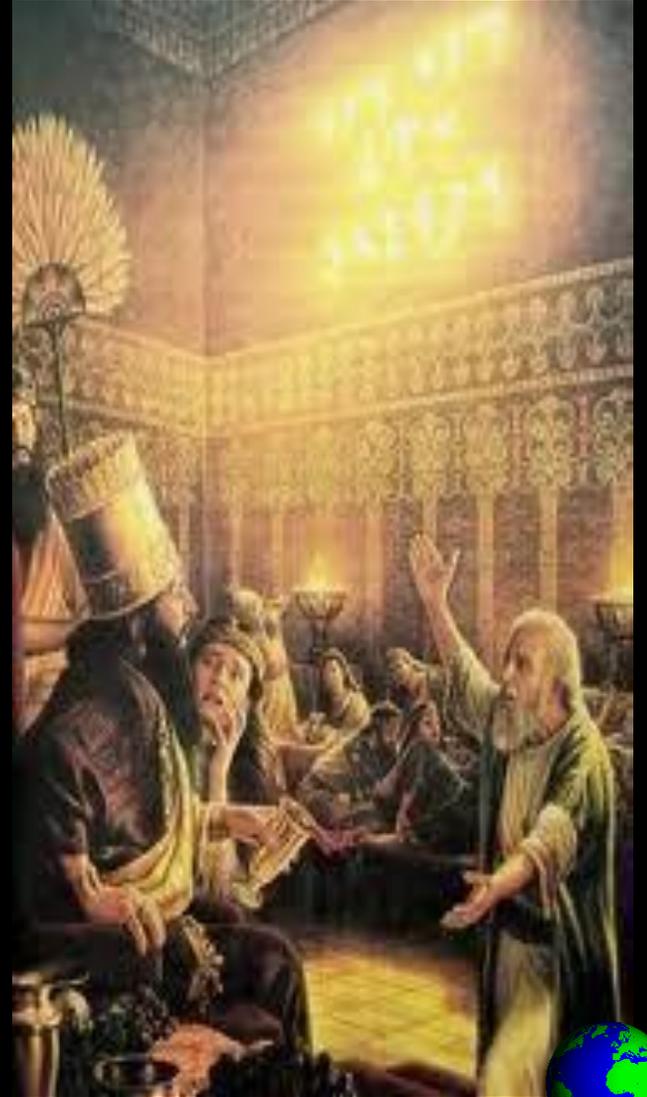


# Presence of Unseen Guest Felt

A Watcher, who was unrecognized, but whose presence was a power of condemnation, looked on this scene of profanation. Soon the unseen and uninvited Guest made His presence felt. At the moment when the sacrilegious revelry was at its height, a bloodless hand came forth, and wrote words of doom on the wall of the banqueting hall. Burning words followed the movements of the hand. "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin," was written in letters of flame. Few were the characters traced by that hand on the wall facing the king, but they showed that the power of God was there.

Belshazzar was afraid. His conscience was awakened. The fear and suspicion that always follow the course of the guilty seized him. When God makes men fear, they cannot hide the intensity of their terror. Alarm seized the great men of the kingdom. Their blasphemous disrespect of sacred things was changed in a moment. A frantic terror overcame all self-control....

In vain the king tried to read the burning letters. He had found a power too strong for him. He could not read the writing (*The Youth's Instructor*, May 19, 1898).



# Not exactly words of comfort and cheer

Having addressed the failures of the king, Daniel proceeds to the interpretation. Now we learn that the divine graffiti consists of three Aramaic verbs (with the first repeated). Their basic meaning should have been known to the king and his sages: **MENE**: “counted”; **TEKEL**: “weighed”, and **PERES**: “divided”.

With the Medo-Persian army at the gates of Babylon, the king and the sages must have suspected some ominous meaning in that writing, but the sages do not dare to say something unpleasant to the king. Only Daniel proves capable of decoding the actual message into a meaningful statement in order to convey its full meaning to Belshazzar: **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).

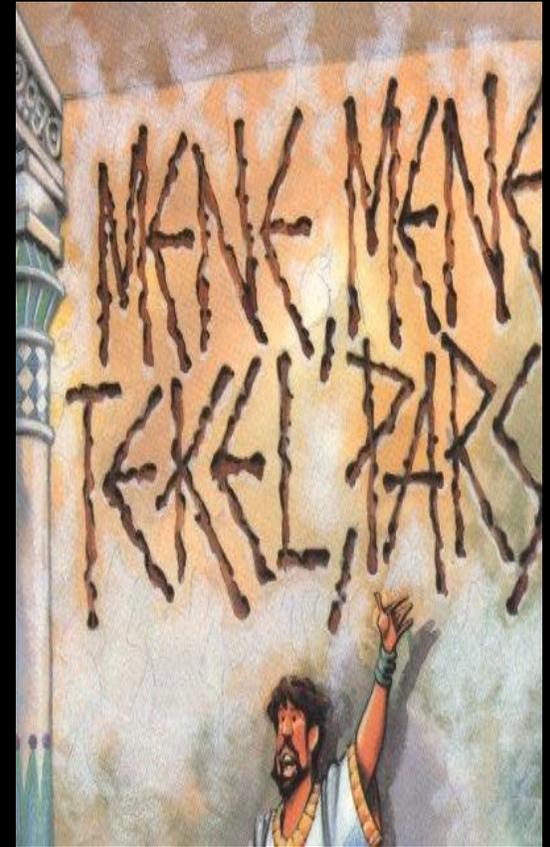


# ***The writing was in Aramaic. Why then did the wise man not understand it?***

## Possible answers:

- A few of the words made the meaning of the message unclear.
- The consumption of alcohol may have hindered the people from understanding the message.
- The writing was only readable and/or understandable by receiving divine illumination.
- “Weighed and found deficient” is true also today.
- There is a judgment of God that affects all human beings.
- **Where do I find myself?**

The carnal mind is enmity against God, and it rebels against His will. Let it once throw off the yoke of obedience and it slips unconsciously into the lawlessness of crime. Iniquity abounds among those who talk grandly of pure and perfect religious liberty. Their conduct is abhorrent to the Lord, and they are co-workers with the adversary of souls. The light of revealed truth is turned from their sight, and the beauties of holiness are but as shadows to them... . — Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, pp. 13, 14.



# God's love, mercy and grace...

**Jeremiah 51:8-9** *"Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed. We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country: for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies."*

## Key Point:

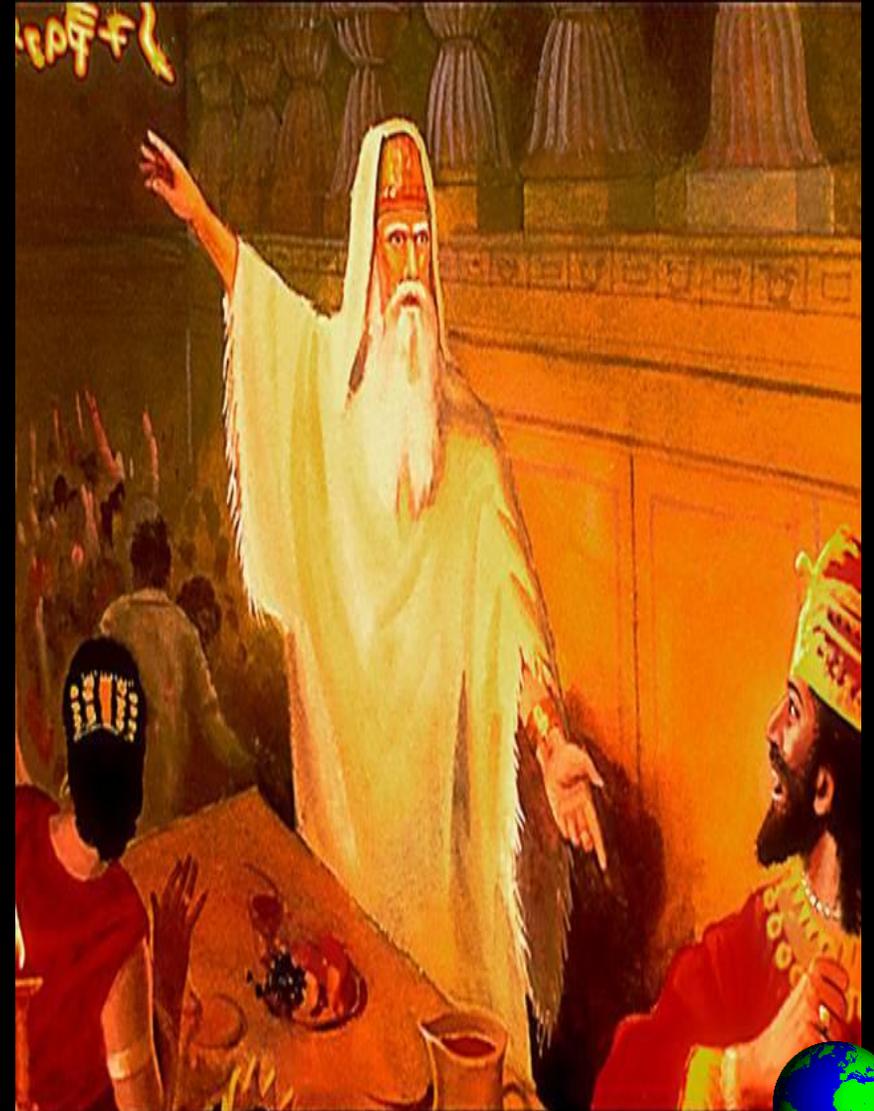
**God wanted to heal Babylon, but their hearts rebelled. Thus God declared, "But she is not healed."** Because of the strange perversity of the human heart, God had at last found it necessary to pass the irrevocable sentence: Belshazzar would be slain, and his kingdom would fall into other hands.



