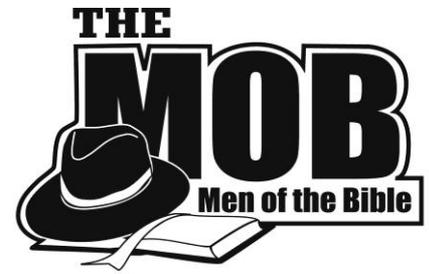




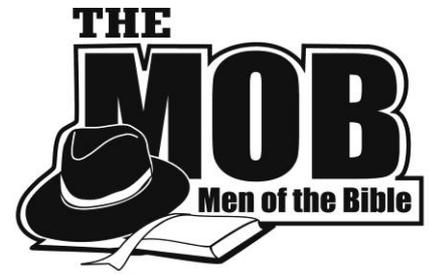
Announcements



- Welcome to MOB!
- [IBC Inductive Bible Study Marathon: "Heaven, Hell and Life After Death," 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, April 9, Room A209, \\$14.00, POC: Scott Faught, \(703\) 897-0738, \[sfaught@preceptnetwork.org\]\(mailto:sfaught@preceptnetwork.org\)](#)
- Pray for MOB Fall 2016 – Spring 2017 planning
- Website: www.ibcmob.net



Memory Verse



Daniel 5:26-28 (ESV)

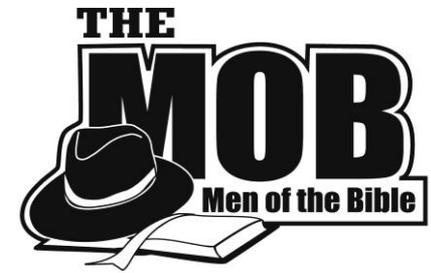
"This is the interpretation of the matter:
Mene, God has numbered the days of your
kingdom and brought it to an end;
Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances
and found wanting;
Peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the
Medes and Persians."

Daniel 5:26-28 (ESV)

(Daniel interpreting the writing on the wall for King Belshazzar)



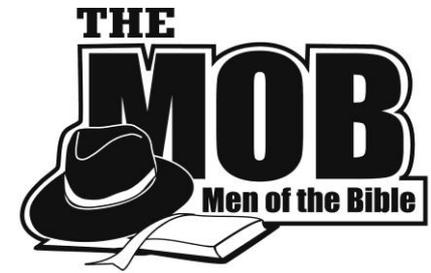
Daniel Outline



Focus	Daniel's History	Prophetic Plan for the Gentiles				Prophetic Plan of Israel		
Reference	1	2 - 4	5	6	7	8	9	10 - 12
Division	Personal Life of Daniel	Visions of Nebuc-hadnezzar	Visions of Balshazzar	Decree of Darius	Four Beasts	Vision of Ram and Male Goat	Vision of Seventy Weeks	Vision of Israel's Future
Topic	Daniel's Background	Daniel Interprets Others' Dreams				Angel Interprets Daniel's Dreams		
	Hebrew	Aramaic				Hebrew		
Time	Written in Babylon or Persia around 605 – 536 BC							



Last Week



Nebuchadnezzar Praises God

[Daniel 4:1-3](#)

Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream

[Daniel 4:4-18](#)

Daniel Interprets Second Dream

[Daniel 4:19-27](#)

Nebuchadnezzar's Humiliation

[Daniel 4:28-33](#)

Nebuchadnezzar Restored

[Daniel 4:34-37](#)

This Week

The Handwriting on the Wall

[Daniel 5:1-12](#)

Daniel Interprets the Handwriting

[Daniel 5:13-30](#)



Rembrandt's *Belshazzar's Feast*

circa 1635-1638 AD

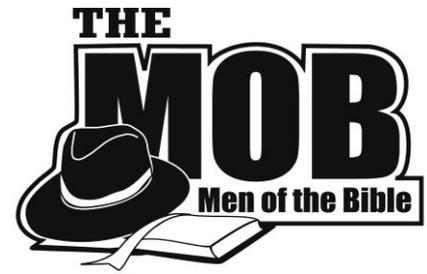
oil on canvas

82.4 in x 66 in



Daniel 5:1-12 (ESV)

Handwriting on the Wall



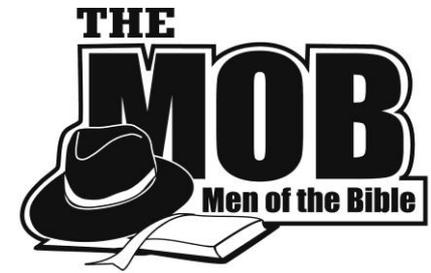
¹ King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand.

² Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. ³ Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. ⁴ They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.



Daniel 5:1-12 (ESV)

Handwriting on the Wall

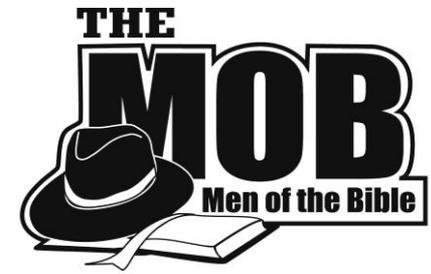


⁵ Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote. ⁶ Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together. ⁷ The king called loudly to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers. The king declared to the wise men of Babylon, "Whoever reads this writing, and shows me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom." ⁸ Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation. ⁹ Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, and his color changed, and his lords were perplexed.



Daniel 5:1-12 (ESV)

Handwriting on the Wall

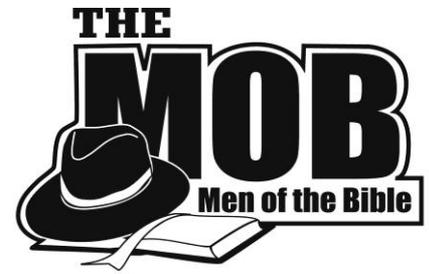


¹⁰ The queen, because of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting hall, and the queen declared, “O king, live forever! Let not your thoughts alarm you or your color change. ¹¹ There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father - your father the king - made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers, ¹² because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.”



Daniel 5:13-30 (ESV)

Daniel Interprets Handwriting

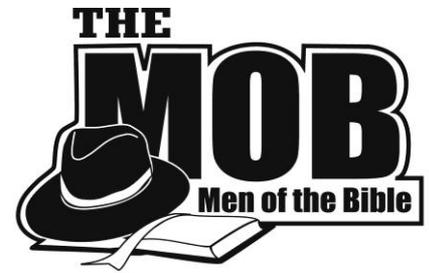


¹³ Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king answered and said to Daniel, “You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah. ¹⁴ I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. ¹⁵ Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, but they could not show the interpretation of the matter. ¹⁶ But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.”



Daniel 5:13-30 (ESV)

Daniel Interprets Handwriting

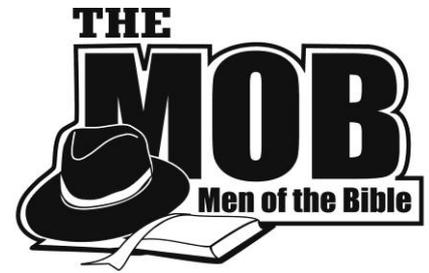


¹⁷ Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation. ¹⁸ O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty. ¹⁹ And because of the greatness that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whom he would, he killed, and whom he would, he kept alive; whom he would, he raised up, and whom he would, he humbled. ²⁰ But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken from him. ²¹ He was driven from among the children of mankind, and his mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. He was fed grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will.



Daniel 5:13-30 (ESV)

Daniel Interprets Handwriting



²² And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, ²³ but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.

