

# DANIEL

~ Lesson 5 ~  
“Time’s Up!”

WEDNESDAY CONNECT STUDY  
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# Overview

- The Framework
- The Feast
- The Fall



# The Framework

- Where are we in history?
  - Nebuchadnezzar dies in 562 B.C. (reign began in 605 BC)
  - Four rulers followed in his place
    - Evil-Merodach (562-560)
    - Neriglissar (560 – 556)
    - Labaski-Marduk (556)
    - Nabonidus (556-539)
- Who is Belshazzar?



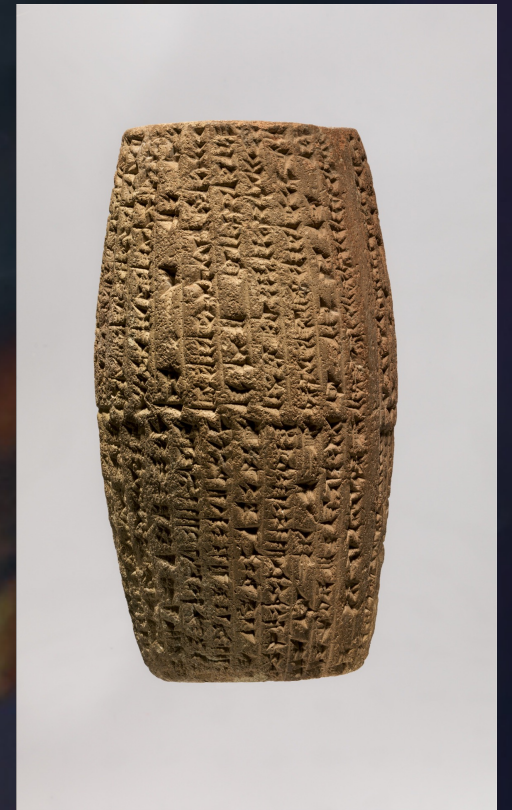
# The Framework: Biblical Creation or Historical Fact

- Who is Belshazzar?
  - Name meaning “Bel Protect the King”
    - A name that was also a Babylonian prayer.
  - Evidence from the Scripture
    - According to Daniel 5: 2,11, 18, 22 Nebuchadnezzar is his father.
  - Evidence from Ancient Historians
    - Notable ancient historians do not mention the name leaving many to wonder if Belshazzar was a Biblical creation.

# The Framework: Faith Made Fact



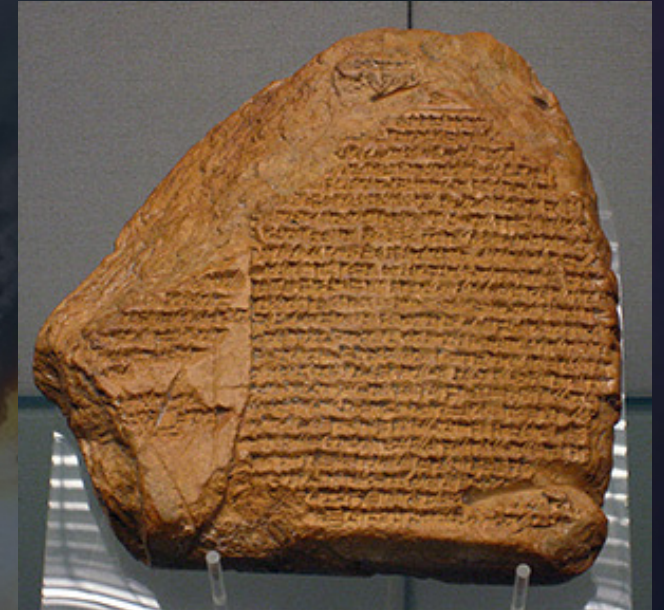
- Who is Belshazzar?
  - The 1854 Discovery
  - Cuneiform cylinder
  - Confirmed Belshazzar's Existence
  - His name mentioned in a prayer to the moon God "Belshazzar, the eldest son – my offspring"



# The Framework: Faith Made Fact



- Who is Belshazzar?
  - The 1882 Discovery
    - The Nabonidus Chronicle tablet
    - Confirmed Nabonidus was resided in Tema, Arabia
    - Revealed that the affairs of Babylon were left to “the crown prince” his [Nabonidus) eldest Belshazzar.

