

DANIEL
THE RISE AND FALL OF KINGDOMS
THE END OF A KINGDOM - THE KINGDOM OF MAN
A CLOSE LOOK AT THE RULER

1. THE STATE OF THE KINGDOM

A. DANIEL 5:1-4 (NIV) KING BELSHAZZAR GAVE A GREAT BANQUET FOR A THOUSAND OF HIS NOBLES AND DRANK WINE WITH THEM. ²WHILE BELSHAZZAR WAS DRINKING HIS WINE, HE GAVE ORDERS TO BRING IN THE GOLD AND SILVER GOBLETs THAT NEBUCHADNEZZAR HIS FATHER HAD TAKEN FROM THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM, SO THAT THE KING AND HIS NOBLES, HIS WIVES AND HIS CONCUBINES MIGHT DRINK FROM THEM. ³SO THEY BROUGHT IN THE GOLD GOBLETs THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THE TEMPLE OF GOD IN JERUSALEM, AND THE KING AND HIS NOBLES, HIS WIVES AND HIS CONCUBINES DRANK FROM THEM. ⁴AS THEY DRANK THE WINE, THEY PRAISED THE GODS OF GOLD AND SILVER, OF BRONZE, IRON, WOOD AND STONE.

I. WHO IS THE RULER?

(1) HERE YOU NEED TO GO TO OTHER REFERENCES.

(A) BELSHAZZAR IS CO-REGENCY WITH HIS FATHER NABONIDUS, THE SON-IN-LAW OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR. HE IS THE SECOND IN POWER IN THE LAND. LATER IN SCRIPTURE HE WILL BE CALLED A PRINCE.

II. HOW DID HE BECOME THE RULER?

(1) BY BIRTH.

(2) IN ARAMAIC THE WORD FOR 'FATHER' REFERS TO AN ANCESTOR BUT NOT NECESSARILY AN IMMEDIATE PREDECESSOR.

III. WHAT WAS THE CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY? READ TO THE END OF THE CHAPTER TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION.

IV. WHAT IS THE RULER DOING?

(1) WHAT DID HE DO TO GET THE ATTENTION OF GOD?

(A) DESECRATION

(i) **Matthew 24:15 (KJV)** When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

V. HEAR WE SEE THE TIMING OF GOD.

(1) WHEN THE TEMPLE IS DESECATED

2. WARNINGS FROM GOD!

A. 5SUDDENLY THE FINGERS OF A HUMAN HAND APPEARED AND WROTE ON THE PLASTER OF THE WALL, NEAR THE LAMPSTAND IN THE ROYAL PALACE. THE KING WATCHED THE HAND AS IT WROTE. **6**HIS FACE TURNED PALE AND HE WAS SO FRIGHTENED THAT HIS KNEES KNOCKED TOGETHER AND HIS LEGS GAVE WAY.

I. THE FINGERS OF A HUMAN HAND

(1) WHAT IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE WILL BE AT THE HAND OF MAN.

(2) WHO IS THIS MAN?

(A) **Revelation 19:11-16 (KJV)** And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white

horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹²His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ¹³And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

II. NEAR THE LAMP STAND

(1) WHERE WAS THIS LAMP STAND

(2) WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH THE END TIMES

(A) **Revelations 18:23** The light of a lamp will never shine in you again The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world's great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.

(I) A TIME IS COMING WHEN THE LAMP WILL BE PUT OUT IN THIS PLACE FOREVER.

III. ⁶HIS FACE TURNED PALE AND HE WAS SO FRIGHTENED THAT HIS KNEES KNOCKED TOGETHER AND HIS LEGS GAVE WAY

(1) THE FEAR THAT WILL COME UPON MAN

(a) **Isaiah 2:19** Men will flee to caves in the rocks and to holes in the ground from dread of the LORD and the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to shake the earth.

(b) **Luke 21:26** Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

(c) **Revelations 6:16-17** They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷For THE GREAT DAY OF THEIR WRATH HAS COME, AND WHO CAN STAND?"

IV. STATUS OF THE HEART

(1) **1 Corinthians 10:11** These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.

3. WHO DO WE TURN TO IN TIME OF FEAR?

A. ⁷THE KING CALLED OUT FOR THE ENCHANTERS, ASTROLOGERS AND DIVINERS TO BE BROUGHT AND SAID TO THESE WISE MEN OF BABYLON, "WHOEVER READS THIS WRITING AND TELLS ME WHAT IT MEANS WILL BE CLOTHED IN PURPLE AND HAVE A GOLD CHAIN PLACED AROUND HIS NECK, AND HE WILL BE MADE THE THIRD HIGHEST RULER IN THE KINGDOM."

