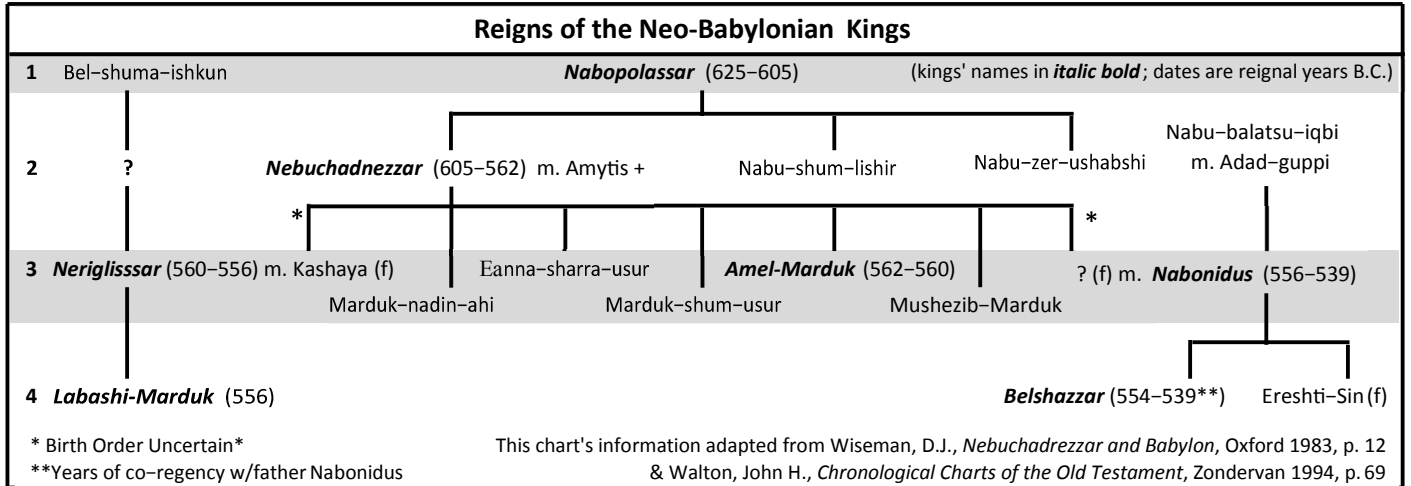


Lesson 5: Most High God Spells out Belshazzar’s Immediate Demise: A Severe Judgment (Dan. chap. 5)

I. Introduction to Chapter 5:

A. Nebuchadnezzar’s Family Role in Babylonian dominance (Jer 27:7; ca. 596 BC)



Notes: Nebuchadnezzar → Amel → Neriglissar (in-law) → Labashi → Nabonidus (in-law) → Belshazzar

2 kings at once:

The Queen (?):

Nebuchadnezzar: ‘father’ of Belshazzar (ex. Gen 49:29-31):

B. In the center of a chiasm?!

- A God of Heaven’s stone smashes 4-part statue of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (chap 2)
- B God of Israel intervenes in the fiery furnace when all must worship Nebuchadnezzar’s idol (chap 3)
- C Most High God chops down Nebuchadnezzar’s pride: A redemptive testimony (chap 4)
- C’ Most High God spells out Belshazzar’s immediate demise: A severe judgment (chap 5)
- B’ The Living God intervenes at the lion’s den when all must worship (?) Darius (chap 6)
- A’ Ancient of Days presides over earth’s 4 failed empires and His own kingdom heirs (chap 7)

C. Medo-Persia’s rise:

II. Summary of the Text

A. 1,000-guest feast (1-4)

B. The mysterious hand (5-9)

C. Recollection of the Queen (10-12)

D. Daniel before the King:

1. Reacquaintance and prize announcement (13-16)

2. God Most High’s former dealings with Nebuchadnezzar recalled (17-21)

3. Belshazzar’s deliberate sacrilege confronted (22-23)

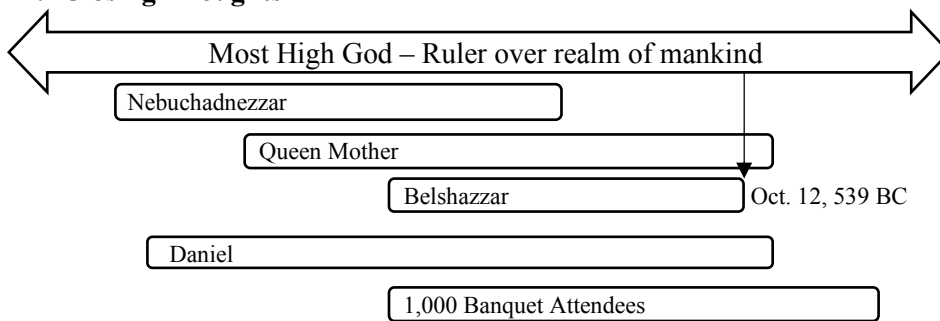
4. Inscription interpreted (24-29)

Writing on the Wall: Verses 25-27				
Units of Weight			Verbal Forms	
Eng. =	Hebrew	Aramaic	Infinitive	Past Participle
24 oz.	Mina 60 shekels	Mene*	to:	God has _____ your kingdom and put an end to it.
.4 oz.	Shekel	Tekel	to:	You have been _____ on the scales and have been found wanting.
divided portions (of the above)		Upharsin	to:	Your kingdom has been _____ and given over to the Medes and the Persians**.

*Doubling of ‘Mene’ may be emphasizing the imminence of the king’s demise, as in ‘You’re finished!’.
 **The consonants ‘prs’ in ‘Upharsin’ may also suggest a word play with the consonants in ‘Persia’.

E. Aftermath (30-31)

III. Closing Thoughts



Would you please read Daniel 6 for next Sunday and pray for the LORD’s continued help and guidance for our class?