# Daniel 5:29-30 - Daniel is rewarded

**Daniel 5:29** Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. **30** In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

**Belshazzar rewarded Daniel and made him the third ruler over his failing empire. History and archaeology have revealed that Belshazzar's father, Nabonidus, was alive at that time, but was more interested in natural history than ruling Babylon. He was in Tema of Arabia worshipping the moon god named Sin. That's why Nabonidus allowed Belshazzar to rule in his place, making Belshazzar the second ruler of Babylon. Although Belshazzar made Daniel the third ruler after himself, Daniel wasn't interested in ruling over Babylon for he knew its fall was imminent. At that time, while in the banquet hall, the king received the news: "his city is taken" (Jeremiah 51:31).**



# Examining the verses...

Then commanded Belshazzar - Even after the bad news was given to him, he still kept his word of promoting the person that could read the writing and give the interpretation. Daniel was not wishing any reward for the service given v17, thus the king was doing this against Daniel's desire.

Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain - The judgment that was pronounced upon Babylon was carried out the same night with Belshazzar being slain.

The king fulfilled his promise. Belshazzar died the very same night. Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians. Jeremiah's prediction (Jeremiah 51:31-32, 56-58) was beginning to be fulfilled with the events that took place in 539 BC. The Jews were able to return from exile.

- One cannot play games with God.

A destroyer will come against Babylon; her warriors will be captured, and their bows will be broken. For the Lord is a God of retribution; he will repay in full.  
Jeremiah 51:56



# God's Execution of Judgment

## Application - Reasons for the judgment:

- (1) Humanity's pride: People are opposed to God and separate from Him.
- (2) The pleasure principle: People live only for pleasure.
- (3) No willingness to learn: Knowledge that would be available is not being utilized. The Scriptures are accessible to almost all of us but we may ignore them. Jesus wants to live in us, and we may allow Him partial access only. This is unbelief.

## Effects of the judgment (Daniel 5):

- (1) Death of the sinners.
- (2) Justification of God.
- (3) Liberation of the people of God.

How to escape the judgment: Committing one's life in faith to God (John 5:24).

## THE DAY OF THE LORD



*A message of terror and hope.*

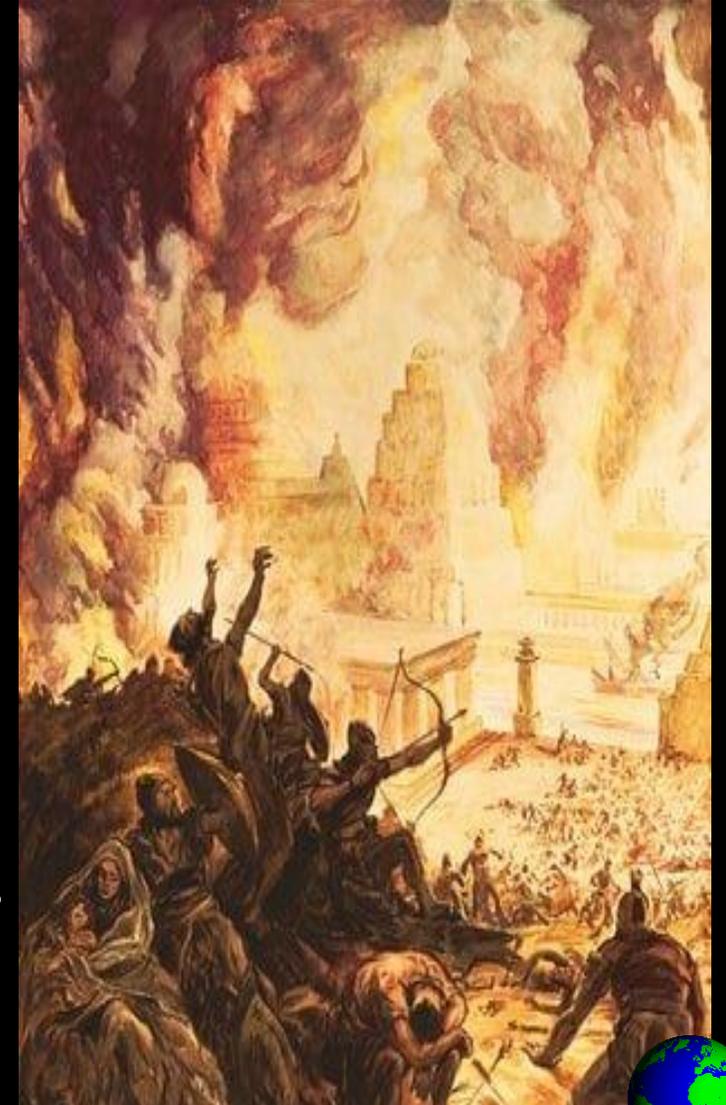


# ***Belshazzar is man of his word***

Whatever his faults, Belshazzar is a man of his word. So, despite the bad news, he is satisfied with the interpretation given by Daniel, which is why he bestows upon the prophet the promised gifts.

It appears that by admitting the truth of Daniel's message, the king implicitly recognizes the reality of Daniel's God. Interestingly, Daniel now accepts the gifts he has refused before, probably because such gifts can no longer influence his interpretation. Besides, at that point such gifts are meaningless since the empire is about to fall. Thus, probably as a matter of courtesy, the prophet accepts the rewards, knowing all the while that he will be the third ruler of the kingdom for only a few hours.

Exactly as announced by the prophet, Babylon falls. And it does so quickly; while the king and his courtiers drink, the city falls without a battle. According to the historian Herodotus, the Persians dug a canal to divert the Euphrates River and marched into the city on the riverbed. That same night Belshazzar is slain. His father, King Nabonidus, has left the city already, surrendering himself later to the new rulers. Thus, the greatest empire humanity has ever known to this point comes to an end. Babylon, the head of gold, is no more.

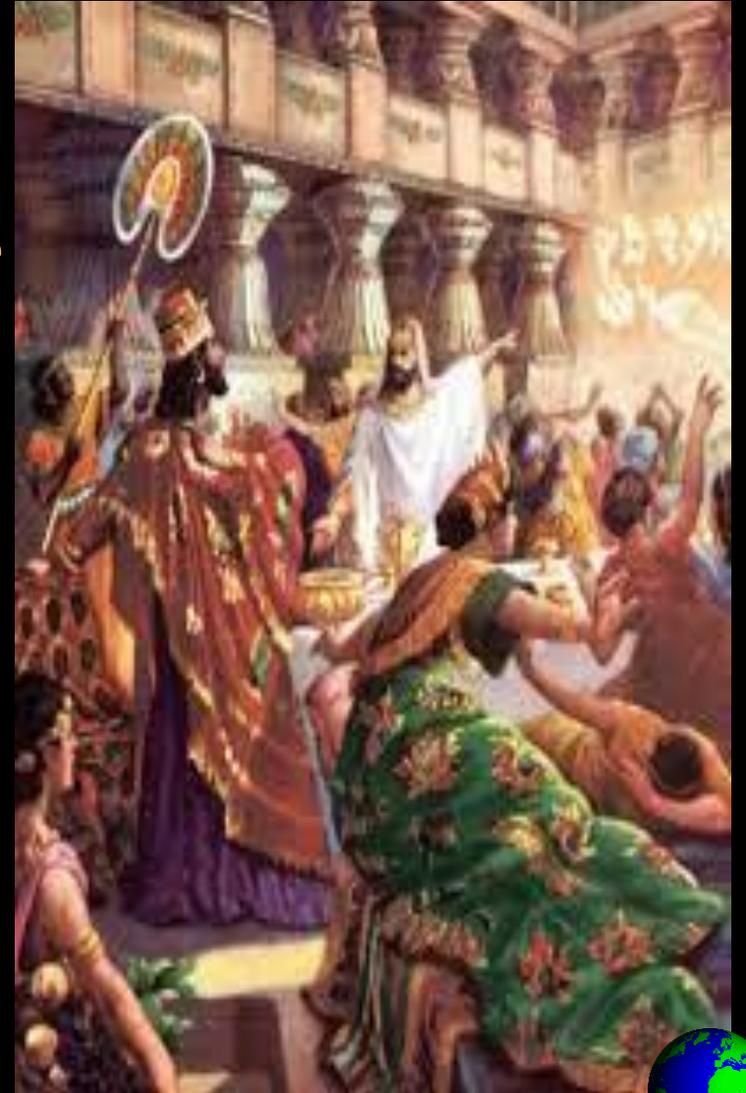


# ***Belshazzar's love of Merriment***

“Belshazzar had been given many opportunities for knowing and doing the will of God. He had seen his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar banished from the society of men. He had seen the intellect in which the proud monarch gloried taken away by the One who gave it. He had seen the king driven from his kingdom, and made the companion of the beasts of the field. But Belshazzar's love of amusement and self-glorification effaced the lessons he should never have forgotten; and he committed sins similar to those that brought signal judgments on Nebuchadnezzar. He wasted the opportunities graciously granted him, neglecting to use the opportunities within his reach for becoming acquainted with truth”. — Ellen G. White, Bible Echo, April 25, 1898.

The prophecy was fulfilled that very night. History tells us that the combined armies of the Medes and Persians, led by Cyrus, attacked Babylon and overthrew it. The very night of the wild party, the head of gold falls in a blood bath as the silver empire takes its place.

