

So we read he brought Daniel in and in v.16 we read that Belshazzar said to Daniel, Now if thou canst read the writing and make known to me the interpretation of it, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet and have a chain of gold about thy neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Then Daniel answered -- I think Daniel knew already what this meant, and he realized Belshazzar could not do anything for him to amount to anything anyway in view of what was ahead -- Daniel said, Let thy gifts be to thyself and thy rewards to another, yet I will read the writing to the king. Then Daniel said, This writing says that your kingdom is to be destroyed; you are weighed in the balances and found wanting; your kingdom is to be divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

Then we have one of the strangest verses, I think, to be found in all literature. Verse 29: Then he commanded Belshazzar and 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. Do you think if somebody had said two weeks ago to President Nasser in Egypt, Your kingdom is going to be destroyed, you are going to be overrun by these people whom you are trying to drive into the sea, and your power is absolutely going to disappear -- do you think he would have made him the third ruler in the kingdom? Put a gold chain about his neck?

Belshazzar seems to have been a man of higher quality than most modern dictators, a man who was true to his promise even though he didn't like what Daniel said. Because we read that he actually had Daniel have the chain of gold around his neck and a proclamation made that he would be the third ruler in the kingdom. Then it says, And that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain, and Darius the Mede took the kingdom.

This is a very interesting story here and it is told in S.S. and used all through its history, but within the last century Babylon was excavated. And the excavators saw -- found records in Babylon about the history of Babylon, about the rulers of Babylon, and in these records they did not find the name Belshazzar. And this starts with the words "Belshazzar the king made a great feast . . ." They did not find the name Belshazzar among the names of the kings of Babylon. What they did find some accounts of the destruction of Babylon which said that Nabonidus was the name of the last king of Babylon. But this says, And that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain." They found that when the Persians took over Babylon, they didn't slay Nabonidus but they gave him a pension and he spent the rest of his life studying archaeology. That hardly fits with what you read here. The name of the king is different, he was not killed that night like this seems to say. Well, scholars said, That's exactly what we would expect. You read any liberal book and they will say Daniel was written in the days of the Maccabees. There was a book, a very fine book on the whole on archaeology, written by Ira M. Price in which right through he shows the evidences about the Bible being accurate and in relation to the book of Daniel he shows the