

Daniel 28 – Belshazzar's & Satan's Fate {Simtu}

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Daniel 5:24-30

Prologue – Fear of Death: Primary Motivator of the Lost

- **Lost deny the basis of their fear of death: The Second Death (Guilt)**
(Dan 3:29-34, 41; 12:3-4, 8; 21:11-12)
 - Satan, the god of this world, knows his time is short and rages on the earth to forestall his fate – Simtu; Latter Days (Ja 10:17-20; 20:43-4; 8; 129-32, 137; 20:7-10)
 - Demons know the reality of Christ and tremble in **fear** of judgment (Ja 6:20; 20:21-19)
 - 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 (Ja 5:19-12; 8; 24-8)
 - Cain (Given by God) hated Abel (Worthless One) because God respected Abel's while rejecting Cain's life offering; Saved shows their rejection of God to be a lie (Ja 4:1-12)
 - They remain entrenched in their idolatry and hope to prevent Christ establishing His Kingdom; even to becoming Posthuman (Ja 2:1-4; 8; 19:11-21)

Prologue: Understanding the Past to Grasp the Future

- Our past three lesson dealt with Belshazzar to understand his judgment
 - **Belshazzar or Belshazzar** – Deriving meaning from contrasting his title from Daniel's title as believers are living witnesses of God among the Lost (Ja 2:1-4)
 - **Fear Leading to Life or Death** – Contrasting the different paths of the Saved (Fear or Worship of God) and the Lost (Fear of Death or Judgment) (Ja 2:14-17)
 - **Isolated Man-Child of Fear** – Detailing the parenting and co-regency factors that may have contributed to his fear leading him to seek allegiance from Marduk
- This lesson deals with the religio-cultural issues that guided him to God's pronounces judgment upon him; but not on him alone
 - He is a surrogate, a metaphor or type, of the coming Antichrist (As are **all** lost leaders)

Belshazzar Judged: What are the Charges?

- Imagine a court room and the judge, God, has declared His verdict and sentence
- Daniel specified the charges before he interpreted the judgment so Belshazzar, and others, would **know** the context of the judgment (Da 5:22)
 - Lifted **up** his heart against God: Pride (Da 5:17, 21-22; 23:41-42; 1:18; 2:10-17)
 - Used Temple vessels to worship idols (Demons) (Da 5:17; 1Co 10:20; He 9:5; 1:23-24)
 - Feared Death to worship demons rather than fear (Worship) God rejecting His mercy, grace and longsuffering (Da 5:17; 26; 1:18-20; 1Co 10:22)
- Main witness – Nebuchadnezzar his grandfather saved in dramatic fashion so **all** would know his testimony of God was genuine (Da 4)
 - Left Belshazzar culpable, without excuse (Da 5:22; 26:13; 30:11-14-27)

Modern: Hebrew script written right to left, top to bottom
 (Moses' artist's rendition rather than true Aramaic script)



Twice Numbered, Weighed and Divided: Why was this Not Understood?

- The wise men possibly could read the words; the issue was meaning. It had **no** context to them; i.e., they did not have the mind of God as Daniel (Da 5:10-12)
- God speaks to people in terms they can grasp; metaphor of scales determining fate would be familiar even to us today (Da 1:4-11; 30:23)
- Against what was he measured, not the Moral Law

Hermeneutics: Understanding Scripture Means Understanding their Culture*

- Common error in hermeneutics is interpreting Bible from **your** worldview
 - This is eisegesis, you are the standard and arrive at **your** meaning; justifies self
 - Exegesis, the Bible is the standard, the reader must understand the context as used in its historical, cultural and religio-political context of its day
 - Now we must dig deeper into their belief system to grasp God's meaning for it is also for us, just with different stage dressing; nothing is ever new (Da 5:11-12)
- Simtu, loosely translated as **fate**, intimately associated with balance or order; disruption of simtu would bring chaos (Today's Law & Order)
 - Belshazzar's banquet was a worship service invoking Marduk to **maintain** simtu and defeat the Persians
 - Persians attributed their victory to **betting** piety to Marduk; simtu **restored** by them

(The context of this is a recent translation of the 'writing on the wall' in Daniel 5:1-31)

Schematic of Pantheistic Simtu: Idols {gods} Must Obey Fate

- Fate’s source is Mana, impersonal power that can be influenced
- Gods (Marduk) reveal, not order simtu: Limited power-knowledge
- Inner circle is man bound to fate by death: Deterministic: revealed by extispicy (Divination-Science)
- Prayers may influence Divine Realm to reveal omens
- Prothesis-apodosis statements that reveal and guide people to alter fate: Not inevitable



Prayer: Invoking gods' Assistance – Man's Place in Socialist Government

- Mesopotamian religion viewed man as enslaved to the gods who made man to serve them: Bronze age empires were socialistic as their gods reflect
 - Order confirmed when Marduk possesses Tablet of Destinies: Nebo's written word
 - If it is taken it loses potency, the offending deity has some incantation power but chaos ensues (Marduk taken to another city in defeat; droughts, etc.)
 - Idols had limited power and authority, though it exceeded man's, but could be invoked to reveal omens so that one may know one's unnatural fate to change it
 - Death not avoidable: all will die, issue was to avoid unnatural (murder) death
- Prayers had three parts: addressing appropriate god; presenting the apodosis-prothesis conditional statement (Jacob) and loud hymns (Isa 28:21-22)
 - Worship banquet details this final act which was loud and long to please all gods