The prophet Isaiah foretold of this event. [Isaiah 44:27-45:3](#)



# **Daniel 5:31 - Cyrus God's appointed**

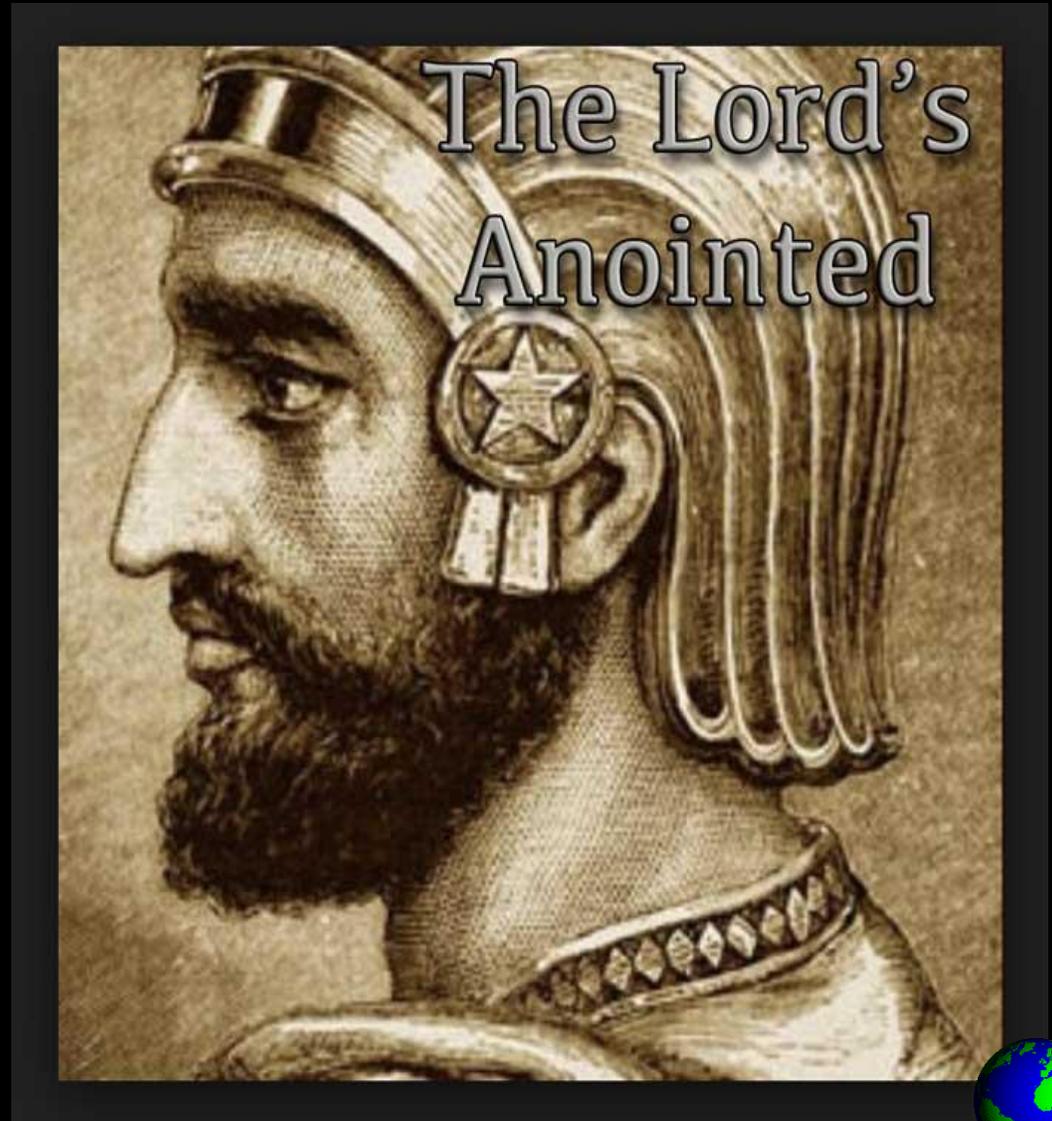
**Daniel 5:31** *And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.*

**Darius the Median took the kingdom - Darius the Mede took the throne of the kingdom at the age of 62.**

**Darius came to his nephew, Cyrus the Persian, and asked for his allegiance in laying siege to Babylon. He accepted and thus went out to take over the city.**

**Isaiah 44:28** *That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.*

**Isaiah 45:1** *Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;*



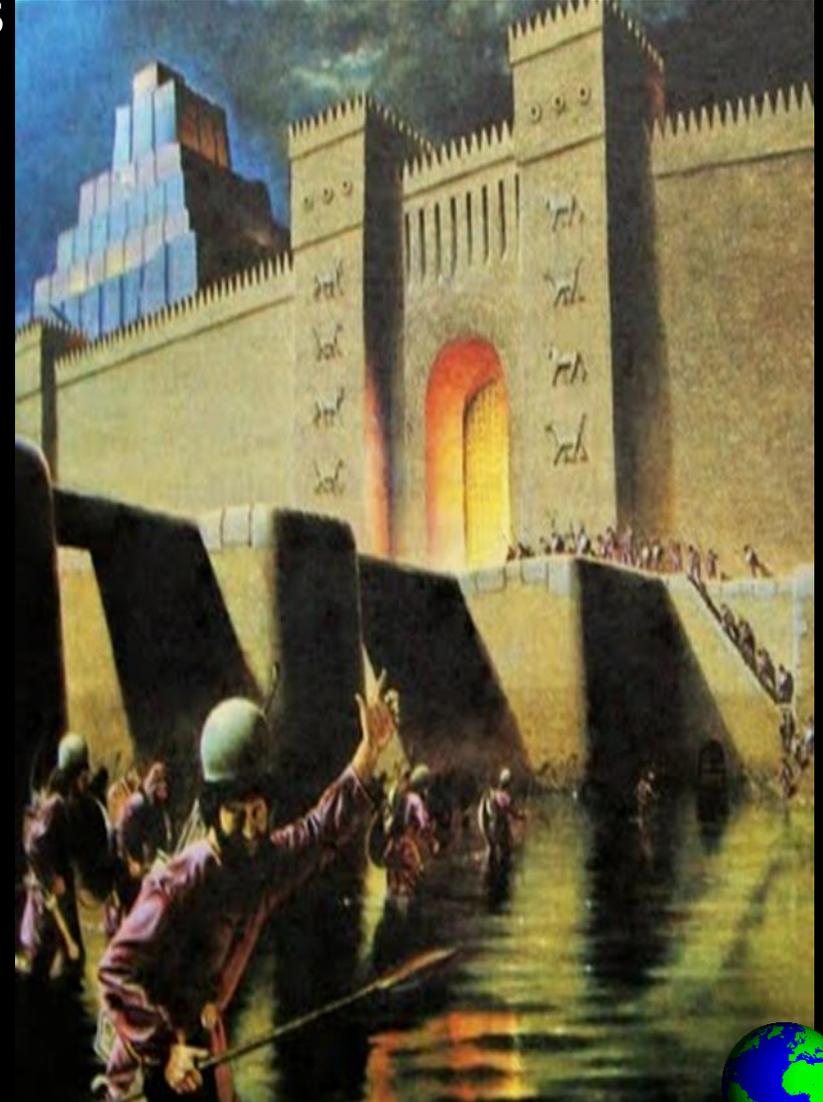
# *Cyrus diverts the river Euphrates*

Seeing the immense size of Babylon, he knew there was no way to bring the walls down or scale them with any success. Learning of the feast that was to take place, Cyrus decided to divert the river Euphrates and march his army in when the water level was low enough. **With this accomplished, his army marched in, and if it were not for two gates that had been left ajar, they would have had to march out the other side as there were walls and gates down both sides of the river.**

**On gaining access to the inside of the city, they quickly subdued it and put the king to death. Thus ending the short reign of Babylon over the then known world.**

Cyrus gave the rulership to his uncle Darius out of respect for his seniority, but Darius only ruled for two years then died at the age of 64.

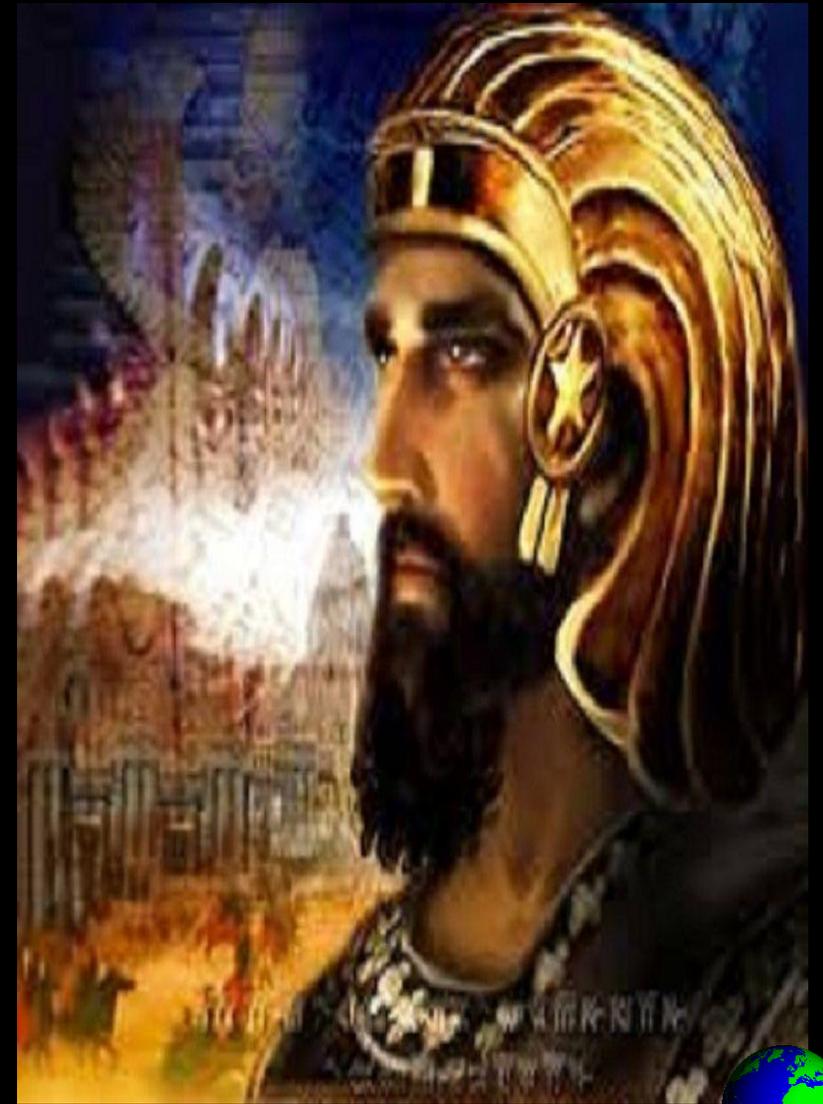
**The way in which the city was to be taken and the person that was to take it had been prophesied of by Isaiah approximately 150 years prior. (Isaiah 44:27 - 45:3) Truly God is in control.**



