

However, it seems that Daniel's prophecy was fulfilled that very night. Verse 30 tells us that in that night was Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans slain and the Medes and Persians took over the country, took over the kingdom. This is a story that has been told in S.S. a great deal. It's a wonderful story of God's intervention in the affairs of men. However, when ancient writings from Babylon began to be read it was seen that the story did not seem to fit with these writings. It looked as if the theory of the higher criticism might be true. The higher critics had already loudly declared that the book of Daniel was not written by Daniel at all. They insisted it was written about 400 years after the time of Nebuchadnezzar, at the time the Jews revolted against the oppression of Antiochus ^Epiphanes under the leadership of the Maccabees. The reason why this story seems to fit with the theory of the higher critics instead of the Bible is the fact that in the tablets which were found at Babylon and at Persia, no mention was made of the king Belshazzar at all. These tablets told how Cyrus of Persia had conquered Babylon, but they named the last king of Babylon as Nabonidus rather than Belshazzar.

Scripture says that in that night was Belshazzar king of the Chaldeans slain. These tablets do not say that Nabonidus was killed when his empire was conquered by the Persians but he was sent into exile and allowed to live out his natural life. This certainly seemed to fit with the theory of the higher criticism. However, not everyone was willing to be satisfied with this interpretation. Prof. Pinches of the British Museum felt that there must be yet more facts to be discovered. So he set to work intensively to study the clay tablets from the time of Nabonidus. In the British Museum there are tens of thousands of clay tablets dug up in Babylon. A few of these