Belshazzar Consistent with His Sin: His Fate Linked to Marduk Over God

- Belshazzar knew of Nebuchadnezzar's change, but it was incoherent to him (Isa 1:20-23)
 - He was consistent with his asebeia worldview; dead in sin (Is 2:1-3)
 - His wise men would seek guidance from their nihilistic pantheistic worldview
- Daniel had mind of God to reveal the will (foolishness) of God
 - Counted (Twice) – God has carefully judged Belshazzar; his end is now (Is 47:14a; 22-8)
 - Weighed (Scales) – Belshazzar has not turned to God (Nineveh)
 - Divided – His rule domain divided between Medes and Persians
- Belshazzar rewarded Daniel for the revelation, he did not repent as simtu determined and no omen was revealed
 - Persians invaded that night and Belshazzar died in judgment
 - Judgment was not for him only; for Babylonia, Antichrist and Satan

Belshazzar: Surrogate for Babylonia Rejected by God

- As co-regent of Babylonia, Belshazzar’s judgment is also the empire’s judgment which was inherent in Nebuchadnezzar’s image vision (24:2)
 - Peoples of the Empire rejected Nebuchadnezzar’s revelation (24:41-43, 47)
 - Nabonidus rejected God when he sought to replace Marduk with Su-en (Sin)
 - Babylonia did not allow displaced persons to return to their homeland; like the Jews to Jerusalem to rebuild God’s Temple
 - God will allow Satan to use Persia as his next foil even though it accomplishes God’s will in returning Jews to Jerusalem to prepare for Messiah (24:62)
 - Jews, punished for idolatry, but some also are used of God as His witnesses in Babylonia; i.e., Daniel, Ezekiel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah
 - Unfortunately, majority of Jews morphed from idolatry into Talmud-Kabbalah customs twisting the Mosaic Law to mirror Simtu influenced by written omens and outward morality (24:23)

Simtu Influenced Pharisaism: Talmudic Kabbalah Replaced Idols and God

- Jews were heavily influenced by Babylon; even shape of letters were influenced by Aramaic
- Bible their Tablet of Destinies to win God’s favor – Not Godly (28:31-33)
- Retained Apodosis-Protasis system like simtu omens-oracles (24:22-23)
- Conquering Messiah would raise Enlightened Jews as Masters over all peoples: Socialism-Slavery
- No desire of spiritual relationship with God and Messiah (28:423-24)



Satan’s Fundamental Pattern: Satan Escapes God via Transhuman Antichrist

- Satan’s plan: Replace flesh to escape death and judgment
- Elites become Transhuman via nano-tech, replacing weak flesh
- Useful masses share in same tech: Socialism (Enslavement)
- Satan’s--Antichrist’s powerlessness revealed by 7-year Cataclysm
- Antichrist’s resurrection as Cyborg declares self as god (Satan inside)
- Antichrist set in Lake of Fire w/ False Prophet (Satan later)



God is Alerting Satan of His Judgment: And of his Surrogate – Antichrist

- God’s will is deterministic because He cannot be thwarted, sovereignty, or salvation could not be guaranteed by Christ (Joh 1:3-12)
 - Satan, being a spirit being, must use a physical surrogate to achieve his goals: relieving his sentence of Lake of Fire and be as god to man (Jn 14:15-16)
 - Belshazzar is the Babylon metaphor for coming Antichrist who will head the final government of iron and clay of Nebuchadnezzar’s image
- God is telling Satan that he and his Antichrist have been doubly counted, weighed and his kingdom divided and this creation temporary (Joh 1:12-17; 2Th 2:12-13; 2Ti 2:12)
 - Lost of Christ’s return go into Hell to await White Throne judgment
 - Saved go into Millennial Kingdom; yet much of their posterity will chose against Christ under Satan’s tutelage: Again divided; lost stand at Christ’s White Throne

God’s True Simtu – Balance First Creation Preparing His People For Eternity with Him in Last Creation

Heavenly Realm (God, Christ, Holy Spirit)
Power



- God is eternal, infinite, outside of His Creation
- Satan characterizes his rebellion as just
- Angels/Demons created spiritual beings
- Angels have access to God
- Satan/Demons now confined to earth (Joh 1:12)
- Man chose death: Deterministic
- God made way of Life: Death not Inevitable
- Christ became Man so people could live
- Saved Man has access to God via Prayer
- Prayer is communication; not magic
- New Creation: Saved with God; Lost w/o God

Epilogue: God's Sovereignty Prevails Despite Satan's Seeming Pervasiveness

- Satan appears more influential as his time approaches
 - God gives sinners up to realize their dream: World without Him (Joh 1:19-23)
 - As God’s Spirit pulls back, Satan appears more powerful (Joh 2:23-24)
 - Spiritual darkness spreads as people reject God’s wisdom (Joh 22:29; 26:13-4; 43-6)
- Christians are to walk in Christ’s power who is God and cannot be thwarted
 - Satan, and Antichrist, are not god(s); they walk in **fear** of judgment (1Jn 4:18)
 - Christians walk in the Love of Christ who is our example (1Jn 4:17)
 - Christ’s death, show of Satan’s power, bought salvation and sealed Satan’s, and all sinners, judgment in the Lake of Fire (Counted, weighed and eternally divided)
 - We prevail because we rest in Christ; Christ has overcome death with life (Joh 2:25; Mt 11:29-30; 1Co 15:54-55)