

OT-OV

Lesson 119

1. Two weeks earlier I began an overview of the book of Daniel. We are going to review some of that learned and then pick up with new material on page three.
2. Daniel was written by Daniel from Babylon in about 534. Daniel from Babylon tells of the struggles of the exile while providing remarkable prophesies of five world empires and their relationship to Israel.
3. Earlier I read an expanded translation of chapter one where we found a history of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego being taken hostage by Nebuchadnezzar, adjusting to their new surroundings and prospering as young men in a three year training program.
4. I then began to read an expanded translation of Daniel chapter two. I read and commented on Dan 2:1-24. I want to read some of that learned then return to new material and verse 25.

Dan 2:1 Early in Nebuchadnezzar's reign as ruler of the Babylonian Empire, he began to have several very troubling dreams; he was greatly disturbed. So panic-stricken was the king that he developed a serious case of insomnia.

Dan 2:2 Accordingly, Nebuchadnezzar summoned his best-educated scribes, his best astrologers, his best diviners (men skilled in the black art of incantation) and his priests; they were told only that the king was troubled and could not sleep.

Dan 2:3 The king said to them, "I had a dream which greatly troubles me and I want to know its meaning."

Dan 2:4 The men summoned to the palace bowed before Nebuchadnezzar, saying in unison, "O King, live forever." Then the leader of the group said, "Now tell us the dream and we will tell you its interpretation."

Dan 2:5 The king answered, "I have already issued an irrevocable decree. If you do not tell me what I dreamed and then interpret it for me, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble where the refuse of the city will be dumped.

Dan 2:6 But if you tell me what I dreamed and then tell me its meaning, I will give you gold bullion, silver utensils and a chest full of precious stones, along with a large monetary stipend and a promotion. So take a shot and tell me the dream and its interpretation."

Dan 2:7 Once more their spokesman replied, "Tell us the dream, and then we will interpret it."

Dan 2:8 Nebuchadnezzar answered, "You are simply trying to buy time, because you realize I have issued an unalterable decree; a failure to tell the dream and its interpretation will result in your deaths.

Dan 2:9 If you fail to tell me the dream, there is just one penalty for you. For you see, in the past, I have watched you develop misleading interpretations; I think you are simply stalling, hoping the situation will change. Tell me the dream, and then I will know that your interpretation can be trusted."

Dan 2:10 One of the more respected scholars answered, "There is not a diviner on earth who can do what the king asks! In fact we know of no king who has ever ordered a scholar, enchanter or astrologer to tell a ruler what he dreamed.

Dan 2:11 What you are asking is frankly just too difficult. There is no human who can reveal your dream; only the gods know what you dreamed, but unfortunately the gods do not live among us."

Dan 2:12 This response made the king not just angry, but livid; he exploded and summarily ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon.

Dan 2:13 The decree to execute all his advisors was received by Arioch, Nebuchadnezzar's chief executioner, who immediately led a sweeping search for all diviners, and this included Daniel and his three friends.

Dan 2:14 When Arioch arrived at Daniel's palace apartment, the young Daniel met the chief executioner at the door; Arioch read the decree to Daniel, who answered with counsel and wisdom.

Dan 2:15 "Why is the decree being so hastily carried out?" Then Arioch told Daniel how the king had already met with the palace diviners and given each a chance to tell the king his dream.

Dan 2:16 Daniel went straight to the king's quarters and asked permission from his chief of staff to see the king; Daniel promised, "If you give me just a little more time, I will tell you what you dreamed, and then I will tell you its interpretation."

Dan 2:17 Later, Daniel met with his three friends and explained the entire situation.

Dan 2:18 The four, in prayer, asked God to make known the dream and its interpretation, so that they would not be drawn and quartered with the rest of the Babylonian diviners.

Dan 2:19 The dream and its interpretation were given to Daniel in a night vision, and Daniel responded to God's revelations by praising Him.

Dan 2:20 Daniel extolled the name of Jehovah God by exclaiming, "Blessed be the name of God forever, for He is the source of all wisdom and might."

Dan 2:21 He went even further by proclaiming, "It is Jesus Christ who controls events and breaks up time into epochs; He both raises up kings and puts them down; and He gives wisdom to the wise, and more doctrine to those who desire it.

Dan 2:22 He reveals the deep and hidden things to those who know Him; God knows what is in the minds of men; and because my Father is omniscient, He has revealed all that I, Daniel, need to know.

Dan 2:23 I thank You and praise Your name, O God of my fathers who has given me wisdom and has revealed to me the king's dream."