# *Pen of Inspiration on Cyrus...*

“Cyrus and his army marched up the bed of the river Euphrates; for trenches had been dug, and the river turned from its course, so that there was no obstruction to their entering the city, provided the gates were opened. **The guardsmen were indulging in merriment and revelry, and the city was left without defense. Before the officers were aware, the enemy had entered the city, and escape was impossible.** Those in one part of the city were slain or captured before those in another part knew that the city was invaded. **No alarm was sounded, no cry could be raised to warn the people that the forces of Cyrus were upon them.**” *Signs of the Times, December 29, 1890*

God named Cyrus as the man who would overthrow Babylon. His mother, Mandane, was a Mede, and his father, Cambyses, a Persian, which shows the connection for Cyrus having an uncle that is a Mede. **The Persians were in subjection to the Medes for many decades until Cyrus led the revolt and reversed this position.**



# Fall of Babylon & Jesus 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

But this directly parallels to the end of time with the overthrow of spiritual Babylon when Jesus comes the second time, as described in Revelation 16:12. In this verse we see the drying up of the River Euphrates so as to prepare the way for the kings of the east. Just as literal Babylon's life support was the Euphrates, and the drying up of it would sound a certain death, so to it is with spiritual Babylon when its support [*water in prophecy is a symbol of multitudes, peoples etc...* Revelation 17:15] **from the people and kings of the earth is dried up**. It sounds an imminent death for her, and in doing so it prepares the ways for Christ to come, who comes from the east as King of kings and Lord of lords. (Matthew 24:27, Ezekiel 43:2, Revelation 19:16)

Just as Cyrus came from the east, so too does Christ come from the east. As Cyrus dried up the Euphrates, Babylon's life support, and thus conquering it and setting the Jews [*who were God's people*] free from their captivity and back to Jerusalem, so too does Christ dry up spiritual Babylon's life support which is the multitudes of people and the kings of the earth that give her its power. Thus preparing for Christ to conquer it when he comes and set spiritual Israel [*who are God's people*] free from their captivity and back to the new Jerusalem.

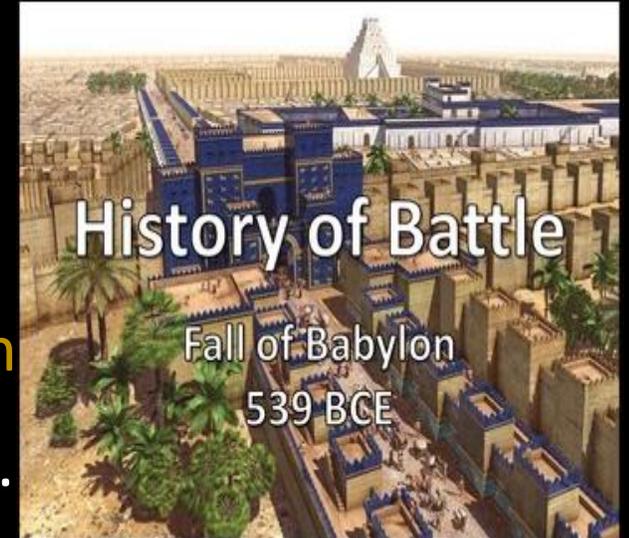


# Rumour of Cyrus's attack of Babylon

Jeremiah 51:46 shows that there was to be a rumour one year that Cyrus was coming to besiege Babylon. This was so until Cyrus and his army came to the river Gyndes (*one of the tributaries of the Tigris River*) and one of his spirited sacred white horses decided to swim across. **The horse drowned as it was pulled under by a rapid current.** So Cyrus, to appease his fury, divided his army up and told them to dig 180 trenches each side of the river, thus attempting to make the river's flow weak. With this episode past his attention was turned toward Babylon. Thus 1 year later he came, just as was prophesied in Jeremiah.

In the taking of Babylon Cyrus diverted the river Euphrates, thus somewhat drying it up, so his men could march up the river and hopefully into the city. Because the river ran through the centre of the city, there were high walls with a large number of gates for access down each side. If it were not for the hand of God in having the Babylonians forgetting to close one of the gates of brass, Cyrus and his men would have not been able to enter the city.

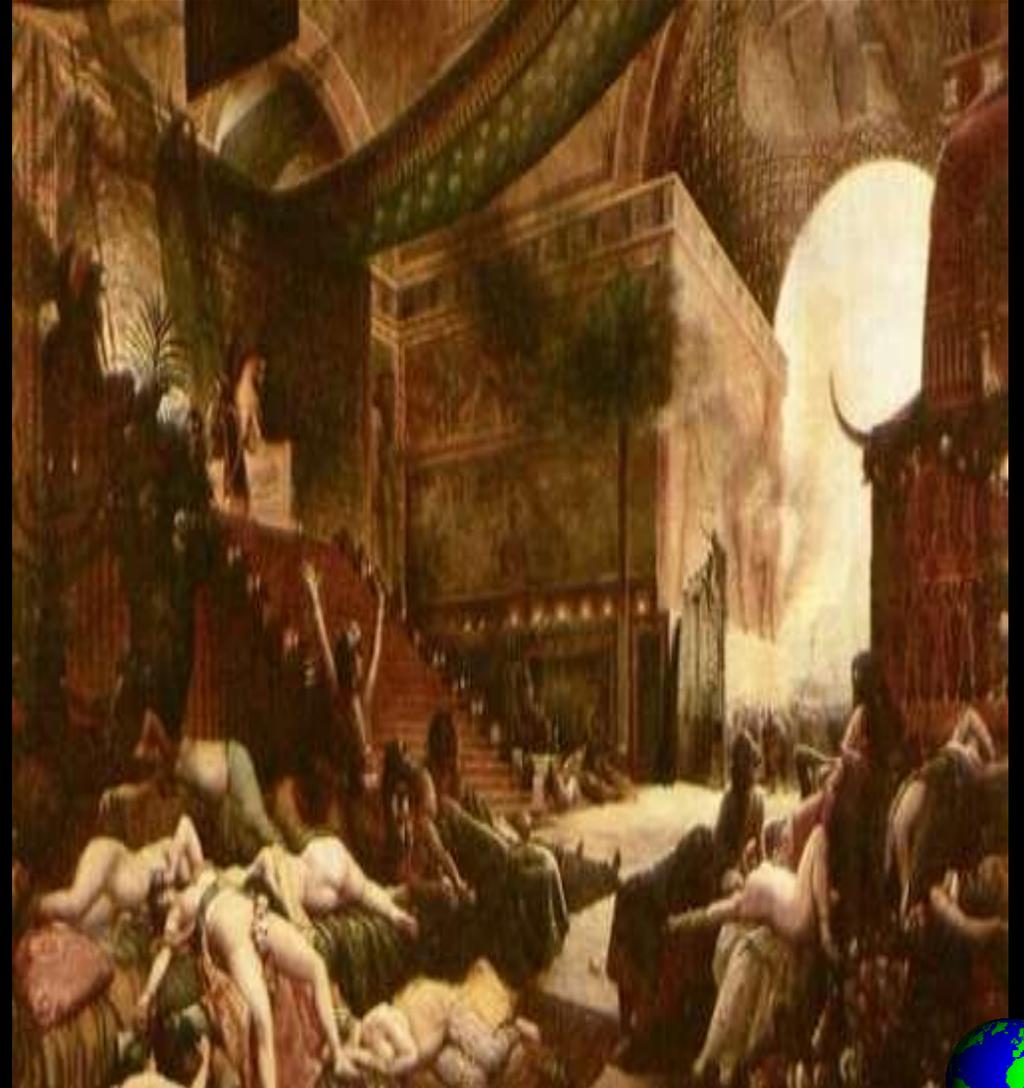
Thus the city was captured exactly how Isaiah had prophesied.



# Babylon's Close of Probation

Why did God spare Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom while He destroyed Belshazzar's? **The answer is found in Daniel 5:18-22.** Belshazzar had the benefit of Nebuchadnezzar's experience and in spite of this knowledge he chose to spite God. At the end of time the Christian world will also reject the noon-day light with which God will fill the world (**Revelation 18:1-5**). **This will be the unpardonable sin.** There will be no more that God can do for spiritual Babylon.

We know that Babylon fell on the 14th day of Tishri which is the seventh month of the Jewish calendar. **Four days before, the Day of Atonement had concluded (the tenth day of the seventh month).** Is it just possible that the judgment of Babylon took place four days before the Day of Atonement? (see **Daniel 7:8** where the little horn—a symbol of end time spiritual Babylon—is judged on the Day of Atonement!



# Babylon's Close of Probation (cont'd)

The ancients believed that the gods used balances to weigh the good and evil deeds of each human being. If the bad outweighed the good deeds then divine punishment would come. God spoke to Belshazzar in a language that he could understand (on this concept of God weighing our deeds see Ezekiel 5:1; I Samuel 2:3; Job 31:6; Proverbs 16:2).

Scholars have puzzled as to why Belshazzar's wise men were not able to read the writing on the wall. After all, the words were written in Chaldee which was their native tongue. It was not that they could not read the words. They simply could not understand what the words meant. An entire truth was expressed in each key word and therefore an interpretation was needed. It will be noticed that in Daniel 5:23 the silver and the gold are inverted in the list of metals. Why is this? Simply because Babylon at this point is history! God had judged her and found her wanting. The next kingdom will be the silver kingdom—the Medes and Persians.