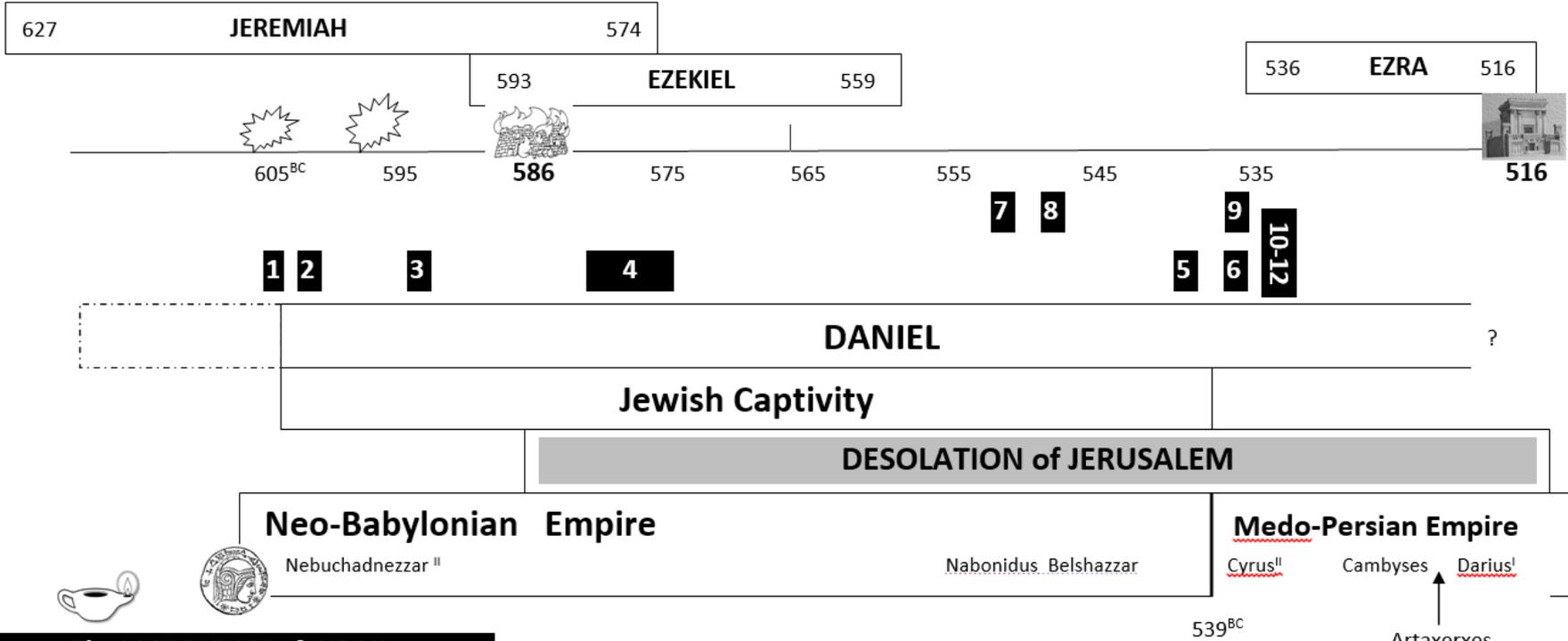
²⁴ “Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed. ²⁵ And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN. ²⁶ This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; ²⁷ TEKEL, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; ²⁸ PERES, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

²⁹ Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

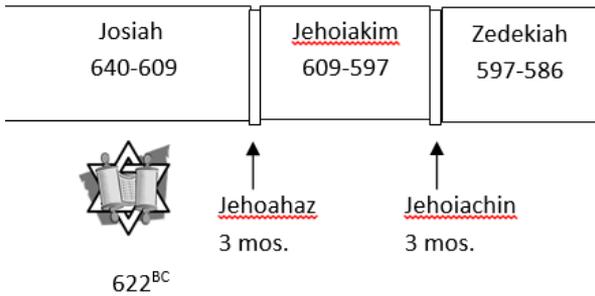
³⁰ That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed.

739-681 ISAIAH
 733-701 Micah
 650-620 Nahum
 636-623 Zephaniah
 621-609 Habakkuk

Israel's SOVEREIGN GOD



The LAST 5 KINGS of JUDAH



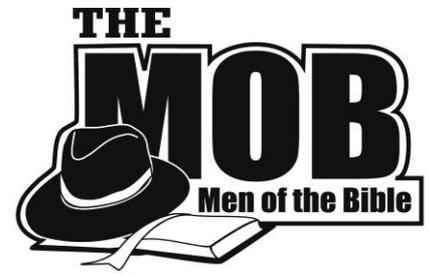
Apocalyptic Literature: Unveiling the secret purposes of God that were previously unknown. These purposes concern world events leading up to the Messianic Kingdom and the end of the world. These events are unveiled mainly by visions.



Daniel 5

Observation

Historical Discussion



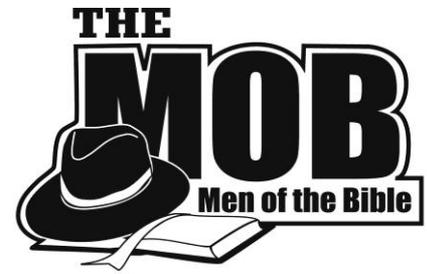
- [Nebuchadnezzar](#) dies ~ 562 BC
- Writing on the Wall event occurs ~ 539 BC (about 24 years after the death of Nebuchadnezzar)
- Daniel chapters 5, 7 & 8 are not in historical sequence; chapters 7 & 8 occur prior to chapter 5
- [Nebuchadnezzar](#) is called [Belshazzar](#)'s "father" six times in chapter 5. The English translation "father" is not likely correct in Chapter 5. The Semitic term used could also mean "grandfather" or a predecessor (king).