Dan 2:24 Because Daniel's mind was full of information about the king and his dream, he asked Arioch to spare the wise men and take him to Nebuchadnezzar's quarters. He had earlier informed Arioch that he knew what Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed and was ready to interpret for the great king.

Dan 2:25 Seeking further prestige for himself, Arioch hastened to the king with Daniel, asserting, "I have found a man of the captives of Judah who will tell you the interpretation of your dream."

Dan 2:26 Calling Daniel by his Babylonian name, the king said, "Belteshazzar, have you come to tell and interpret my dream?"

Dan 2:27 "I know your wise men, the astrologers, the magicians and priests have been unable to tell you what you dreamed!

Dan 2:28 But let me make it clear, O King, there is a God in heaven Who reveals secrets and makes known that which will come to pass, and this He has elected to do, just for you.

Dan 2:29 “O King, you dreamed about the future. While you slept on your bed, the God of heaven chose to reveal to you, and you only, certain events of monumental importance.

Dan 2:30 As for me, these secret things were not revealed because I am wise or wiser than anyone else, but rather the revelation came so that you, as the king, might know the thoughts of your own right lobe and thus understand what went through your mind as you slept.

Dan 2:31 “What you saw, O King, was this: there before you stood a great statue. This great image was awesome in brightness; its colorful appearance signified several future glamorous empires and its form was terrifying, but a symbol of the great power of the empires to come.

Dan 2:32 The golden head represents you, O King, as ruler of Babylon. The breast and arms of silver represents the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians to follow, and the belly and thighs of bronze represents a Grecian Empire that will supplant the Medo-Persians.

Dan 2:33 The legs of the image were made of iron, representing a future Roman Empire, and the feet were made of both iron and clay, representing an even more distant and powerful Revived Roman Empire with ten supporting nations.

Dan 2:34 Then you saw a large uncut stone rolling down a steep grade; it struck the base of the image, and the iron and clay were smashed into many pieces. The stone represents Jesus Christ at His Second Advent.

Dan 2:35 As a result of the Stone striking the image, the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold were broken into pieces, and a great wind blew them away. Not a trace of the shards could be found: and the Stone became a great mountain and filled the entire earth. His rulership was recognized by all the nations of the world.

Dan 2:36 “Now, my King, with reference to what you dreamed, I shall provide further interpretation.

Dan 2:37 You, Nebuchadnezzar, are unique, for the God of the universe has given you a remarkable kingdom; a kingdom of glamour and military power.

Dan 2:38 God has given you authority over the entire earth; yes, O King, you are the head of gold.

Dan 2:39 But after you shall rise an inferior kingdom consisting of the Medes and Persians. In short order, the Persians shall dominate the Medes, and after the Persian Empire shall arise a Greco-Macedonian kingdom, led by a remarkable young man named Alexander the Great.

Dan 2:40 And then the Roman Empire, a fourth kingdom, strong like iron, shall break and subdue all things; the iron empire shall bruise all peoples, especially my people, Israel, who will in A.D. 70 be severely punished by these Romans.

Dan 2:41 “And then you saw the feet and toes made partly of potter's clay and partly of iron. The feet represent a revived Rome and the ten toes represent a ten-nation federation. When the Rapture of the Church occurs, the feet, partly of iron and partly of clay, will consolidate into the Revived Roman Empire.

The Revived Roman Empire (or Rome II, as it is also called) will be under the control of the Satan-indwelt Antichrist, headquartered in Rome.

Dan 2:42 And as the ten toes were partly iron and partly clay, so shall the kingdom be partly strong and partly broken, the clay being dominated by the stronger iron.

Dan 2:43 You saw iron mixed with clay, so the people of the ten nations shall serve the Romans under a Satan-indwelt Antichrist who will form a union of religious and political institutions, but they shall not completely adhere, even as iron does not mix with clay. Soon the Antichrist will destroy all ties with the inferior nations and their religious affiliations.

Dan 2:44 At the end of the time of Jacob's trouble, the Tribulation, God shall set up the Kingdom of Christ, which shall never be destroyed; it shall consume all the nations aligned with the Antichrist. Christ's kingdom shall stand forever.

Dan 2:45 "This is the meaning of the gigantic stone, the Messiah Christ Who was cut out of the mountain, a giant stone made not with the hands of man, but solely a product of God; as you saw, the Great Stone broke in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver and the gold. The God of the universe has made known to Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. The dream is accurate and the interpretation of it is sure."