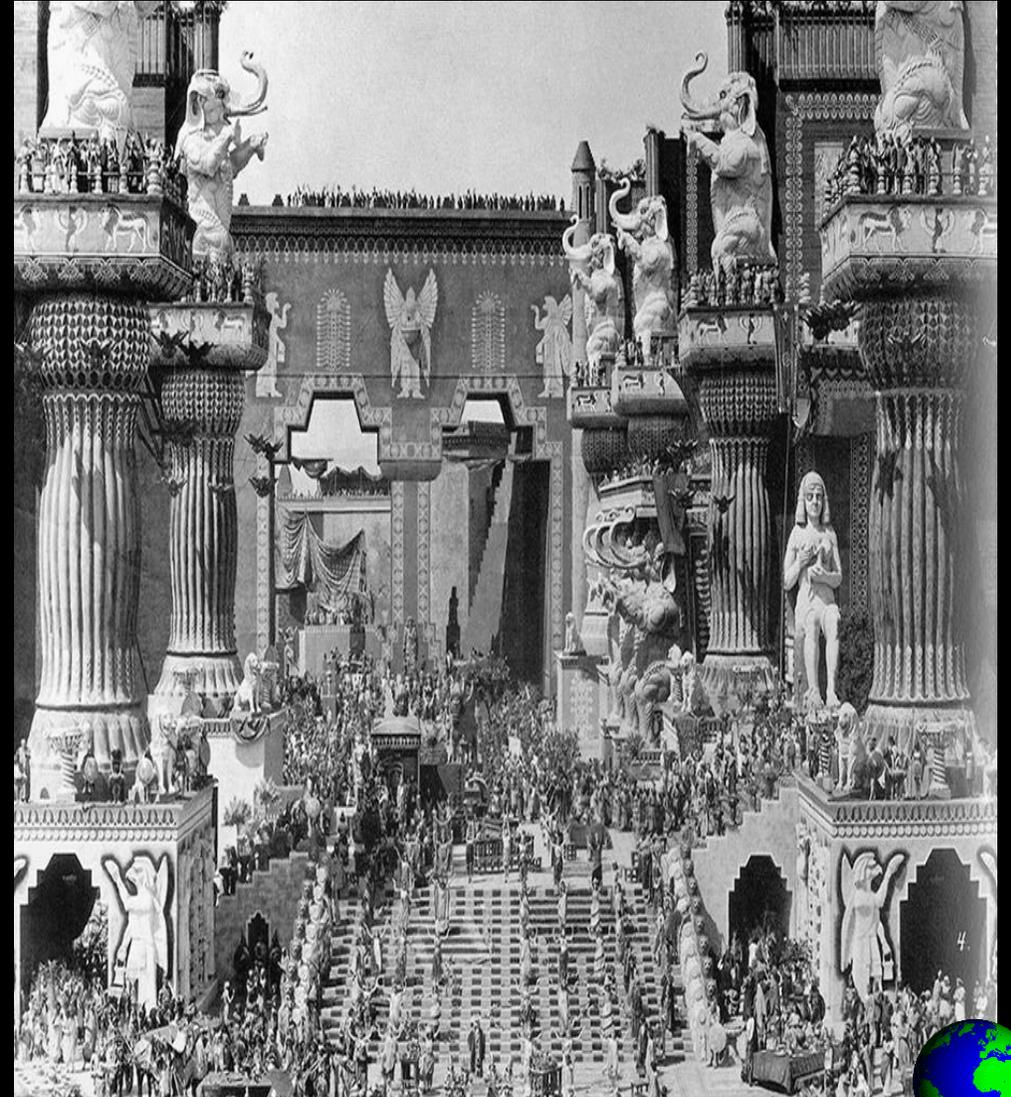


# The Fall of Babylon

Cyrus was acclaimed as a deliverer even by the populace of Babylon. Ellen White describes how Daniel shared the prophecies of Isaiah with Cyrus which eventually led him to give a decree for God's people to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple:

“As the king saw the words foretelling, more than a hundred years before his birth, the manner in which Babylon should be taken; as he read the message addressed to him by the Ruler of the universe, [Isaiah 45:5, 6, 4, 13] his heart was profoundly moved, and he determined to fulfill his divinely appointed mission.” *Prophets and Kings*, p. 557

At her fall all the merchants of the nations would wail (Jeremiah 51:8, 54; Isaiah 13:6; Isaiah 47:15). She would be totally demolished (Jeremiah 50:13; 51:26). All of Babylon's great leaders were to fall by the sword (Jeremiah 50:35-37; 25:30-38).



# *The Fall of Babylon (cont'd)*

At its fall Babylon would be left naked (Isaiah 47:3). She would lose her lovers and her children and would no longer be the lady of kingdoms (Isaiah 47:5).

Babylon would have to sit in the dust (Isaiah 47:1). The kings that had fornicated with her would eat her up (Jeremiah 25:14) and she would be burned with fire (Isaiah 47:14). All of these details will be picked up in Revelation 17.

Babylon would be left alone. There would be no one to help her any longer (Jeremiah 50:32).

There would be no remnant left in Babylon (Jeremiah 50:26, 30; 51:3).

She would be totally destroyed (Jeremiah 51:58). Plagues would fall upon her (Jeremiah 50:13).

The fall of Babylon would be sudden and unexpected (Isaiah 47:5). Notice how the apostle Paul picks up on this and applies it eschatologically in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4; see also Jeremiah 51:8).



# **The Fall of Babylon (cont'd)**

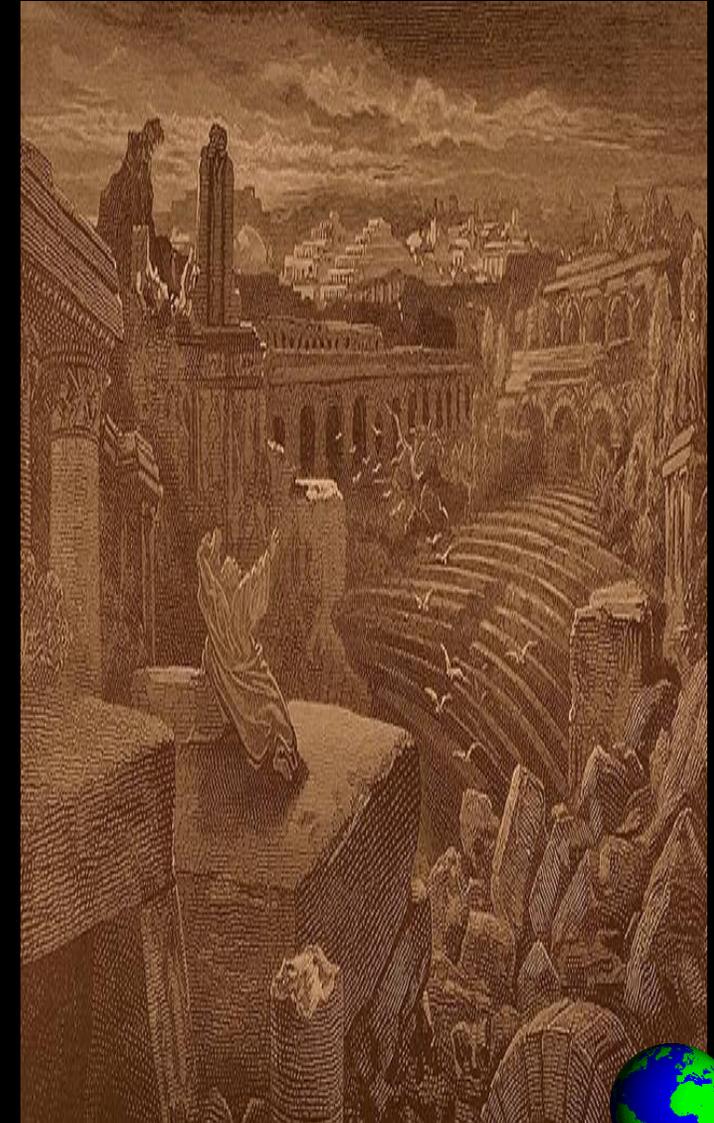
There was to be a mighty earthquake connected with the fall of Babylon (Jeremiah 50:46).

She would drink the wine of God's wrath (Jeremiah 51:57).

God's people were to heed God's call and flee from Babylon to Jerusalem before Babylon was destroyed (Jeremiah 51:6, 17-20, 45; 50:4, 5, 8, 19, 20 and 28). God's people would the return to Jerusalem singing the song of the redeemed (Jeremiah 51:48).

- Babylon received as she gave (Jeremiah 50:29).

**Babylon is a symbol of the world at large.** When its doom was made certain, its kings and officers seemed to be as men insane, and their own course hastened its destiny. When the doom of a nation is fixed, it seems that all the energy, wisdom, and discretion of its former time of prosperity, deserts its men of position, and they hasten the evil they would avert. **Outside enemies are not the greatest peril to an individual or a nation.** The overthrow of a nation results, under the providence of God, from some unwise or evil course of its own." - Signs of the Times, December 29, 1890



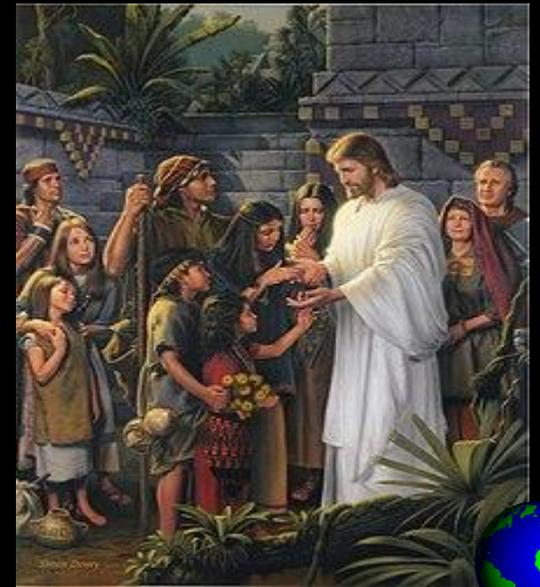
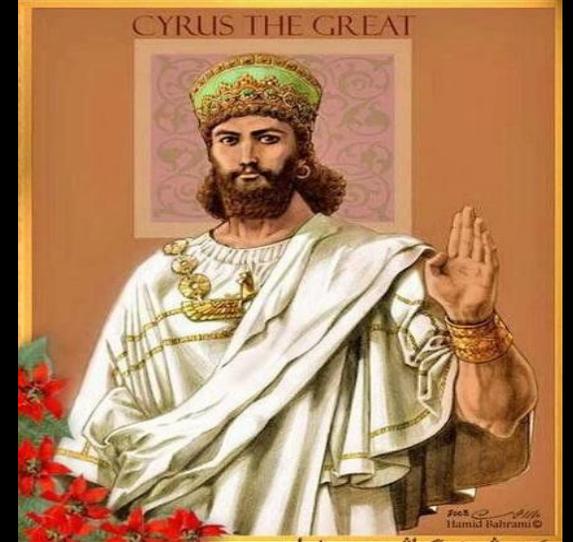
# Parallels Between Cyrus and Jesus Christ