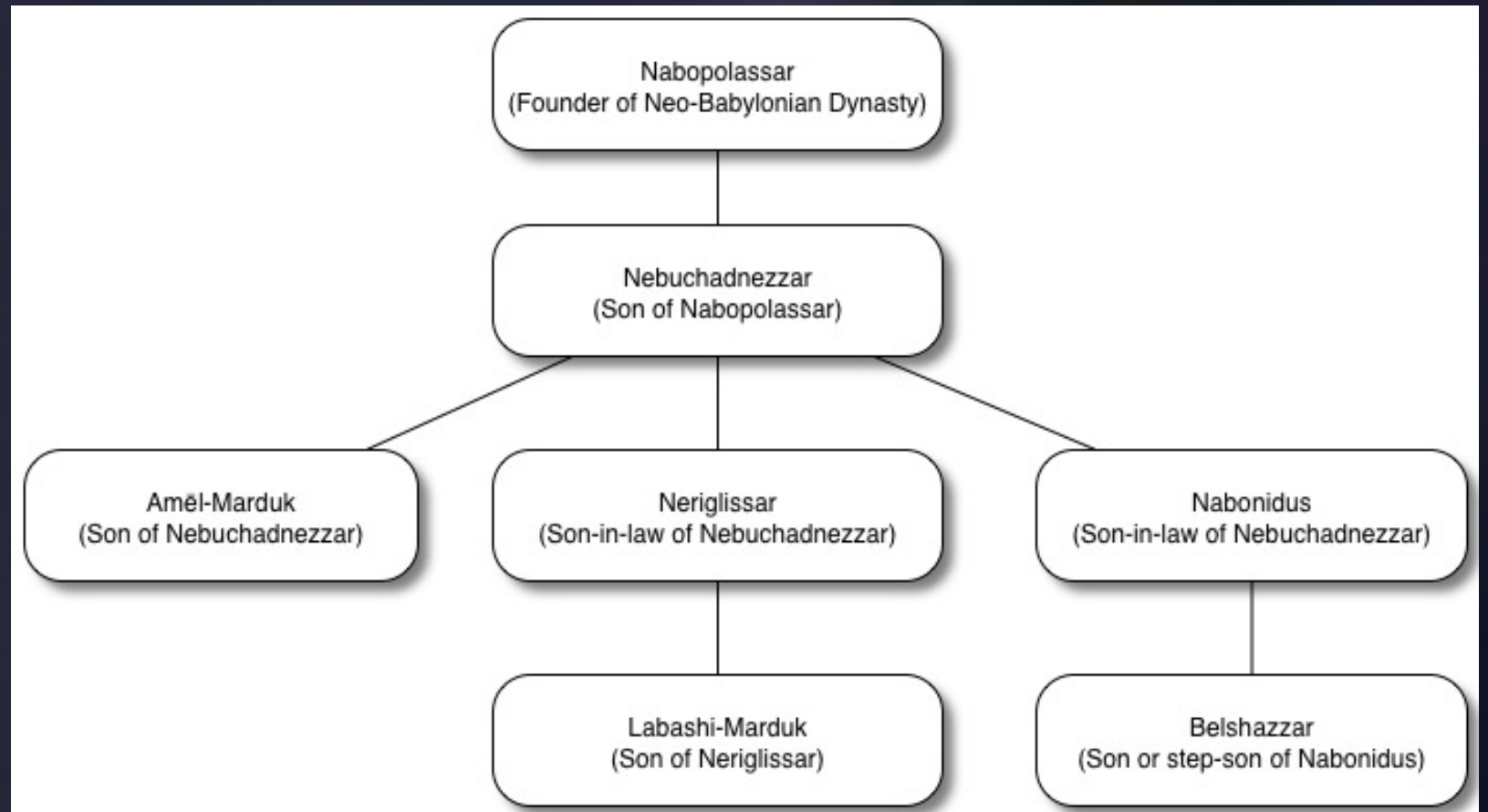




# The Framework: Conclusion

- Who is Belshazzar?
  - Name meaning “Bel Protect the King”
    - A name that was also a Babylonian prayer.
  - The reigning king in Babylon as assigned by his father the last king Nabonidus.
  - The grandson of Nebuchadnezzar .
  - Therefore, the Biblical use of the term *son*, in this context, is a generic term used to mean ancestor because there were no terms for grandfather or ancestor in ANE languages.