Dan 2:46 Then the king fell on his face to worship Daniel and commanded others to worship him also.

Dan 2:47 And he said, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings; He is a revealer of secrets, having revealed my dream to you."

Dan 2:48 Because of the king's gratitude and admiration for Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar gave him gifts and made him ruler over all the satraps and wise men of Babylon.

Dan 2:49 Then, remembering his friends, Daniel requested that the king do something for them; the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to high positions in the land. Daniel was made head of the Babylonian court system while also serving as a special advisor to the king.

Daniel, Chapter Three - A Paraphrase

Dan 3:1 Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Babylonian Empire, constructed an image of solid gold. The tall and skinny statue was 90 feet high and 9 feet wide. The image was erected in an open field located just outside the city of Babylon in the plain of Dura, an area normally used for military and equestrian games.

Dan 3:2 Nebuchadnezzar sent couriers to every province, commanding that all princes (political rulers), governors (the provincial military commanders), captains (division commanders), judges (equivalent to provincial chief justices), treasurers (the financial officers of each province), counselors (prosecuting attorneys), sheriffs (district court judges) the rulers of the provinces (the subordinate administrators) come to a dedication ceremony.

Dan 3:3 The entourages arrived in a display of great splendor. They came from both far and near, on the day ordered by the king. The visiting satraps all assembled in the plain for the dedication ceremony. Each man and his subordinates were required to stand facing the image.

Dan 3:4 To attract the attention of the varied racial, geographical, and linguistic entities assembled, a herald cried out a command that was interpreted and imparted to all of those assembled:

Dan 3:5 "When you hear the sound of the brass section, woodwind and reed instruments, guitars, violins, pianos, bagpipes and the percussion instruments, you are to fall down and worship the golden image!

Dan 3:6 Those who do not worship the image will be thrown into a fiery furnace and burned alive."

Dan 3:7 The band began to play and all the people fell down and worshipped the image, except Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Dan 3:8 Several members of a priestly caste peeked and noticed that there were three very conspicuous Jews who did not bow, so they asked and received an audience with Nebuchadnezzar. One of the jealous sycophants reported that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not bow.

Dan 3:9 The spokesman for the priests greeted the king and said, "O King, live forever.

Dan 3:10 You have made a decree that, at the sound of the music, every man shall fall down and worship the golden image.

Dan 3:11 Furthermore, anyone who fails to fall down and worship shall be thrown into the fiery furnace.

Dan 3:12 There are certain Jews, whom you appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon, who have not shown respect to the king. The three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, neither serve your gods nor worship the golden image."

Dan 3:13 Nebuchadnezzar became very angry: the king was livid. He commanded his palace guards to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to the palace.

Dan 3:14 Nebuchadnezzar asked the three boys, "Did you intentionally not bow down to worship my god? I hope you now realize that all of you are in serious trouble; the mere act of refusing to bow and worship, whether intentional or not, is a serious offense.

Dan 3:15 If your actions were not deliberate, then the next time you hear the music be sure you fall down and worship the image. If you do, I will forget the whole thing. Be certain, however, that if you do not obey, you will be thrown into the fiery furnace. I can assure you there is no god anywhere who will be able to save you."

Dan 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego answered and said, "O King, we do not even have to consider our answer.

Dan 3:17 If it is our God's desire to deliver us, He will certainly rescue us from that fiery furnace. We know, as a fact, our Jehovah God has the power to do whatever He chooses.

Dan 3:18 But even if Jehovah doesn't choose to save us, we still won't worship your gods, nor will we worship the idolatrous image you have erected."

Dan 3:19 Nebuchadnezzar's face twisted with anger at the response from the three young men. He shouted an order, "Heat the furnace seven times hotter than it has ever been heated!"

Dan 3:20 The King obviously wanted his command carried out immediately; he ordered the special bodyguards to bind the hands and feet of the young Jewish hostages. The three were then taken to the furnace where they were to be burned alive.

Dan 3:21 The special guard unit quickly complied with the king's order. They tied up the three Jews, who were still dressed in their royal robes, trousers, jewelry and turbans. They were dragged to the furnace where each was thrown into the blazing inferno.

Dan 3:22 The furnace had been heated beyond prudence. The soldiers, without proper planning, approached the large furnace and opened the door. The king's bodyguards were caught by surprise when the flames from the furnace erupted; flames shooting from the overheated oven killed the soldiers.

Dan 3:23 The commanding officer of the bodyguards selected replacements, and the replacements took Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and threw them headlong into the fire.