Daniel 5

Observation

Historical Discussion (Continued)



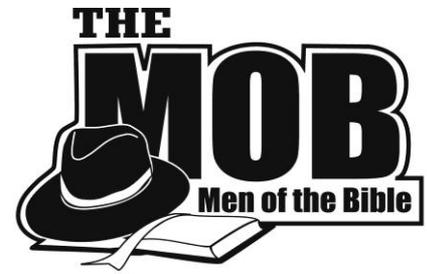
- [Belshazzar](#) served as an officer at the royal court in [Babylon](#) in 560 BC within two years of [Nebuchadnezzar's](#) death. Therefore, he was old enough to have seen and remembered the last years of [Nebuchadnezzar's](#) reign.
- There is some historical indication that [Belshazzar](#) was involved in assassination of a previous [Babylonian](#) king and killed another man out of a fit of jealousy.
([Shepherd's Notes, Daniel, 1998, p.42](#))



Daniel 5

Observation

Historical Discussion (Continued)



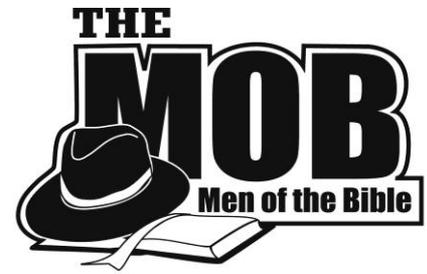
- [Nabonidus](#), the last king of Babylon was likely [Belshazzar](#)'s father.
- [Nabonidus](#) was believed to have resided in [Tema in Arabia](#) about 500 miles from the [city of Babylon](#). His reason for living in [Tema](#) is possibly related to his devotion to the [moon god](#) whose temple was nearby. He appears to have delegated some his authority to rule the [city of Babylon](#) to [Belshazzar](#).



Daniel 5

Observation

Historical Discussion (Continued)



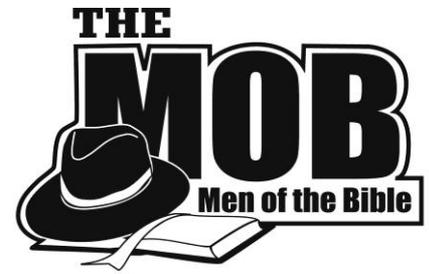
- [Nabonidus](#) is believed to have returned to the area north of the [city of Babylon](#) to unsuccessfully defend against the [Persian](#) invasion
- [Daniel 5:16](#), “third highest ruler” likely meant (1) [Nabonidus](#); (2) [Belshazzar](#) and (3) the person who can translate the writing
- [Cyrus, King of Persia](#), conquered the [Neo-Babylonian Empire](#) in 539 BC



Daniel 5

Observation

Historical Discussion (Continued)