# The Framework: Family Ties







# Can the Bible be Trusted?

Yes

Even if we can't make sense of what the Bible is communicating for a time



# The Feast: A Prideful Party

- Question
  - What does Belshazzar's name mean?
    - “Bel protect the king”
- Background to the Party
  - According to the Babylonian record the coming attack of Cyrus was not a shock.
  - This is evidenced by historical records saying that Nabonidus fled south just before the attack ensued.
  - Thus, the King who trusted in Bel to protect him, also trusted in structures built by the hands of man to keep him safe.



# The Feast: A Prideful Party

- Question
  - According to Daniel 5:2-4, what command did Belshazzar give at the banquet and who were the drinking to?
  - <sup>2</sup> While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his <sup>[a]</sup>father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple which *had been* in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. <sup>3</sup> Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which *had been* in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. <sup>4</sup> They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone.



# The Feast: A Prideful Party

- Question
  - According to Daniel 5:2-4, what command did Belshazzar give at the banquet and who were the drinking to?
  - Bring the gold and silver vessels of the Lord
  - Let's drink from them
  - Let's drink to our gods



# The Feast: Just Cups?

- Question
  - Why was Belshazzar's act offensive?
  - Was this a result of drunkenness?
  - According to v. 23, Belshazar lifted [himself] up against the Lord of heaven



# The Feast: Just Cups?

- How did he lift himself up against the Lord of Heaven?
  - According Daniel 5:17-21, Belshazzar chose ignorance (v.22).
  - He ignored Nebuchadnezzar's decree in Daniel 3:29.
  - He ignored Nebuchadnezzar's consequence of his own heart being exalted.
  - He treated God as if God was nothing.



# The Feast: Just Cups?

- Belshazzar's act “was a sign indeed that he believed that this God, whose vessels he was abusing and whose name he was insulting, had now in Babylon no reality or power. Belshazzar had counted him out.’<sup>10</sup> And the imagery involved surely supports such an inference. We may put it crassly: contempt for God’s ‘stuff’ is the same as contempt for God himself.”

Bible Speaks Today OT



# The Feast: Just Cups?

- “People can defy the will of God and blaspheme His name only so long, and then the hand of the Lord begins to move.”

Wiersbe's BE Series



# The Fall: Spooky Judgement





# The Fall: Like Father Like Son

<b>Nebuchadnezzar's Response to Divine Intervention #1</b> <b>Daniel 2</b>	<b>Nebuchadnezzar's Response to Divine Intervention #2</b> <b>Daniel 4</b>	<b>Belshazzar's Response to Divine Intervention</b> <b>Daniel 5</b>
Countenance was impacted (Troubled in his spirit, sleepless nights, anxious) v. 1-3	Countenance was impacted (Afraid and troubled) v. 4	Countenance was impacted (Terrified, hips were loosened, knees knocked together) v. 6-9
Urgently summoned pagan professionals v. 2	Urgently summoned pagan professionals v. 6	Urgently summoned Pagan professionals v. 7
Promise of death v. 5	No promise	Promise of riches and prestige v. 7
No pagan professional could provide answers v. 2	No pagan professional could provide answers v. 7	No pagan professional could provide answers v. 8



# The Fall: The Man with The Spirit of the Holy God

- How does Daniel respond to this new king?
  - Not as endearing as he did with Nebuchadnezzar.
  - Recounts the experience of his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar.
  - Makes no apology for declaring that Belshazzar learned nothing.



# The Fall: The Writing on the Wall

- Mene, Mene
  - God has numbered you kingdom, and finish it.
- Tekel
  - You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting.
- Upharsin (Peres sing.)
  - Your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians.



# The Fall: Times Up!

- That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. <sup>31</sup> And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, *being* about sixty-two years old.

Daniel 5:30



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Daniel 5:30

- Darius the Mede served as one of the generals under Cyrus the Great.
- The Persians defeated Babylon by redirecting the waters of the Euphrates river. These waters surrounded the city. By diverting the waters elsewhere, the water were no longer an obstacle



# The Framework: Revelation Connections

- “Cyrus appears in Isaiah 45:1 as a type of Jesus the Messiah. As Cyrus came from the East (41:2, 25; 46:11) to overthrow Babylonian captivity, so Christ would come from the east to deliver His people from the end-time Babylon at the Battle of Armageddon (Rev 16:12-16). As God’s people of old left Babylon to return to Jerusalem, so God’s people will leave this earthly, spiritual Babylon (18:1-4) to enter the new Jerusalem (21:2).

Andrews Bible Commentary Old Testament



# Times Up!: Conclusion

What are some takeaways for you and how do you apply them to the Christian journey from your study of Daniel 5?