I. INFORMATION AND HELP IS NEEDED IN THE LIVES OF ALL PEOPLE.

(1) IT IS IMPORTANT TO SEE WHO WE TURN TO!

- (A) **Leviticus 20:27 (KJV)** A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood *shall be* upon them.
- (b) **1 Chronicles 10:13 (KJV)** So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, *even* against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking *counsel of one that had* a familiar spirit, to enquire *of it*;
- (c) **2 Chronicles 33:6 (KJV)** And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.
- (d) **Isaiah 8:19 (KJV)** And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?
- (e) **Isaiah 19:3 (KJV)** And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.
- (f) **Isaiah 29:4 (KJV)** And thou shalt be brought down, *and* shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust.

II. LOOK AT WHAT THE RULER IS WILLING TO GIVE FOR JUST THIS ONE BIT OF INFORMATION.

- (1) **Revelation 13:11-15 (NIV)** Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. ¹²He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. ¹³And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. ¹⁴Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

III. THE WORD OF GOD TEACHES WHAT WE ARE TO DO WHEN WE NEED HELP.

- (1) **Psalms 34:1-8** Of David. When he pretended to be insane before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he left. I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. ²My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. ³Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together. ⁴I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. ⁵Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. ⁶This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. ⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. ⁸Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

- (2) **Psalm 34:17** The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.
 - (3) **Hebrews 4:16** Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
 - (4) HAS GOD SHOWN HIMSELF TO THESE PEOPLE?
- 4. HOW MUCH HELP SHOULD WE EXPECT FROM MAN?
 - A. ⁸THEN ALL THE KING'S WISE MEN CAME IN, BUT THEY COULD NOT READ THE WRITING OR TELL THE KING WHAT IT MEANT. ⁹SO KING BELSHAZZAR BECAME EVEN MORE TERRIFIED AND HIS FACE GREW MORE PALE. HIS NOBLES WERE BAFFLED.
 - I. AGAIN WHERE DO THE PEOPLES OF THE EARTH LOOK FOR WISDOM TODAY?
 - (1) THE PEOPLE OF BABALYON STILL LOOK HERE TODAY.
 - (A) US & WORLD REPORT
 - (2) THE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THIS MAN OF THE FUTURE JUST AS IT IS TO THIS MAN.
- 5. SOME PEOPLE REMEMBER THINGS FROM THE PAST.
 - a. ¹⁰THE QUEEN, HEARING THE VOICES OF THE KING AND HIS NOBLES, CAME INTO THE BANQUET HALL. "O KING, LIVE FOREVER!" SHE SAID. "DON'T BE ALARMED! DON'T LOOK SO PALE! ¹¹THERE IS A MAN IN YOUR KINGDOM WHO HAS THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLY GODS IN HIM. IN THE TIME OF YOUR FATHER HE WAS FOUND TO HAVE INSIGHT AND INTELLIGENCE AND WISDOM LIKE THAT OF THE GODS.
 - I. ¹¹THERE IS A MAN IN YOUR KINGDOM WHO HAS THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLY GODS IN HIM.
 - (1) WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER?
 - (A) GOD DOES PROVIDE A WITNESS!
 - (i) **Revelation 11:3 (KJV)** And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.
 - (2) IN THE TIME OF YOUR FATHER HE WAS FOUND TO HAVE INSIGHT AND INTELLIGENCE AND WISDOM LIKE THAT OF THE GODS.
 - (a) WHO IS THIS WISDOM FOR?
 - (i) **2 Timothy 2:7 (KJV)** Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.
 - (ii) **James 1:5 (KJV)** If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
 - 6. DANIEL 5:11 KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR YOUR FATHER--YOUR FATHER THE KING, I SAY-- APPOINTED HIM CHIEF OF THE MAGICIANS, ENCHANTERS, ASTROLOGERS AND DIVINERS. ¹²THIS MAN DANIEL, WHOM THE KING CALLED BELTESHAZZAR, WAS FOUND TO HAVE A KEEN MIND AND KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING, AND ALSO THE ABILITY TO INTERPRET DREAMS, EXPLAIN RIDDLES AND SOLVE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. CALL FOR DANIEL, AND HE WILL TELL YOU WHAT THE WRITING MEANS."
 - A. CALL FOR DANIEL
 - I. **Acts 2:17 (KJV)** And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out

of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

(1) DREAMS ARE A PART OF THE CHURCH TODAY.

