

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."

The following verse tells of the fulfilment of the terrible prediction of disaster: "In that night Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans was slain."

Now let us see how the ancient records found in Babylon are related to this story. According to this Chapter, Belshazzar was the name of the last king of Babylon before the kingdom was conquered by the Medes and Persians. Yet the clay tablets indicate that the last king of Babylon before the Persian conquest was a man named Nabonidus. Furthermore, Nabonidus was not killed at the time of the Persian conquest, but was allowed to live out his natural life. Here are two very sharp contradictions to the narrative in Daniel 5. If the story was written by someone in Babylon at the time of these events it is simply impossible to understand how such mistakes could have occurred. But if it was written by an unknown writer clear across the desert in Palestine at the time of the Maccabean revolt in the second century B.C. it is easy to see how these historical details might be incorrect.

It is never safe, however, on finding an apparent contradiction in Scripture, to assume that the Bible has proven wrong. In connection with any study it is necessary to get all the data before reaching final conclusions. The God of history, and the God of the Bible, is one God. If the Bible is His Word it would hardly be in error on so important a point as this. This being the case, it is desirable to examine the facts more fully. Hence Dr. Pinches of the British Museum undertook a thorough investigation of the clay tablets from the reign of Nabonidus.

Since the business documents of ancient Mesopotamia were not written on destructible paper or papyrus, but on clay tablets, hundreds of business