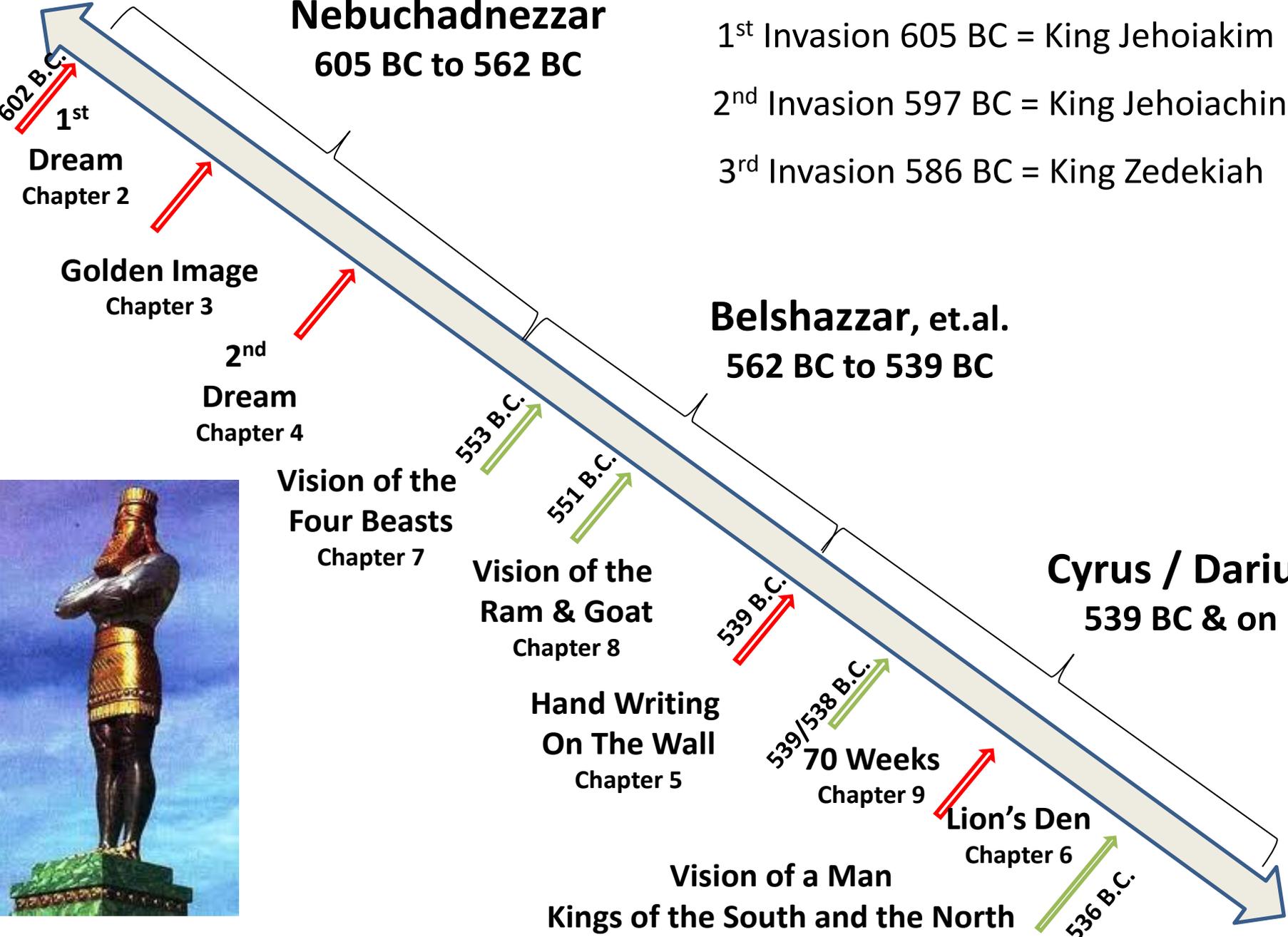
- “Darius the Mede” in Daniel 5:31 may refer to Cyrus, King of Persia. Historical records indicate that “Darius” was not a proper name, but a title like “Pharaoh.”
- Daniel was approximately 82 years old at the time of Chapter 5.

Nebuchadnezzar 605 BC to 562 BC

- 1st Invasion 605 BC = King Jehoiakim
- 2nd Invasion 597 BC = King Jehoiachin
- 3rd Invasion 586 BC = King Zedekiah

Belshazzar, et.al. 562 BC to 539 BC

Cyrus / Darius 539 BC & on



602 B.C.
1st
Dream
Chapter 2

Golden Image
Chapter 3

2nd
Dream
Chapter 4

Vision of the
Four Beasts
Chapter 7

Vision of the
Ram & Goat
Chapter 8

Hand Writing
On The Wall
Chapter 5

70 Weeks
Chapter 9

Lion's Den
Chapter 6

Vision of a Man
Kings of the South and the North
Chapters 10 & 11

553 B.C.

551 B.C.

539 B.C.

539/538 B.C.

536 B.C.



Neo-Babylonian Empire





■ Medo-Pers

SCYTHIA

Black Sea

Caspian Sea

Phasis

MACEDONIA

THRACE

Byzantium

ARMENIA

ASSYRIA

Maraca (Samarka)

GREECE

LYDIA

Sardis

Marathon
Salamis
Athens

CILICIA

Tarsus

Carchemish

Nineveh

MEDIA

HYRCANIA
ELBURZ MTS.

PARTHIA

ARIA

DRANGIANA

Issus

Tadmor

Ecbatana (Achmetha)

Sidon
Tyre

SYRIA
Damascus

Jerusalem

Babylon

Shushan (Susa)

ZAGROS MTS.