Dan 3:24 When King Nebuchadnezzar arrived from the palace; he looked into the furnace and was astounded. What he saw caused him to leap to his feet. The king incredulously turned to the officer in charge, "Didn't we throw all three men into the fire; were not their hands and feet tied?" One of his cabinet members answered, "Certainly, O King."

Dan 3:25 King Nebuchadnezzar responded, "Look, I see four men, unbound; in fact they are all four walking around in the furnace. There are flames leaping all around them, but they seem to be unharmed. The fourth man looks like a son of one of our gods."

Dan 3:26 After the furnace had cooled down; Nebuchadnezzar approached the mouth of the furnace. "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out and come here." Then the three came out of the furnace.

Dan 3:27 The members of King Nebuchadnezzar's cabinet, together with the heads of the various provinces who had come to Babylon to worship the image, crowded around Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They could not believe the three were not injured. They were amazed that the fire had not singed a single hair of their heads. Their robes were not even scorched. Each potentate was astounded there was no odor of fire on the men.

Dan 3:28 Nebuchadnezzar lifted up his hands toward heaven and shouted, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He sent his angel to rescue His servants! The three men trusted in their God and defied my command. These men were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own."

Dan 3:29 The king walked slowly back to the reviewing stand, where he announced the following decree: "Anyone who says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego shall be cut into pieces and his house will be reduced to rubble. There is no other god who can save in this way."

Dan 3:30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to positions of responsibility in his administration.

Daniel, Chapter Four - A Paraphrase

Dan 4:1 My name is Nebuchadnezzar. I am the ruler of the Babylonian Empire. Recently, I decided to become a Judeo-Christian. Unto all the racial, geographic and linguistic divisions in Babylon, peace is multiplied unto you.

Dan 4:2 As a result of my conversion, I would like to give my testimony and reveal the wonders that God has bestowed upon me.

Dan 4:3 How great are His revelations! How mighty is His salvation! His kingdom is everlasting, and His rule extends to every generation.

Dan 4:4 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was enjoying a time of great prosperity in my palace. I thought I had it all.

Dan 4:5 Suddenly I had a horrific dream. I was greatly disturbed.

Dan 4:6 So I commanded that the wisest men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream.

Dan 4:7 When the diviners, enchanters, astrologers and priests arrived, I told them what I dreamed. They could not interpret the meaning of the dream.

Dan 4:8 Finally, my old friend Daniel appeared, this is the same Daniel whose Chaldean name is Belteshazzar. I earlier named him after one of my former heathen gods. I told Daniel what I had dreamed.

Dan 4:9 "Belteshazzar, chief of the wise men, I know that the Spirit of God dwells in you and no mystery is too difficult for you. This is what I dreamed:

Dan 4:10 While lying in my bed; I saw a giant tree in the center of my empire.

Dan 4:11 It was large and strong and its top reached into the heavens; no matter where you were in Babylon, you could see the top of the tree.

Dan 4:12 Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant. The tree provided food for all of Babylon. Beneath the tree, the wild beasts found shade. In its branches the birds of the air nested; all men ate from the fruit of the tree.

Dan 4:13 "In my vision, I saw an angel. He descended from heaven with a message from God:

Dan 4:14 'Cut down the tree and lop off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit; let the animals flee its shade and the birds its branches.

Dan 4:15 But leave the stump in the earth and bind the stump with iron. Let Nebuchadnezzar be bathed with the dew of heaven and then let him eat alongside the cattle in the fields; let him graze grass beside them.

Dan 4:16 For seven years let this man, Nebuchadnezzar, suffer the ravages of zoanthropy.

Dan 4:17 "Other angels flew by confirming the judgments of the first angel. The decrees of God have a purpose: that all who live may know that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of men. He gives as He desires; God even places the lowliest of men in places of authority and responsibility.

Dan 4:18 Finally I called for Daniel to appear before me: 'Beltshazzar, tell me what I dreamed and tell me the meaning of the dream. None of the wise men in my kingdom can tell me the meaning, but you can; I know this because the Spirit of God is in you.'

Dan 4:19 Daniel was, at first, greatly perplexed and he could not hide his concern. So I said, "Beltshazzar, don't be afraid to tell it like it is." Daniel then answered, "My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries!

Dan 4:20 For you see, my King, the large, tall, strong tree that was visible to everyone;

Dan 4:21 that tree with the beautiful foliage and abundant food; that tree which provided not only prosperity for its citizens, even shade for Babylon's animals and a pleasant place for Babylon's birds---

Dan 4:22 Nebuchadnezzar, you are that tree, large and strong! You, like the tree, have become great; your greatness has risen even to the heavens. Your rule extends over the known world. You have provided prosperity for all your citizens.

