

Daniel 27 – Spoiled Man-Child Breeds Fear

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Daniel 5:10-23

Prologue – Fear of: Death or the Lord “...subject to...slavery” PH 214-15

Belshazzar: Bel Protect King

Belteshazzar: Moral Treasure



Fear – Darkness – Death



Fear – Light – Life

Prologue – Fear of Death: Primary Motivator of the Lost

- Lost deny the basis of their fear of death: They know the Second Death is coming (Guilt) (Joh 5:25-26; Ro 12:9-16; 20:11-15)
 - Demons know the reality of Christ and tremble in **fear** (Joh 8:20; Mt 2:10)
 - Satan, the god of this world, knows his time is short and rages on the earth to forestall his fate but to no avail: Latter Days (Mt 10:17-20; 2Co 4:3-6; Ro 12:12, 17; 20:7-10)
 - Cain (Given by God) hated Abel (Worthless One) because God respected Abel while rejecting Cain's life offering: Saved shows their rejection of God to be a lie (Gen 4:1-10)
 - Fear of death drives Lost to hate everyone who is of God, even to Messiah who came to die for sin: contrasts difference: Lost-Kill Christ-Dies to save (Joh 8:12; Ro 8:34)
 - They remain entrenched in their idolatry and hope to prevent Christ establishing His Kingdom: even to becoming Posthuman (Ro 21:4-8; 1Th 1:10)

Prologue – Getting Our Bearings: Who's Who





Who Was the Queen: Grandmother or Mother?

- Our text begins with the queen entering the banquet after hearing of the tumultuous episode
 - Probably not Belshazzar's queen as the text states his wives were with him
 - It has been approximately 20 years since Nebuchadnezzar's death; his wives, some of them, could have survived him
 - However, Nabonidus as not a direct son of Nebuchadnezzar; he was a son-in-law which probably rules out Nebuchadnezzar's queen having strong ties with him
 - This queen probably was his mother, wife of Nabonidus, since she is able to address him in so intimate a fashion and unannounced
- Herein is the problem: she appears with the intention of soothing her son of his distress rather than promoting God and his blasphemy of God (she is facilitating him rather than guiding him)



When the Mother Spoils the Son: He Can Live in Fear and Anger

- Polygamy weakens the ties between husband and wife and father and children who bond with their mothers at the expense of their father
 - Sons raised primarily by mothers usually do not receive the discipline and thus the self-control necessary to limit impulse control
 - Lack of self-control tends to amplify one's fear of death (guilt) resulting in anger issues
- Several Old Testament examples of mothers and sons sans fathers
 - Eve primarily raised Cain believing him to be the Messiah; he could not humble himself to God and killed his perceived rival out of fear of replacement
 - Parents playing favorites within the family can have some deleterious affects; Isaac loved Esau while Rebekah favored Jacob and induced him to usurp Esau as patriarch by deceiving their aged father into giving him the blessing – Jacob incurred Esau's wrath for 20 years and his mother never saw him again





Queen Reminds Belshazzar Of Daniel

- Queen-mother reminds Belshazzar that he has a man in his Kingdom who could probably tell him the meaning behind the writing: Daniel
 - Brief synopsis of Daniel's history with Nebuchadnezzar giving divining obscure meanings beyond Babylonian's usually wise men
 - Nebuchadnezzar made him head of $\frac{2}{3}$ the wise men
 - He was probably demoted upon Nebuchadnezzar's death since Daniel would be seen as responsible for Nebuchadnezzar's blasphemy against Marduk
 - In Belshazzar's third year of rule, Daniel was in Susa, away from Babylon $\frac{2}{3}$
- Queen assumes the interpretation will strengthen her son; her intention is to help him be less afraid; I doubt she intends to announce his demise
- Daniel, probably in his 80's now, is summoned; he is in Babylon during the crisis probably because all other territories have been lost to Persian rule