ELAM

Persepolis
Pasargadae

PERSIA

GEDROSI

Mediterranean Sea (Great Sea)

LIBYA

Memphis (Noph)

EGYPT

ARABIA

Elath (Eloth)

Tema

No-amon (Thebes)

Syene

Nile

Red Sea

Persian Gulf

0 mi 500

0 km 500



1

2

3

4

5

A

B

C

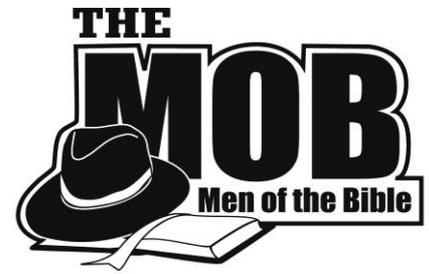
D

E

F



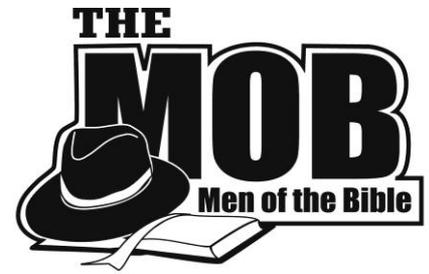
Daniel 5 Interpretation



- Chapter 5 is the origin of two modern popular expressions. What are they?
- What prior commandment from Nebuchadnezzar is Belshazzar violating during the banquet?
- Has Belshazzar forgotten the events of Nebuchadnezzar's life in Chapter 4? If so, what is his risk in doing so?
- Why is Belshazzar enjoying a banquet while enemies are at the gate?



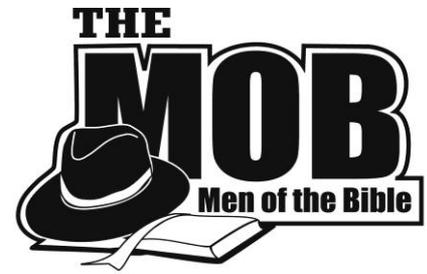
Daniel 5 Interpretation



- Is there possible Biblical significance in the appearance of “the fingers of a human hand” appearing in [Daniel 5:5](#)? Why not just have the writing itself appear?
- Who is the queen in [Daniel 5:10](#)? Why is she the only one who seems to remember Daniel?
- How does Daniel treat the king? Is his treatment of the king reminiscent of earlier chapters in Daniel?
- Why does Daniel refuse payment for his services?
- Why do you think the others present could not understand the writing?



Daniel 5 Interpretation



The Writing and possible literal translations:

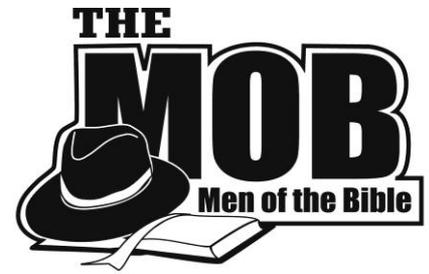
“Mene” ~ = “measure of money” or “numbered”

“Tekel” ~ “shekel” (unit of money) or “weighed”

“Peres” (plural is “parsin”) ~ = “half shekel”,
“half mina”, “divided” or “Persia”



Daniel 5 Interpretation



The Writing as Translated by Daniel, [vv.26-28](#):

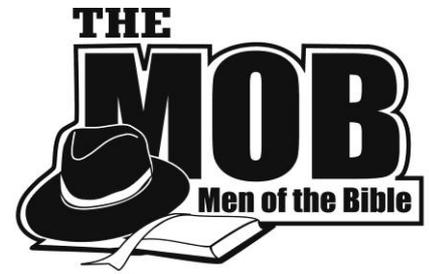
Mene: God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end.

Tekel: You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting.

Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.



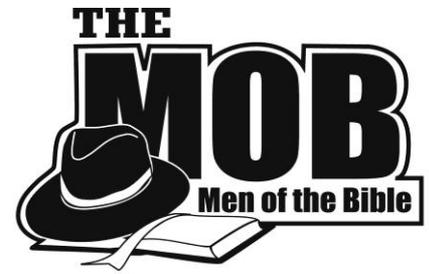
Daniel 5 Application



1. What are the areas of your life that might be “weighed in the balances and found wanting”?
2. What will you do to ensure you will not be “found wanting” now? For eternity?
3. Are you blinded by a false sense of security like Belshazzar or are you blinded by worry over your security? What is the difference? What will you do about it?



Closing



- Questions?
- Comments?
- Closing Prayer