1. The name **Cyrus** means **Sun**.
  - Jesus Christ is called the **Sun of Righteousness**. **Malachi 4:2**.
2. **At his birth, attempt by reigning king to destroy him.**
  - **At His birth, attempt by reigning king to destroy Him.**
3. **Named by God 150 years before his birth.**
  - **Named by God 700 years before His birth.** **Isaiah 9:6**.
4. **Raised up in righteousness.** **Isaiah 45:13**. **The righteous man.** **Isaiah 41:2**.
  - **Christ Jesus, is made unto us...righteousness.** **1 Corinthians 1:30**.  
**This was a righteous man.** **Luke 23:47**.
5. **He shall call upon my name.** **Isaiah 41:25**.
  - **Jesus continually called on God's name in prayer. Our Father which art in heaven.** **Matthew 6:9**.
6. **I will direct his ways.** **Isaiah 45:13**. **Whose right hand I have held.** **Isaiah 45:1**.
  - **I seek...the will of the Father who hath sent me.** **John 5:30**.  
**I will hold thine [Christ's] hand.** **Isaiah 42:6**.
7. **Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus.** **Isaiah 45:1**.
  - **We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ the anointed.** **John 1:41**.
8. **That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd.** **Isaiah 44:28**.
  - **I am the good shepherd.** **John 10:11**.  
**The great shepherd.** **Hebrews 13:20**.  
**The chief shepherd.** **1 Peter 5:4**.



# Parallels Between Cyrus and Jesus Christ

9. **The man that executeth my counsel.** Isaiah 46:11
  - The counsel of peace shall be between them both. Zechariah 6:13.
10. **Cyrus was officially titled, the king of kings.**
  - Jesus will be titled 'King of kings and Lord of lords. Revelation 19:16.
11. **God 'gave the nations before him; as the dust to his sword; as the driven stubble to his bow; to subdue nations before him.** Isaiah 41:2, 45:1.
  - Out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword that with it he should smite the nations, and he shall rule them with a rod of iron. Revelation 19:15.
12. **Cyrus came from the east of Babylon, Persia. The righteous man from the east.** Isaiah 41:2. **Calling a ravenous bird from the east.** Isaiah 46:11.
  - The dayspring [margin: sunrising] from on high hath visited us. Luke 1:78. The glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. Ezekiel 43:2. As lightning comes out of the east, and shines even to the west; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. Matthew 24:27.



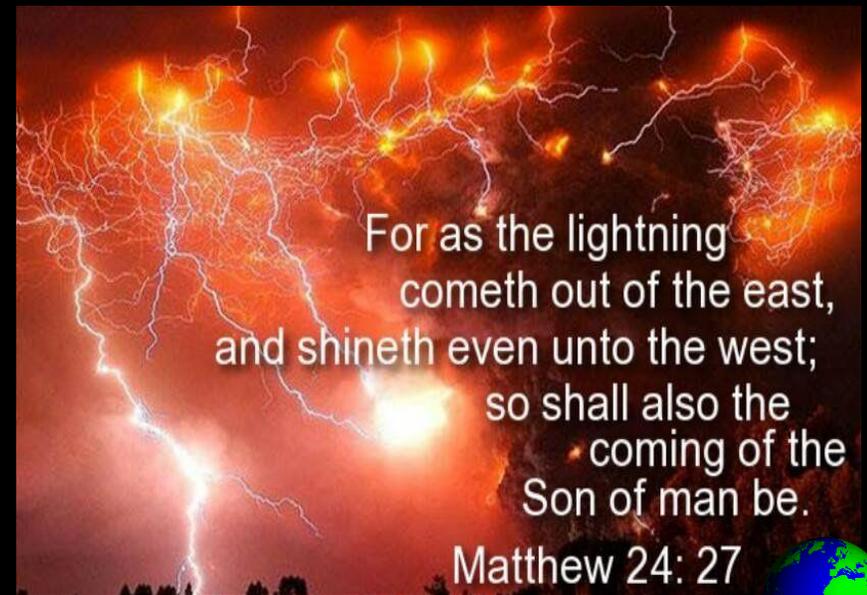
# Parallels Between Cyrus and Jesus Christ

13. He overthrew literal Babylon: That saith to the deep, be dry, and I will dry up the rivers. [Isaiah 44:27](#). A drought is upon her waters and they shall be dried up, I will dry up her sea and make her springs dry, and Babylon shall become heaps. [Jeremiah 50:38, 51:36-37](#).

- Christ overthrows spiritual Babylon The sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates and the water thereof dried up. [Revelation 16:12](#). And great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give to her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. [Revelation 16:19](#).

14. That saith of Cyrus...Jerusalem, thou shalt be built, and to the temple, thy foundation shall be laid. [Isaiah 44:28](#). He shall build my city and shall let go my captives, not for price, nor for reward. [Isaiah 45:13](#).

- A city whose builder and maker is God. [Hebrews 11:10](#). He shall build the temple of God. [Zechariah 6:13](#). The captives of the mighty shall be taken away and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered. [Isaiah 49:25](#).



# Parallels Between Literal Babylon and Spiritual Babylon

1. Literal Babylon ruled the then known world.
  - **Spiritual Babylon is to rule the world.**
2. Literal Babylon claimed to be the lady of kingdoms, I shall be a lady forever, I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children. [Isaiah 47:5-8](#).
  - **Spiritual Babylon will reach a similar position. I sit as a queen and am no widow and shall see no sorrow.** [Revelation 18:7](#).
3. Literal Babylon was situated on the Euphrates river. That dwellest on many waters. [Jeremiah 51:13](#). The Euphrates and its many canals.
  - **Spiritual Babylon will be situated on the symbolic Euphrates. That sits on many waters. The waters...where the whore sits are people, multitudes, nations, and tongues.** [Revelation 17:1, 15](#).
4. The literal river was literal Babylon's glory and protection.
  - **The symbolic river, peoples and nations of the world, will be spiritual Babylon's glory and protection.**
5. The literal Euphrates in flood was used to represent invasions by literal Babylon, from the north, against literal Israel.
  - **The symbolic Euphrates or peoples will rise in rage, like a flood and invade spiritual Israel.**



# Parallels Between Literal Babylon and Spiritual Babylon

6. In the downfall of literal Babylon, her literal waters were dried up.

- **In the downfall of spiritual Babylon, her symbolic waters [or supporters] will be symbolically dried up.**

7. This prepared the way for Cyrus and other kings from the east to invade literal Babylon.

- **This will prepare the way for Jesus Christ, the symbolic Cyrus, to invade this world, the realm of spiritual Babylon. Revelation 16:12.**

8. Cyrus conquered literal Babylon. [Isaiah 45:1-3](#).

- **Jesus will conquer spiritual Babylon. Revelation 17:14, 19:2.**

9. Cyrus delivered literal Israel from literal Babylon. [Isaiah 45:1, 13](#).

- **Jesus will deliver spiritual Israel from spiritual Babylon.**

[Revelation 18:4, 8](#).

10. Cyrus came from the east. [Isaiah 41:2, 46:11](#).

- **Jesus comes the second time from the east to destroy spiritual Babylon. Matthew 24:27.**

11. Cyrus ordered the rebuilding of Jerusalem and restored Israel to the promised land. [Isaiah 44:26, 28](#).

- **Jesus builds the New Jerusalem and restores spiritual Israel to the earth made new. John 14:1-3, Revelation 21:1-5.**



# Parallels Between Belshazzar and Spiritual Babylon

Notice how God uses the story of Belshazzar in [Daniel chapter 5](#) to compare the experience of Spiritual Babylon at the end of time:

## Comparison No. 1

Belshazzar made his subjects drunk – [Daniel 5:1](#).

- End-time Babylon makes the kings of the earth drunk – [Revelation 17:2](#).

## Comparison No. 2

Belshazzar induced his nobles and subjects to commit immorality – [Daniel 5:2, 23](#).

- End-time Babylon induces the kings of the earth to commit spiritual fornication – [Revelation 17:2](#).

## Comparison No. 3

Belshazzar and his guests drank from golden goblets – [Daniel 5:3](#).

- **Mystery Babylon** in [Revelation 17](#) drinks from the golden cup – [Revelation 17:4](#).

## Comparison No. 4

Judgment was pronounced upon ancient Babylon – [Daniel 5:26-28](#).

- Judgment will be pronounced upon end-time Babylon – [Revelation 17:1](#).



Babylon - Mother of Harlots



# Parallels Between Belshazzar and Spiritual Babylon

## Comparison No. 5

Belshazzar dishonoured God by the worship of false gods – Daniel 5:4.

- End-time Babylon blasphemes God and challenges His authority – Revelation 17:3.

## Comparison No. 6

Ancient Babylon persecuted God's people – Daniel 1:1-4.

- End-time Babylon will persecute God's people – Revelation 17:5, 6.

## Comparison No. 7

Ancient Babylon was defeated by the kings of the East, Darius and Cyrus – Isaiah 45:1-5, Daniel 5:30; 6:28.