Dan 4:23 "In your dream you saw a special angel from God, who delivered a message just for you, 'Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump in the field and bind it with iron. While its roots are in the ground, you will be drenched with the dew of heaven; you will live in the field like a wild animal.'

Dan 4:24 "O King, the Most High has passed the following sentence upon you:

Dan 4:25 You are going to lose your position as king. You shall dwell with the wild beasts in the field; you shall even be given grass to eat and during the day you will be let out into the field: this shall last for seven years. You will live as an animal until you finally recognize it is the Most High God of Israel Who rules over the kingdoms of men and gives rulership to whomsoever He chooses.

Dan 4:26 The command that the stump and roots of the tree are to be left means that your kingdom shall be preserved for you. Once you have learned it is God Who rules and it is God Who sets up one king and removes another, then your kingdom will be returned.

Dan 4:27 "Therefore, O King, accept my advice. Name your sins to God and apply God's protocol; learn to love others and show mercy to the oppressed. If you do these things, maybe God will return your kingdom to you."

Dan 4:28 These events happened to me because I had been taking myself way too seriously.

Dan 4:29 For you see, I often walked arrogantly in the palace,

Dan 4:30 thinking, "Oh Babylon how great you are! Was it not I, with my great strength, who built this royal palace?"

Dan 4:31 While these arrogant words were still on my lips, a voice came from heaven. "It has been decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar, that your kingdom is no longer yours; it has been taken from you and given to another.

Dan 4:32 You will no longer live in the palace. You will live in the fields; you shall be given grass to eat like an animal. Hopefully in seven years you will know Who rules over the kingdoms of men."

Dan 4:33 At once the prophecy was fulfilled. I was stricken: I ate grass like an ox; my body was bathed with the precipitations of heaven; my hair grew until it was coarse like the feathers of an eagle; and my nails became like the claws of a bird.

Dan 4:34 When my time of trial was over, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes to heaven, and expressed my faith in the God of Daniel. My ability to reason was restored and I praised the Lord of Heaven and Earth. I gave glory to Jehovah God Who lives forever, Whose kingdom is represented in every generation of men.

Dan 4:35 All who live on the earth are counted as nothing; He does as He pleases with the angels of heaven and His creations on earth. There is nothing that can hinder His divine plan, for He is sovereign; no one has the right or ability to question God's decisions. Who can ask, "What have You done and why did You do it?"

Dan 4:36 Suddenly, my health was restored; the glory and splendor of my kingdom was also returned to me. My nobles and lords sought me out and I became even more powerful and influential.

Dan 4:37 Therefore, I, Nebuchadnezzar, now praise and exalt and glorify the King of Heaven. All His works are right and His ways just; and those who walk in pride, God will ultimately humble.

Daniel, Chapter Five - A Paraphrase

Dan 5:1 After the death of Nebuchadnezzar in 562 B.C., a series of insignificant kings ruled Babylon. In 556 B.C., Babylon was ruled by a co-regency of Belshazzar and his father, Nabonidus. While Nabonidus was away fighting a series of battles, his son Belshazzar was playing the part of king. Belshazzar had summoned a thousand of his nobles for a grand party; it soon turned into a drunken orgy.

Dan 5:2 Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar commanded his wine steward to bring the sacred golden and silver vessels. Belshazzar's grandfather Nebuchadnezzar had taken the vessels out of Israel's Temple when he first defeated Jerusalem in 606 B.C. He wanted this done so that he, his princes, his wives and his concubines might drink from the sacred vessels of Jehovah God.

Dan 5:3 The golden vessels from the Holy City were presented to him by his trusted wine steward. From these vessels, the king and his guests toasted the gods of Babylon.

Dan 5:4 After drinking from the sacred vessels, they praised the Babylonian gods. The gods of Babylon were extolled as superior to the God of Israel.

Dan 5:5 Suddenly, as the king watched, the fingers of a human hand crawled slowly up the wall and began to write. The writing was obvious because the writing appeared under the lamp stand directly behind the king. The king watched as the hand slowly recorded Babylon's final history.

Dan 5:6 Belshazzar's face turned pale. He was so terrified that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way; the king could no longer stand, he sank slowly to his pillowed couch.

Dan 5:7 The king called out in a loud voice for his top political advisor and his highest ranking religious advisor. "Whoever reads what has been written on the wall and tells me what it means, I will clothe him in royal garments of purple; he will take his place among the pantheon. I will also place a gold chain around his neck and he will be elevated to the third highest office in the land."