(2) LETS LOOK AT THE DREAMS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

- (a) **Matthew 1:20 (KJV)** But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.
- (b) **Matthew 2:12-13 (KJV)** And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. ¹³And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.
- (c) **Matthew 2:19 (KJV)** But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,
- (d) **Matthew 2:22 (KJV)** But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:
- (e) **Matthew 27:19 (KJV)** When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

(i) WHAT DO YOU SEE ABOUT THEM?

(3) NOW LETS LOOK AT VISION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- (a) **Acts 7:55-56 (NIV)** But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."
- (b) **Acts 9:12 (NIV)** In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."
- (c) **Acts 16:9 (KJV)** And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.
- (d) **Acts 18:9-10 (KJV)** Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, **Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:** ¹⁰For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.
- (e) **Acts 10:3 (KJV)** He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.
- (f) **Acts 10:9-18 (KJV)** On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: ¹⁰And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, ¹¹And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: ¹²Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. ¹³And there came a voice to him, **Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.** ¹⁴But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. ¹⁵And the voice spake unto him again the second time, **What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.** ¹⁶This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven. ¹⁷Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate, ¹⁸And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

(4) NOW LETS LOOK AT INTERPRETATION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- (a) **1 Corinthians 12:30 (KJV)** Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?
- (b) **1 Corinthians 14:5 (KJV)** I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye

prophesied: for greater *is* he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

- (c) **1 Corinthians 14:13 (KJV)** Wherefore let him that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue pray that he may interpret.
- (d) **1 Corinthians 14:26-28 (KJV)** How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. ²⁷If any man speak in an *unknown* tongue, *let it be* by two, or at the most *by* three, and *that* by course; and let one interpret. ²⁸But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.
(i) WHAT DO YOU SEE HERE?

7. DANIEL BEFORE THE KING

- A. DANIEL 5:¹³SO DANIEL WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE KING, AND THE KING SAID TO HIM, "ARE YOU DANIEL, ONE OF THE EXILES MY FATHER THE KING BROUGHT FROM JUDAH? ¹⁴I HAVE HEARD THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE GODS IS IN YOU AND THAT YOU HAVE INSIGHT, INTELLIGENCE AND OUTSTANDING WISDOM. ¹⁵THE WISE MEN AND ENCHANTERS WERE BROUGHT BEFORE ME TO READ THIS WRITING AND TELL ME WHAT IT MEANS, BUT THEY COULD NOT EXPLAIN IT. ¹⁶NOW I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO GIVE INTERPRETATIONS AND TO SOLVE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. IF YOU CAN READ THIS WRITING AND TELL ME WHAT IT MEANS, YOU WILL BE CLOTHED IN PURPLE AND HAVE A GOLD CHAIN PLACED AROUND YOUR NECK, AND YOU WILL BE MADE THE THIRD HIGHEST RULER IN THE KINGDOM."

I. FIRST, WHAT IS GOD ACCOMPLISHING HERE?

II. DO YOU HAVE A NON BELIEVER FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND?

III. WHAT IS THIS MAN HAVING TO ADMIT?

- (1) ONE OF THE EXILES MY FATHER THE KING BROUGHT FROM JUDAH?

- (A) HIS OWN PEOPLE WERE NOT ABLE TO DO THIS. IT WOULD TAKE SOME ONE OF ANOTHER FAITH.

- (2) ¹⁴I HAVE HEARD THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE GODS IS IN YOU AND THAT YOU HAVE INSIGHT, INTELLIGENCE AND OUTSTANDING WISDOM.

- (A) COULD THERE BE SUCH A MAN AS THIS?

- (3) ¹⁵THE WISE MEN AND ENCHANTERS WERE BROUGHT BEFORE ME TO READ THIS WRITING AND TELL ME WHAT IT MEANS, BUT THEY COULD NOT EXPLAIN IT.

- (A) SECOND TIME STATED = 2 WITNESS.

- (i) HIS PEOPLE COULD NOT DO THIS.

- 1) WHAT IS GOD ACCOMPLISHING HERE?

- (4) ¹⁶NOW I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO GIVE INTERPRETATIONS AND TO SOLVE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS

- (A) SECOND TIME STATED = 2 WITNESS.