- End-time Babylon will be defeated by the heavenly King of the East – Revelation 16:12, Matthew 24:27

## Comparison No. 8

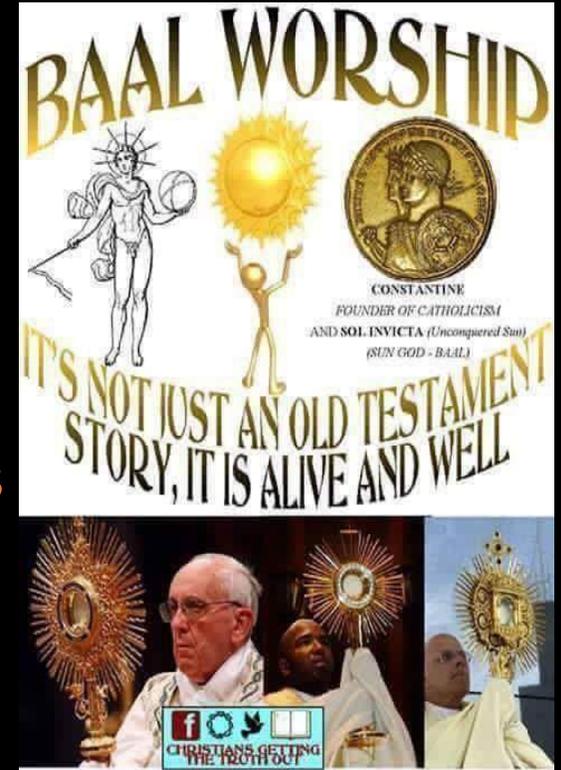
Ancient Babylon attacked God's sanctuary and people – Daniel 1:2.

- End-time Babylon will attack God's sanctuary and people – Revelation 13:6, 17:6.

## Comparison No. 9

Ancient Babylon ruled the kings of the earth – Daniel 2:37-38; 4:22.

- End-time Babylon will also control the kings of the earth – Revelation 17:5, 18.



# Parallels Between Belshazzar and Spiritual Babylon

## Comparison No. 10

God's judgments finally fell upon ancient Babylon – Isaiah 18:17-20, Jeremiah 51:6.

• **God's final judgments will fall on end-time Babylon** – Revelation 17 and 18.

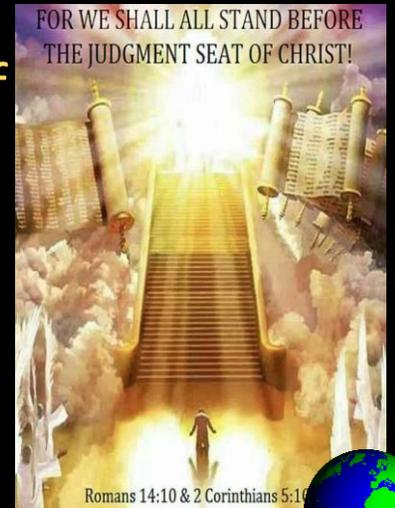
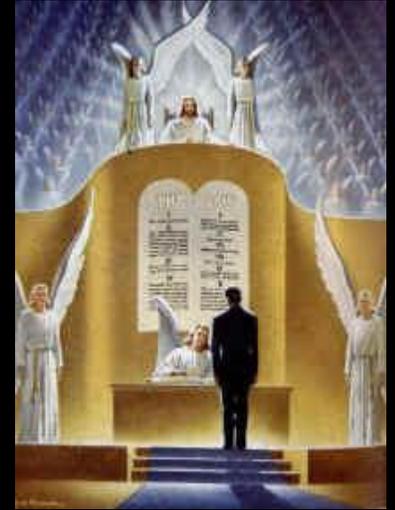
2 Corinthians 5:10 - "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

The Apostle Paul tells us that "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ." Therefore, he gives this wise counsel, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" - 1 Corinthians 10:31.

• **We should not fear God in the negative sense.** His goal is to save humanity. On the other hand, we should not feel free to disregard His will. It is unbelief and disobedience that bring about judgment. (Read also 1 John 1:6-7)

Today, Jesus says, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." **We can either live for the pleasures of this world, or live for Jesus and look forward to eternal life with Him. Jesus longs to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** Remember the contrast presented in Daniel 4 and 5 between Nebuchadnezzar's conversion testimony and the untimely death of his rebellious grandson Belshazzar.

**The choice is yours. Where do you want to spend eternity?**



# Summary

Large feasts were common in the courts of the ancient world. Kings loved to throw parties with extravagance and luxury to show their greatness and confidence. Although we do not know all of the details of this particular feast, we know that it took place when the Medo-Persian army was poised to attack Babylon. But humanly speaking, there was no reason for concern. Babylon had fortified walls, a food supply for many years, and plenty of water, because the Euphrates River flowed through the heart of the city.

So King Belshazzar sees no problem in having a party while the enemy surrounds the city. And he orders a momentous celebration, which soon degenerates into an orgy. What a powerful testimony to the hubris of humanity, especially in contrast to the power of the Lord. Through Daniel, God tells the king that despite the opportunities he has had to learn truth, *“the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified”* (Daniel 5:23).



# Summary (cont'd)

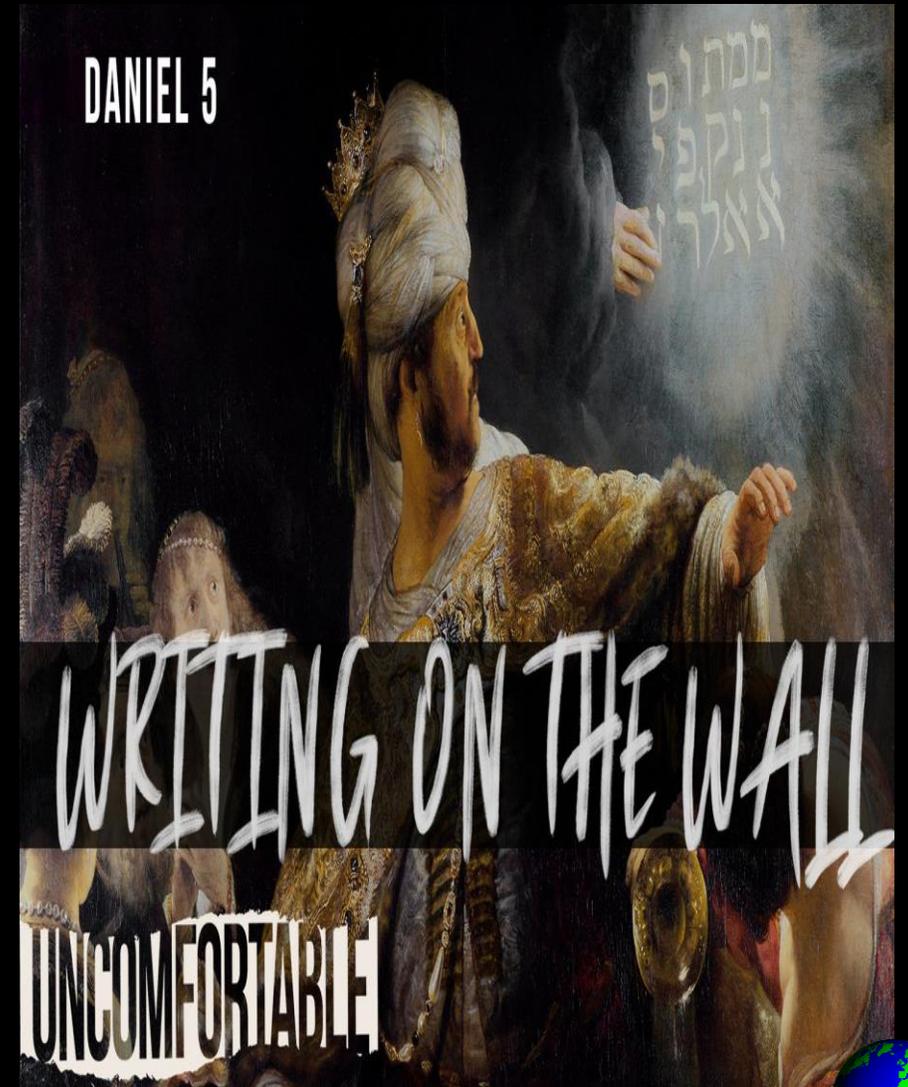
In Daniel chapter 4, we saw Nebuchadnezzar, who **surrendered to the God of heaven and earth.**

In Daniel chapter 5, **Belshazzar didn't surrender to God.**

Nebuchadnezzar took 35 years, but he finally surrendered to God, accepted the light He gave him, and acknowledged the kingship of the Lord in his life.

Nebuchadnezzar found peace and purpose. **In contrast, his grandson Belshazzar, despite many God-given opportunities, refused to accept the light and truth mercifully revealed to him.** Belshazzar lived his life for his own pleasure and blasphemed God. **When he crossed the point of no return, God rejected Belshazzar.**

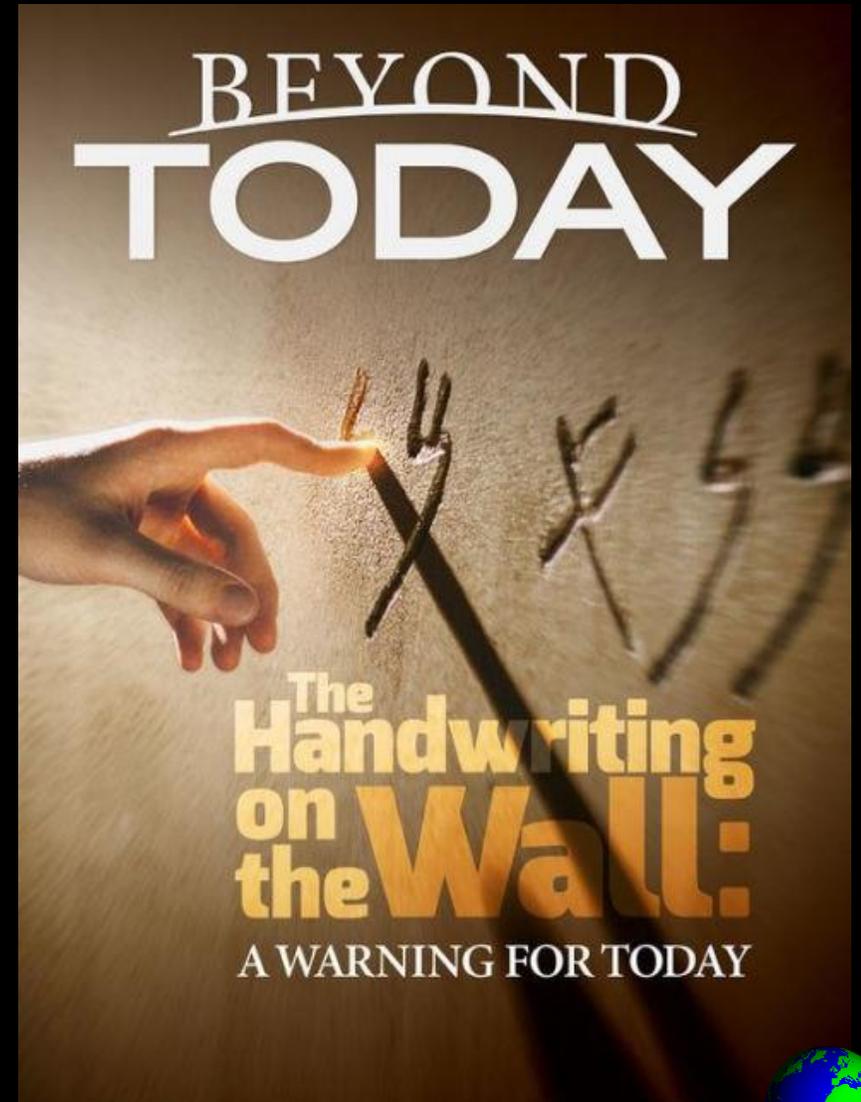
**"Perilous is the condition of those who, growing weary of their watch, turn to the attractions of the world. While the man of business is absorbed in the pursuit of gain, while the pleasure lover is seeking indulgence, while the daughter of fashion is arranging her adornments--it may be in that hour the Judge of all the earth will pronounce the sentence: "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." Daniel 5:27."** - *The Great Controversy*, p. 491