Dan 5:8 The king's wise men were hurried into the room. At first, they made quite a show of themselves, but after studying the writing they looked bewildered. The wise men huddled together before finally admitting, "We are sorry, O King, but we cannot read the writing."

Dan 5:9 So, Belshazzar became even more terrified. His face grew even more pallid because his greatest minds were baffled; no one could read the handwriting on the wall.

Dan 5:10 His mother, the queen, heard the commotion from her nearby apartment; quickly, she ran to the banquet hall. Seeing the king's pallor and obvious consternation, she feared for his health. She exclaimed, "O King, live forever! Don't be alarmed, be calm!"

Dan 5:11 There is an old man who still resides here in Babylon. He has the spirit of Jehovah God in him. During your grandfather's reign he was found to have special insight, intelligence and wisdom. His wisdom was said to be like that of a god. King Nebuchadnezzar appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners.

Dan 5:12 The man's name is Daniel, though Nebuchadnezzar called him Belteshazzar. He was found to have a keen mind. A man full of knowledge and understanding, he also had the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems. I would urge you to call for him. I feel sure he will tell you what the writing means."

Dan 5:13 After the queen made her recommendation; Daniel was brought into the presence of Belshazzar. The king asked, "Are you Daniel, the Jewish exile, whom Nebuchadnezzar, the king, brought from Judah?"

Dan 5:14 I have heard that the Spirit of God is in you, that you possess brilliant knowledge and extraordinary wisdom.

Dan 5:15 The wisest of my advisors were brought in to translate this writing, but none of them could read it; none could tell me what it means.

Dan 5:16 But I have heard that you can interpret dreams and solve difficult problems. If you are able to read the writing and tell me what it means, you shall be clothed in purple, wear a gold chain about your neck and be the third ruler in the government of Babylon."

Dan 5:17 Daniel answered the king, "You may keep your gifts, or give your presents to someone else, but the writing on the wall I will not only read, I will also tell you exactly what it means.

Dan 5:18 The Most High God gave your grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar, a great kingdom and international fame.

Dan 5:19 "Because God made him so great, the nations and peoples of every language dreaded and feared him. Nebuchadnezzar was made sovereign. He killed whom he wished and he promoted or demoted as he saw fit.

Dan 5:20 But when his heart became proud, and his spirit was hardened by arrogance, he was pulled down from his royal throne and deprived of his glory.

Dan 5:21 Suffering from zoanthropy, he was cast out of the palace and was made insensate as a beast; he lived with the wild asses and ate grass like the oxen. His body was bathed with the dew of the earth and the rain from heaven, until he learned that the Most High God rules over the kingdom of men. He appoints even the most insignificant of men to positions of leadership.

Dan 5:22 "You, my King, neither humbled yourself in the manner of your grandfather nor have you learned anything from the queen mother.

Dan 5:23 You have instead rebelled against the Lord of Heaven. You had the sacred vessels of His temple brought before you. You and your entourage even drank wine from them; you praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, inanimate objects that neither see, nor hear, or have intelligence. But the God in Whose hand is your life-breath; the One Who controls everything you do, Him you have refused to worship.

Dan 5:24 "This is why the Lord Jehovah sent the mysterious hand to write on your wall.

Dan 5:25 The words written are: Mene, Mene which means (numbered.) Mene comes from the verb Menah and means (to number.) A Mene is literally 50 shekels, designating the small value of Belshazzar and his guests. The second Mene refers to the rest of the king's subjects. Teqel means (weighed.) The value of the empire has been weighed and found wanting. Parsin means (divided.) Parsin is actually a paronomasia of Peres, the ancient name for the highest Persian class. The empire has been weighed found wanting and ripe for division.

Dan 5:26 The God of your grandfather has numbered the days of your kingdom; it will soon come to an end.

Dan 5:27 Tekel: you have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

Dan 5:28 Parsin: your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and the Persians."

Dan 5:29 Then the king ordered they clothe Daniel in purple, with a gold chain around his neck, and that he be proclaimed the third ruler in the government, subordinate only to Belshazzar and Nabonidus.

Dan 5:30 That same night Belshazzar, the Chaldean king, was captured and slain by the Medo-Persian expeditionary force.

Dan 5:31 And Darius the Mede was made the ruler of Babylon by Cyrus the Great; Darius was sixty-two when he became the leader of what was once a vast and powerful empire.

End Lesson