

documents from that period are extant, and a great many of these are in the British Museum. Eventually Dr. Pinches found one which contained the actual name Belshazzar, thus showing that this name had been borne by someone who lived at the time of the end of the Babylonian kingdom. Further search brought to light other tablets containing this same name. One of them proved to be a contract to rent a house for three years, made by a man who described himself as agent "for Belshazzar, the king's son." This connected Belshazzar with the royal family.

Further search brought to light tablets in which the oath was taken in the names of Nabonidus and Belshazzar. Oaths were always taken either in the name of a god or of a reigning king. Evidently Nabonidus had actually associated Belshazzar with him as king, a practice not at all uncommon in the ancient world.

Now Professor Dougherty of Yale University began a further investigation into the matter. He undertook to make a careful study of all the records that have come to us from that period. Ultimately he wrote a book on this subject. In the volume in the Yale Oriental Series: Researches, Vol. XV, entitled Nabonidus and Belshazzar, which was published in 1929, Professor Dougherty gave the results of his research. He found absolute proof that Belshazzar had indeed been co-king along with Nabonidus during the latter years of Nabonidus' reign. In fact, Nabonidus had lived for a number of years at Tema, an oasis in the Arabian desert, leaving his son Belshazzar as actual reigning king in complete charge of affairs and commander-in-chief of the army. One tablet states that the king's son was killed in the conquest of the city. On page 186 Professor Dougherty says:

"Cunéiform allusions to Belshazzar have thrown so much light upon the role which he played that his place in history stands clearly revealed. There are many texts which indicate that Belshazzar almost equalled Nabonidus in position and prestige. Dual rulership during most of the last Neo-Babylonian reign is an