- (i) HIS PEOPLE COULD NOT DO THIS.

- 1) WHAT IS GOD ACCOMPLISHING HERE?

IV. AGAIN HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS INFORMATION TO THIS MAN?

- (1) IF YOU CAN READ THIS WRITING AND TELL ME WHAT IT MEANS, YOU WILL BE CLOTHED IN PURPLE AND HAVE A GOLD CHAIN PLACED AROUND YOUR NECK, AND YOU WILL BE MADE THE THIRD HIGHEST RULER IN THE KINGDOM."

- (A) WHAT HE SAID BEFORE!

- (1) "WHOEVER READS THIS WRITING AND TELLS ME WHAT IT MEANS WILL BE CLOTHED IN PURPLE AND HAVE A GOLD CHAIN PLACED AROUND HIS NECK, AND HE WILL BE MADE THE THIRD HIGHEST RULER IN THE KINGDOM."

1) SECOND TIME STATED = 2 WITNESS.

A) WHAT IS HE WILLING TO GIVE UP?

B) WHAT IS GOD ACCOMPLISHING HERE? - WHO PROMOTES?

8. THE MAN OF GOD BEFORE THE KING.

A. ¹⁷THEN DANIEL ANSWERED THE KING, "YOU MAY KEEP YOUR GIFTS FOR YOURSELF AND GIVE YOUR REWARDS TO SOMEONE ELSE. NEVERTHELESS, I WILL READ THE WRITING FOR THE KING AND TELL HIM WHAT IT MEANS.

I. WHAT DOES DANIEL KNOW THAT WE SHOULD GAIN FROM THIS PORTION OF SCRIPTURE?

- (1) **Psalm 75:6-7 (NIV)** No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt a man. ⁷But it is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.
- (2) **Psalm 78:70-71 (NIV)** He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; ⁷¹from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance.
- (3) **Psalm 113:7-8 (NIV)** He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; ⁸he seats them with princes, with the princes of their people.

9. THE MAN OF GOD HAS SOME TEACHING TO DO!

A. DANIEL 5:¹⁸"O KING, THE MOST HIGH GOD GAVE YOUR FATHER NEBUCHADNEZZAR SOVEREIGNTY AND GREATNESS AND GLORY AND SPLENDOR. ¹⁹BECAUSE OF THE HIGH POSITION HE GAVE HIM, ALL THE PEOPLES AND NATIONS AND MEN OF EVERY LANGUAGE DREADED AND FEARED HIM. THOSE THE KING WANTED TO PUT TO DEATH, HE PUT TO DEATH; THOSE HE WANTED TO SPARE, HE SPARED; THOSE HE WANTED TO PROMOTE, HE PROMOTED; AND THOSE HE WANTED TO HUMBLE, HE HUMBLLED. ²⁰BUT WHEN HIS HEART BECAME ARROGANT AND HARDENED WITH PRIDE, HE WAS DEPOSED FROM HIS ROYAL THRONE AND STRIPPED OF HIS GLORY. ²¹HE WAS DRIVEN AWAY FROM PEOPLE AND GIVEN THE MIND OF AN ANIMAL; HE LIVED WITH THE WILD DONKEYS AND ATE GRASS LIKE CATTLE; AND HIS BODY WAS DRENCHED WITH THE DEW OF HEAVEN, UNTIL HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE MOST HIGH GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER THE KINGDOMS OF MEN AND SETS OVER THEM ANYONE HE WISHES.

I. HEAR, HEAR WHAT DANIEL HAS TO SAY TO THE KING.

- (1) THE MOST HIGH GOD GAVE YOUR FATHER NEBUCHADNEZZAR SOVEREIGNTY AND GREATNESS AND GLORY AND SPLENDOR
- (2) ¹⁹BECAUSE OF THE HIGH POSITION HE GAVE HIM, ALL THE PEOPLES AND NATIONS AND MEN OF EVERY LANGUAGE DREADED AND FEARED HIM
- (3) THOSE THE KING WANTED TO PUT TO DEATH, HE PUT TO DEATH;
- (4) THOSE HE WANTED TO SPARE, HE SPARED;
- (5) THOSE HE WANTED TO PROMOTE, HE PROMOTED
- (6) AND THOSE HE WANTED TO HUMBLE, HE HUMBLLED.
 - (A) SO LOOKING AT ALL THE ABOVE, WHAT DID GOD DO?
 - (B) GOD GAVE YOUR FATHER NEBUCHADNEZZAR SOVEREIGNTY
 - (1) **SOVEREIGNTY** of God, his absolute right to do all things according

to his own good pleasure

(ii) **Daniel 4:25 (NIV)**

(iii) **Daniel 4:35 (NIV)**

(iv) **Romans 9:15-23 (NIV)** For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ¹⁶It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. ¹⁷For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. ¹⁹One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?" ²⁰But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?' " ²¹Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use? ²²What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath--prepared for destruction? ²³What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory--

