

could tell him what it meant. But then we read in verse 10 that the queen mother heard about what was happening, and she came in to the king, and she said to the king, "There's a man in your kingdom, now living in retirement, who the king Nebuchadnezzar, ~~was~~ your predecessor, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans and soothsayers, because he was able to solve problems nobody else could solve. "Now," she said, "call this man Daniel and he'll tell you what this writing means." So we read that he called Daniel, and in verse 16 he said to Daniel, "Now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom." Well, I think Daniel ~~already knew~~ could already read what the writing said. And he knew the king's gifts wouldn't be much good; they wouldn't last long. At any rate, Daniel said, "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." And so we read that Daniel said, "This means," we read over in verses 26 and following, "This means ~~and~~ 'God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it, - Thou art ~~found~~ weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.'" And then ~~in~~ verse 29 is one of the most astonishing verses in all literature. This man Belshazzar seems to have been a man of an utterly different type from dictators of today. Can you imagine somebody going up to Stalin, Hitler, Khrushchev or Mao, or one of those men and saying, "God has numbered thy kingdom and finished it. Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting. Thy kingdom is given to other nations."? What do you think he'd do? If he didn't cut off his head immediately, he'd at least put him into prison. But Belshazzar was a different sort of man. He seemed to have been a man of his word. Because we read in verse 29, "Then commanded 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. In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom,"