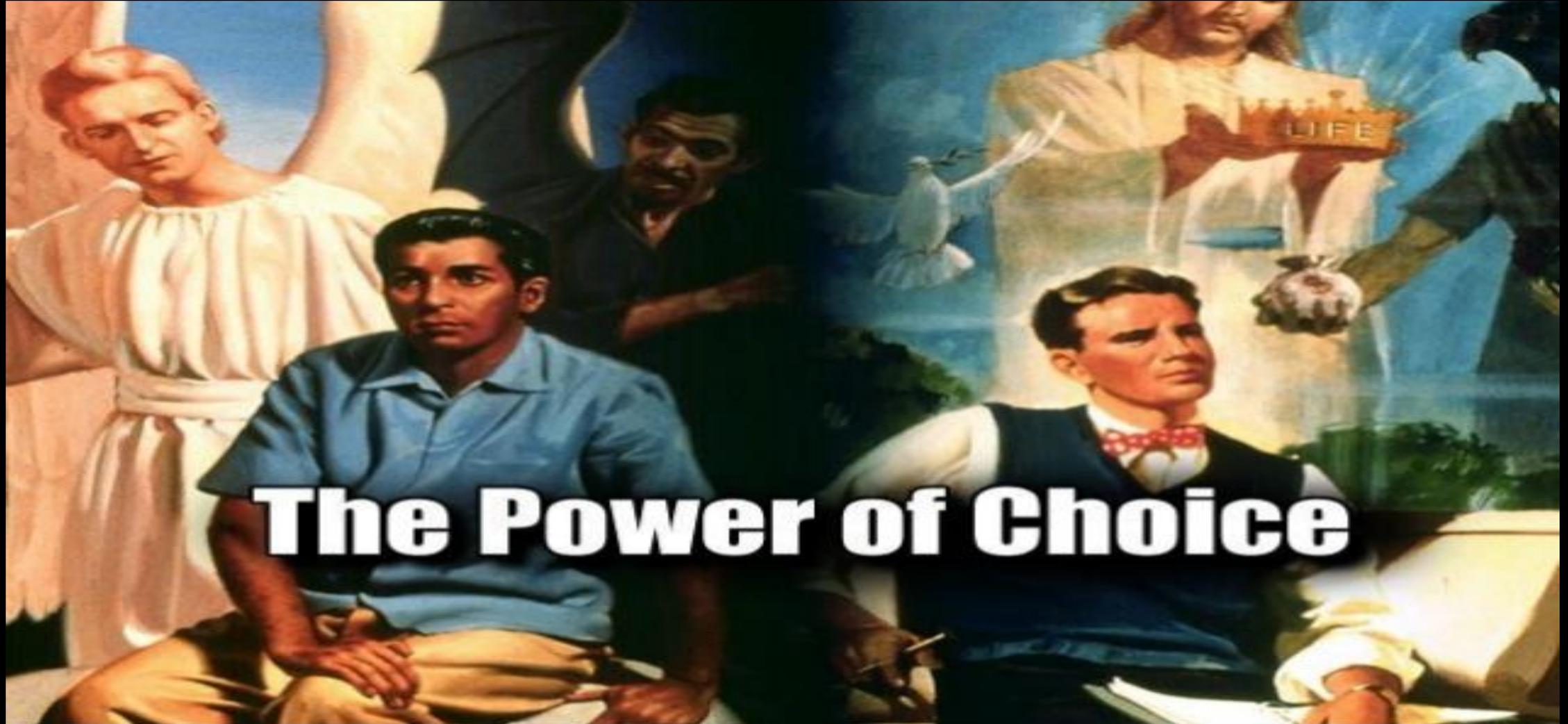
# Conclusion – Lessons for us today

“So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” The picture is true for all time. You may plan for merely selfish good, you may gather together treasure, you may build mansions great and high, as did the builders of ancient Babylon; but you cannot build wall so high or gate so strong as to shut out the messengers of doom. Belshazzar the king “feasted in his palace,” and “praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.” But the hand of One invisible wrote upon his walls the words of doom, and the tread of hostile armies was heard at his palace gates. “In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain,” And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old. (Daniel 5:30-31).

“The history of nations speaks to us today. To every nation and to every individual God has assigned a place in His great plan. Today men and nations are being tested by the plummet in the hand of Him who makes no mistake. All are by their own choice deciding their destiny, and God is overruling all for the accomplishment of His purposes”. - Prophets and Kings, p. 536.

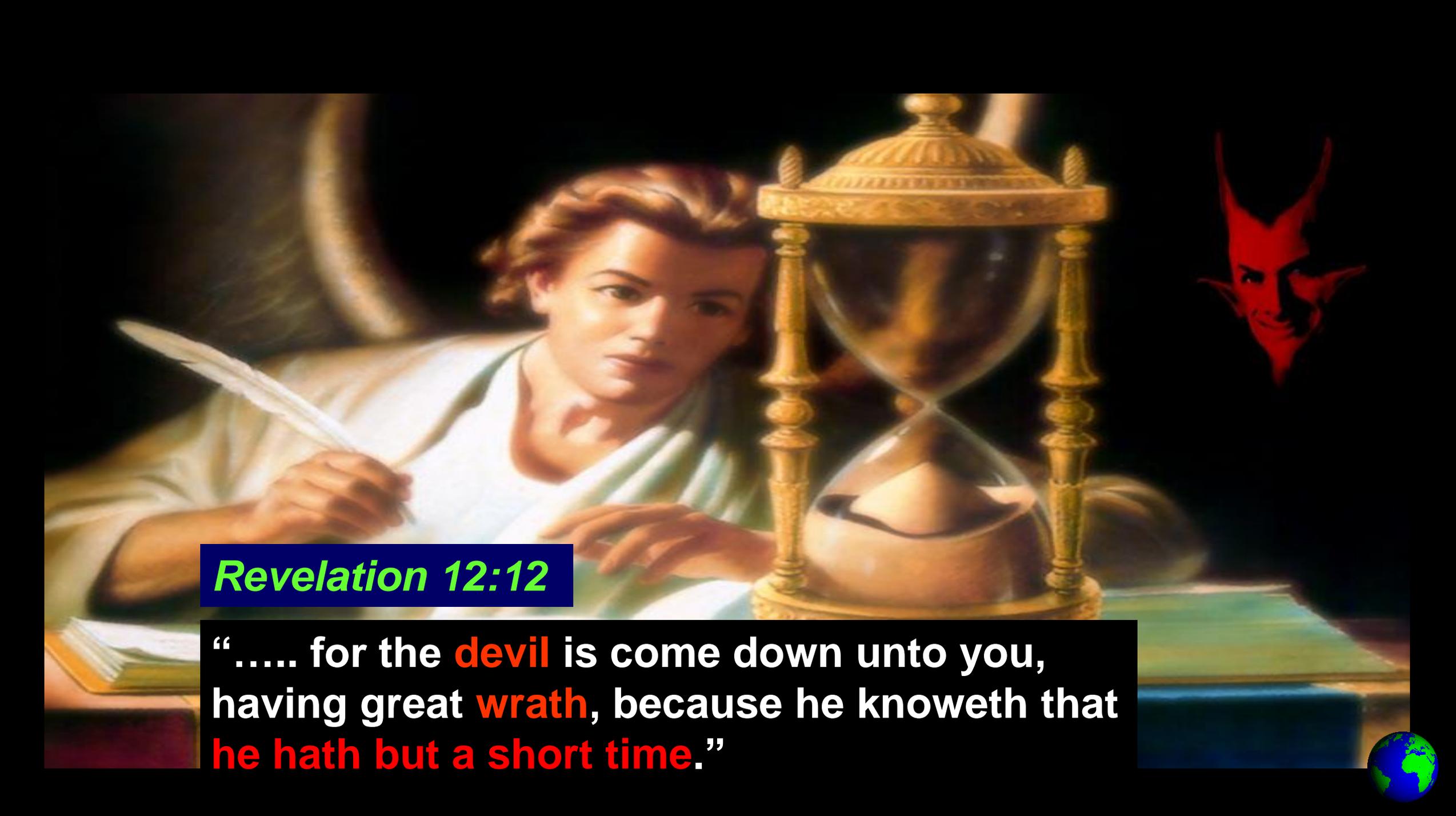


*God has given all:*



**The Power of Choice**



An angel with a halo and wings is shown writing in a book with a quill pen. To the right of the angel is a large, ornate golden hourglass. In the background, a red devil's face with horns is visible. The scene is set in a dimly lit room with a book on a desk.

**Revelation 12:12**

“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you, having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that **he hath but a short time.**”



# Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



**Psalms 77:13**

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. –  
Revelation 3:20





**THE END**

**ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?**