Belshazzar: Man of Idolatry Summons Daniel: Man of God's Moral Character

- Belshazzar demonstrates his motivation of pride and fear again by offering displays of power that are meaningless; i.e., people can be bought
 - Belshazzar has surrounded himself with people he can use but whom he cannot trust as they work for a price, reinforces fear and fosters distrust
 - Belshazzar repeats his mother's description of Daniel and adds Daniel's Jewish heritage
 - Daniel's interpretation cannot be bought; he can but speak only what God gives
 - Before Daniel interprets the writing he must first put it into context so the answer is coherent
 - Daniel is respectful but he is not condescending; he honestly tells Belshazzar what no one else has told him; even his mother




Comparing Belshazzar to Nebuchadnezzar

- Daniel prefaces his narrative stating that no one rules except by the grace of God and that included Belshazzar's grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar
 - Nebuchadnezzar had real power over the people of his kingdom; this implies that Belshazzar does not have final authority and does not command the same respect; lesser son of a greater father; Unmasks Belshazzar's powerlessness – Fear
 - Nebuchadnezzar mistook the power given him for his own; thus, God humbled him for seven years until Nebuchadnezzar acknowledge God as only God
 - Belshazzar knew his family history, Nebuchadnezzar's testimony of God, but rejected God; he knew of God, rejected God and deliberately used God's temple cups to toast Babylon's powerless pantheon of idols $\frac{2}{3}$ 1:19-21
 - Belshazzar's sin nature and fear of powerlessness compelled him to identify himself with Babylon's pantheon; Nebuchadnezzar's two sons could have been killed for honoring their father's God, a fate Belshazzar obviously wanted to avoid




Mother Wanted Comfort for Son He Got Truth Instead

- Daniel is the father Belshazzar should have had to balance his mother's coddling; such has destroyed many a young man (Fathers do some to their daughters when relationship not balance with mothers)
 - Daniel bluntly, but respectfully, states that Belshazzar's pride, though linked to Nebuchadnezzar's, was based on powerlessness
 - He did not rule because it was his turn, succession; he ruled because God allowed it and he knew that through the experiences of his grandfather
 - He had been given years of opportunity to repent and humble himself to God who could have given him wisdom to rule; however, he chose Saul's path
 - Belshazzar aligned himself with the worldly powerful people of Babylonia: priests, military and economic but none of them gave him power or security; i.e., fear
 - The more Belshazzar exerted power the more powerlessness he displayed; the besieging Persians were simply an outward manifestation of his inner truths



Nebuchadnezzar's Salvation Doomed Babylonia

- By humbling Nebuchadnezzar as an animal for seven years and then raising him up promoting God rather than Marduk, God irreversibly weakened the monarchy and the Kingdom
 - Assyria's rule was extended nearly 150 years because the king, his court and much of the city repented and embraced God when Jonah preached to them
 - Babylonia had no such revival beyond Nebuchadnezzar's salvation; even his own family rejected God as Isaiah foretold (Is 47)
 - Their rejection of God has brought about their rejection and demise even by powers inferior to themselves (Jer 1:12-17; 29-30)
- Neither the Babylonians nor many of the Jews repented of their evil; yet because of God's covenant with David, He will return a remnant of His people back to Jerusalem to prepare for the coming of Messiah (Jer 31:1-17)



Children Destroyed by Lack of Parental Love and Knowledge

- Modern societies actively destroy families with the people's permission and parents actively gratify themselves destroying the children (Jer 4:1-16)
 - Christendom, and even Christian leaders, reject knowledge of God and do not teach the people the beginning of wisdom; thus, many live in fear
 - This is evident by the increase in sin which expresses itself as degradation (immorality) and violence; all is undergirded by lies (Jer 1:18-32)
 - Parents, especially mothers, are killing their children to continue their immoralities
 - Governments incentivize adults to not many producing boys who never grow up and women who seek security in immorality
 - Christians claim to hate these results but demand government programs to give them security at the expense of future generations
 - Fearful children seek security in governments while rejecting God which only grows their fear preparing them for the Second Death, for the Antichrist's coming