

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

TEACHING SERIES ON THE PROPHET DANIEL

RLJ-1061

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PART 5: THE END OF BABYLON

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ❑ This chapter deals with the end of the Babylonian kingdom. Nebuchadnezzar was dead and had been succeeded by his son Awil-Marduk, who reigned for one year (561-560). He did not have the support of the pagan priests in Babylon and was removed as king and replaced by his brother-in-law, Nergal-Shar-Usur. Even though he was a general, his reign lasted only 3 years (559-556) since the priesthood also resisted him and murdered his young son so that he could not ascend to the throne.
- ❑ Nergal-Shar-Usur died and his widow, Nitocris, daughter of Nebuchadnezzar married Nabonidus, who then seized power and proclaimed himself King of Babylon.
- ❑ For many years, critical biblical scholars claimed that the book of Daniel was in error because it records that Daniel was going to be the third ruler in the kingdom and not the second. Historical records and archeology have proven that Nabonidus did not reside in Babylon but inserted his son Belshazzar in his place as a co-ruler. Belshazzar means “Bel protects the king.”
- ❑ Nabonidus had been fighting with the armies of the Persians and the Medes for some time as they were trying to conquer Babylon. However, his main interest was learning about idols and building temples for them, and for this reason, he had set up living quarters in Arabia.
- ❑ The prophet Jeremiah gave a prophecy in Jerusalem before Nebuchadnezzar had taken the city that the Jews would be kept in Babylon until the grandson was reigning. **Jeremiah 27:6-7**
- ❑ It is important to note that the Hebrew word used for “son” and “successor” is the same. So even if Belshazzar was no a paternal grandson, he still was a grandson through his mother, the daughter of Nebuchadnezzar.
- ❑ When I researched this subject, the Holy Spirit made it clear to me that life in Babylon at this time was filled with intrigues, pettiness, and power plays by political and religious leaders. Life was cheap, and if a person needed to be removed, murder was not a problem. Since all the people living in Babylon worshiped different kinds of demon gods, there was no moral teaching available from God. People lived like animals; sexual immorality, lying, cheating and stealing was a common and acceptable way of life. The same demons producing this kind of society are still here on earth today, doing their best to bring human beings into slavery of debauchery, both in the Middle East and in our nation.



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- ❑ It was into this cesspool of filth that God brought His idolatrous people of Judah to be punished for 70 years. **Jeremiah 25:9-12**

THE DRINKING FEAST

- ❑ Belshazzar was a party animal; he had power and money as a king; and as a result, he indulged himself to the maximum. **Daniel 5:1**
- ❑ He decided in his drunkenness to desecrate the vessels taken from the temple in Jerusalem. **verses 2-3**
- ❑ Belshazzar, surrounded by his wives and concubines (sex slaves), mocked the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; and so a message from God was sent to him. **verses 4-5**
- ❑ He went from being merry and drunk to sober and fearful as he knew something bigger than himself was present in the palace. **verse 6**
- ❑ In desperation, he called for his occult advisors to come in and tell him what was happening. **verse 7**
- ❑ These pagan advisors could not help the king. **verse 8**
- ❑ Having been fearful, Belshazzar began to panic. **verse 9**
- ❑ At this time, someone must have notified his mother, the queen and the wife of Nabonidus of what was happening. She had seen Daniel, the man of God in action as he had ministered to her father, Nebuchadnezzar. Even though she had knowledge of the true living God; she had never passed this knowledge on to her son. **verses 10-12**
- ❑ Daniel was brought to the palace and asked to give the interpretation. **verses 13-16**
- ❑ Daniel was not impressed with Belshazzar, he knew that in a few hours, this king would be dead. He told Belshazzar to keep his riches for himself, which was an insult to the king. **verse 17**

THE INTERPRETATION – JUDGMENT

- ❑ God was through with Babylon and Judgment Day on earth had come for Belshazzar. In a bold statement, Daniel recited what had taken place in the past, and that there was no excuse for Belshazzar's behavior. **verses 18- 24**
- ❑ Belshazzar was told that his life on earth was over. **verses 25-27**
- ❑ At this time Belshazzar was in a spiritual vacuum, he heard but did not comprehend that he was about to be killed, and as a result, he granted Daniel a reward. **verse 29**
- ❑ The same spiritual vacuum came upon King Saul when he was sentenced by God through the prophet Samuel. **1 Samuel 15:22-30**
- ❑ The prophet Hosea speaks of this vacuum. **Hosea 4:1-13**
- ❑ Jesus taught about the danger of spiritual blindness. **Matthew 13:10-23**

THE EXECUTION

The Bible records that Belshazzar was slain that night. Here is what history and archeology tells us: An army of Medes was operating north of Babylon and the general had devised a plan of how to take the city. Babylon was heavily fortified, but the Tigris River ran through it. The Medes dug a canal further upstream which was used to divert the majority of the water to a swamp area. Once the flow of water into the city became a trickle, the general ordered his soldiers to rush under the wall on the river bed and take the city. They took the city without much fighting, and when Median soldiers came to the palace, they slew Belshazzar. **Daniel 5:30-31**

WHAT IS THE MESSAGE FOR YOU AND ME TODAY?

Do not mock God or take Him lightly. God is love, but he is also a God of judgment, something we should never forget. The choice is ours to walk with God and be greatly blessed or defy Him and face the consequences. **Galatians 6:7-10**

WHO ARE YOU WALKING WITH?

ARE YOU PRAISING GOD

OR

ARE YOU PRAISING THE DEVIL WITH YOUR COMPLAINTS?

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?