

established fact. Nabonidus exercised supreme authority from his court at Tema in Arabia, while Belshazzar acted as co-regent in the homeland with Babylon as his centre of influence. It is evident that Belshazzar was not a feeble viceroy; he was entrusted with the kingship."

In addition to his cuneiform researches, Professor Dougherty investigated all subsequent ancient writings which tell about the end of the Babylonian Kingdom. He found that none of these writings preserved the name of Belshazzar or any of the facts about him. The name does not occur nor is there any recognition of the part he played until we come to the time of Josephus, toward the end of the first century A.D., and Josephus admittedly used Daniel as his source of information.

On page 200 Professor Dougherty concludes: "The foregoing summary of information concerning Belshazzar, when judged in the light of data obtained from the text discussed in this monograph, indicates that of all non-Babylonian records dealing with the situation at the close of the Neo-Babylonian empire the fifth chapter of Daniel ranks next to cuneiform literature in accuracy so far as outstanding events are concerned. The Scriptural account may be interpreted as excelling because it employs the name of Belshazzar, and because it attributes royal power to Belshazzar, and because it recognizes that a dual rulership existed in the kingdom. Babylonian cuneiform documents of the sixth century B.C. furnish clear-cut evidence of the correctness of these three basic historical nuclei contained in the Biblical narrative dealing with the fall of Babylon...The total information found in all available chronologically-fixed documents later than the cuneiform texts of the sixth century B.C. and prior to the writings of Josephus of the first century A.D. could not have provided the necessary material for the historical framework of the fifth chapter of Daniel." In a footnote he adds: "The view that the fifth chapter of Daniel originated in the Maccabean age is discredited."