

was that the reason or is it some other reason? We find that in verse 17, Daniel says, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation." Then he goes on to shew how Belshazzar/has not followed the Lord, but how he has followed the gods of iron, wood, and stone, and so he said, This is God's to him. Verse 26:"... God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finisyed it. ~~Thou-art-we-~~verse 27, Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. 28: Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. And 29 is ~~the one~~ of the strangest verses in history. Can you imagine a man today who is a dictator. Someone telling him that his kingdom is going to be destroyed, and he has been found wanting, saying to that man. Well, I am going to give you a reward if you tell me ~~what~~ it means. I am sure that any of our dictators today would throw a man into prison and say, keep him there and give him bread and water until ~~how-~~ we find out how utterly wrong he is in making this criticism of me. But Belshazzar was evidentaly a man of honorable type of character, because we read in verse 29, that he fulfilled his promise. "Then ~~o~~ommanded Belshazzar, and they 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." However, the next verse tells us that "In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain." And the Medes and the Persians conquered the kingdom as Daniel had predicted back in verse 28. This is a very interesting and striking account. It is an account of the ~~w~~vents of which we have ~~no~~ other record outside the Bible, and it mentions a man of whom we have no evidence ~~on-the-~~ outside the Bible. And so, we look forward with much interest to getting some light on Belshazzar when we began the excavations in Babylon, and in Babylon, although there is very little stone in that area, so they do not have stone inscriptions as in Egypt, they have a great many contract tablets. They were those who used to say that there was no writing in the early day, but we find as early