

Part 15 — “When Faithful Testimony is Forgotten” — 11 September 2022

**Introduction:** Do we believe God’s witnesses?

2 Pet. 1:18-21—<sup>18</sup> we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup> And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention...<sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**Main Point:** The testimony of those that have gone before us should exhort us to \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of the Lord just as they did so that we too might know Him and live faithfully as His witnesses.

**The Interpretation of the Writing on the Wall—Daniel 5:18-30**

**The Failure to Heed Nebuchadnezzar’s Testimony (5:18-23)**

Observations

1. Daniel began by describing the \_\_\_\_\_ of Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom which he attributed to the will of the Most High God.

“God had allowed Nebuchadnezzar to be an absolute Monarch over many peoples, nations, and language groups—doing virtually whatever he wished (v. 20).”  
—J. Paul Tanner

2. He described why Nebuchadnezzar was \_\_\_\_\_ by God and recounted the means by which it was accomplished.

*“his heart was lifted up” →*

*“his “spirit was hardened” →*

⇒ Because he had been resistant to the authority of the Most High, he who had been the greatest of men was cast out among the animals. He who had lived in luxury and eaten the best foods was made to live in the fields and eat food like an animal.

3. Daniel reminded Belshazzar of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Nebuchadnezzar being humbled.

*“the Most High rules”*

“All men, even rulers, must recognize who the true ruler is and must humbly submit themselves before him as Lord.” —J. Paul Tanner

4. He then specifically indicted Belshazzar for \_\_\_\_\_ the testimony of Nebuchadnezzar.

*Dan. 4:37—Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.*

- (1) Belshazzar “knew” of the testimony of Nebuchadnezzar.
- (2) Belshazzar chose not to humble his “heart” before the Lord.
- (3) Belshazzar instead “lifted...up” himself against the Lord of heaven.

5. Through the blasphemous use of the vessels from the temple, Belshazzar had challenged the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the God of Heaven.

*Dan. 5:23b—And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.*

**Key Point:** The arrogance and weakness of Belshazzar is highlighted by his \_\_\_\_\_ to follow in the example of Nebuchadnezzar, the greatest of the kings of Babylon, and to humble himself before the Most High God.

“Belshazzar served as a chief officer during the administration of Neriglissar in 560 BC according to Babylonian historical texts. This means that the king was old enough to fill a high position in government only two years after Nebuchadnezzar’s death (562 BC). Since Nabonidus was an official in Nebuchadnezzar’s administration, Belshazzar would have lived in Babylon and would have observed personally the last years of the great king’s reign.” — S.R. Miller

## The Judgment of Belshazzar & the Fall of Babylon (5:24-30)

### Observations

1. Daniel then read and interpreted the words which had been written by the hand on the wall.  
MENE, MENE — “number, count, or reckon” — “It indicated that God had numbered the days of Belshazzar’s kingdom and had reckoned that those days had come to their end.” —Renald Showers  
TEKEL — “weigh” — “God had weighed Belshazzar in the ‘scales’ as it were and had found him ‘lacking’ or ‘deficient,’ And thus rejected him.” —J. Paul Tanner  
PARSIN/PERES — “broken, divided” — “Not only was Belshazzar’s kingdom to be divided or broken in two, but it was also going to be conquered and fall into the hands of the Persians.”—J. Paul Tanner
2. The king kept his promise and gave to Daniel the rewards that he had promised.
3. The Lord kept His promise and brought Belshazzar’s kingdom to an end.  
“Setting siege to the large city of Babylon, the Medes had dug a canal diverting the water that flowed under the city wall. At the very time of Belshazzar’s impious feast, they were entering the city on the dry channel underneath the mighty walls. The drinking feast celebrated by the one thousand lords apparently was shared by other inhabitants so that the normal watch kept on the walls was not observed, allowing the invaders valuable time in conquering the city before their presence was fully known.” — John Walvoord

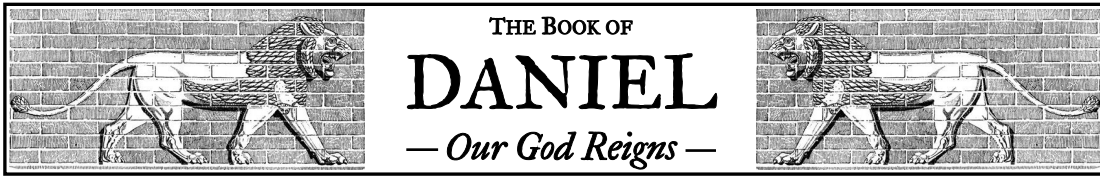
**Key Point:** The fate of Belshazzar and of Babylon itself forcefully demonstrated the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Most High God over human kings and pagan deities.

### Implications for Eschatology (Future Events)

- In the same way that God, by His sovereign power, \_\_\_\_\_ dominion from the blasphemous king Belshazzar and brought blessing to Daniel, He will do so in the future with the end-time Antagonist (Antichrist) and His people.  
*Dan. 7:26-27—<sup>26</sup> But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. <sup>27</sup> And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’*

### Living Faithfully in “Babylon”

- We should give careful consideration to the faithful testimony of those who have gone before us.  
*2 Tim. 1:5—I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.*  
*Heb. 13:7-8—<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*
- We have the privilege of \_\_\_\_\_ their testimony and guarding what they have entrusted to us.  
*2 Tim. 1:13-14—<sup>13</sup> Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.*
- We have the privilege of bearing \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord Jesus through our own testimony and then entrusting the faith to others.  
*2 Tim. 2:1-2—<sup>1</sup> You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*



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Observations

1. Daniel began by describing the **greatness** of Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom which he attributed to the will of the Most High God.

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**Key Point:** The arrogance and weakness of Belshazzar is highlighted by his refusal to follow in the example of Nebuchadnezzar, the greatest of the kings of Babylon, and to humble himself before the Most High God.

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