

Daniel 25 – Belteshazzar or Belshazzar: Which Path?

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Daniel 5:1-4

Who Was Belshazzar?



Who Was Sin? Sumerian: Su-En {Crescent Moon}

- Ancient Sumerian god of Ur and Haran; Cattle (Terah-Abram)
- Old man with flowing beard and Su-enc: Wisdom
- Symbol: Crescent Moon; also horns and river boats
- Ancient world used lunar calendar
- Divination: Sin lit the darkness
- Fertility: Menstrual Lunar Cycle
- English "sin" Germanic origins; Do wrong; ergo, unrelated



Who Was Nabonidus?

- His king name means "Reverer of Nabo or Nebu" (God of Wisdom)
- Ended Mesopotamia Semitic rule
- Reinstated Sin in Ur; daughter was high priestess to educate public
- Marduk priests rebelled; he tried to make Sin Babylon's chief god
- Self exile-Tiamat; refused annual ceremonies: Marduk's approval
- Returned after Babylon's defeat – Exiled for disrespecting Marduk



Linked Nabo, god of writing/wisdom, with Sin, wisdom by divination
Like linking America's Republic government to Democratic tyranny

What is in a Name {Title}: "Come Let Us Reason Together..."

Belshazzar



Unreasonable – Animalistic

Belteshazzar



Reasonable – Man

Law of Identity: Define Titles to Fathom Writer's Intent

Belshazzar

- "Bel (Marduk) protect the ruler"
- Second in government to Nabonidus, his father the King
- Unknown to history until discovery of Nabonidus Cylinder: Named him
- As coregent he would be king
- He rejected moral treasure: Asebeia
- He **deliberately** rejected God
- God judges Belshazzar; he refused Nebuchadnezzar's apologia of God

Belteshazzar

- "Lord of the moral treasure"
- Second in government to Nebuchadnezzar
- Probably demoted after death of Nebuchadnezzar (ca 562)
- Personally unknown to Belshazzar
- Rested in God: Eusebeia
- Called to interpret writing on wall
- He reprimands Belshazzar; refuses title/gifts as third in the Kingdom

Celebration of Marduk: Atoning for Sin {Su-en}?

- Cyrus the Great's army under Gobryas besieged Babylon which appeared impregnable behind high walls with secure water and food supplies
 - Belshazzar held a feast for a thousand of his retainers; probably a celebration to thank Marduk as atonement for Nabonidus' sacrilege; Form of state Worship
 - Belshazzar possibly also used so-called holy vessels of other deities showing Marduk's strength and superiority; consistent with religio-political government
 - This night Belshazzar called for the Jewish Temple vessels as a sign of superiority over God drinking wine from them gives credence to honoring Marduk as great
- Gobryas' army was upstream diverting waters to lower the water level so troops could sneak **under** the walls; Belshazzar's army not on alert for this strategy; Blindness of Pride

ALL Idols Worshipped? Tie-in to Nebuchadnezzar's Image (24:2)

- When they worship their idols, they are not named but listed by materials from greatest to least to encompass all citizens to unite kingdom in worship (24:2-14; 26:19-20:21)
 - Nebuchadnezzar's image represents totality of idolatry depicted by its materials; all fashioned by human hands except stone which Jews were not allow to fashion pointing to Christ fashioned by God to destroy man's self-worship (24:22-24)
 - Moses writes that Jews who worship idols of wood, stone, silver and gold will suffer wrath of God when He strikes their land; greatest idol is covetousness (1Co:10:21-22)
 - John writes that in Great Tribulation all peoples of the earth not killed by the plagues will continue to worship their images of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood and will not repent of their sorceries, immoralities or thefts
 - God's words concerning fall of Babylon voluntarily lived out: Fulfilled prophecy (24:47-4:148:24-25)

Putting Self to Death in Christ: His Example to Us

- Sinners glory in self ignoring they will be suddenly cut off though oft warned (Death) (24:10:19-21; 21:24-26; 1Co:10:13-14)
- Believers are crucified in Christ, baptized into His death (New Nature); sacrifices to world (Ro:6:11-16; 2:22)
- Babylon not defeated due to unwillingness to accept God; this is works-based; God raising up Cyrus for His plan (24:40-42; 1:11-12)
- Each Christian judged for works by Christ; only what He does through us via Spirit will survive: What is your life producing? (2Co:12:14; Mt:23:23-27; 14:12; 1Co:3:17; 1Pe:4:1-6)