(v) **1 Timothy 6:15 (NIV)** which God will bring about in his own time--God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

(vi) **Revelation 4:11 (NIV)** "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

1) SO WHAT DID GOD DO?

2) WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT GOD DOING THIS?

10. BUT THE KING DID NOT LEARN. HE COULD NOT SEE GOD.

A. **DANIEL 5:**²²"BUT YOU HIS SON, O BELSHAZZAR, HAVE NOT HUMBLING YOURSELF, THOUGH YOU KNEW ALL THIS. ²³INSTEAD, YOU HAVE SET YOURSELF UP AGAINST THE LORD OF HEAVEN. YOU HAD THE GOBLETS FROM HIS TEMPLE BROUGHT TO YOU, AND YOU AND YOUR NOBLES, YOUR WIVES AND YOUR CONCUBINES DRANK WINE FROM THEM. YOU PRAISED THE GODS OF SILVER AND GOLD, OF BRONZE, IRON, WOOD AND STONE, WHICH CANNOT SEE OR HEAR OR UNDERSTAND. BUT YOU DID NOT HONOR THE GOD WHO HOLDS IN HIS HAND YOUR LIFE AND ALL YOUR WAYS. ²⁴THEREFORE HE SENT THE HAND THAT WROTE THE INSCRIPTION.

I. HEAR WHAT IS SAID!

(1) **5:**²²"BUT YOU HIS SON, O BELSHAZZAR, HAVE NOT HUMBLING YOURSELF,

(A) THOUGH YOU KNEW ALL THIS.

(2) ²³INSTEAD, YOU HAVE SET YOURSELF UP AGAINST THE LORD OF HEAVEN.

(A) YOU HAD THE GOBLETS FROM HIS TEMPLE BROUGHT TO YOU,

(I) AND YOU AND YOUR NOBLES, YOUR WIVES AND YOUR CONCUBINES DRANK WINE FROM THEM.

(B) YOU PRAISED THE GODS OF SILVER AND GOLD, OF BRONZE, IRON, WOOD AND

- STONE,
(I) WHICH CANNOT SEE OR HEAR OR UNDERSTAND.
(C) BUT YOU DID NOT HONOR THE GOD WHO HOLDS IN HIS HAND YOUR LIFE AND
ALL YOUR WAYS

11. THE INTERPRETATION

- A. ²⁵"THIS IS THE INSCRIPTION THAT WAS WRITTEN: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN ²⁶"THIS IS WHAT THESE WORDS MEAN: *MENE*: GOD HAS NUMBERED THE DAYS OF YOUR REIGN AND BROUGHT IT TO AN END. ²⁷*TEKEL*: YOU HAVE BEEN WEIGHED ON THE SCALES AND FOUND WANTING. ²⁸*PERES*: YOUR KINGDOM IS DIVIDED AND GIVEN TO THE MEDES AND PERSIANS."

12. WHAT DID THE KING DO?

- A. DANIEL 5:²⁹THEN AT BELSHAZZAR'S COMMAND, DANIEL WAS CLOTHED IN PURPLE, A GOLD CHAIN WAS PLACED AROUND HIS NECK, AND HE WAS PROCLAIMED THE THIRD HIGHEST RULER IN THE KINGDOM.
I. THE MAN OF GOD JUST TOLD YOU THAT YOUR RULE IS OVER.
(1) WHAT DO YOU DO?
(2) WHAT DOES THIS SAY ABOUT THIS MAN?

13. WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

- A. DANIEL 5:³⁰THAT VERY NIGHT BELSHAZZAR, KING OF THE BABYLONIANS, WAS SLAIN, ³¹AND DARIUS THE MEDE TOOK OVER THE KINGDOM, AT THE AGE OF SIXTY-TWO.
I. GODS' WORD WILL BE FULFILLED.