

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

February 28, 2021

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:11-26

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Special Music: *Dana Marcukaitis*

Message: *Daniel in the Lion's Den* (Daniel 6:1-28)

Announcements:

Next Sunday our study in Daniel moves away from the narrative section of the book to the more doctrinal section, so you may want to be reading ahead to get the most out of our studies!

The March issue of the *Berean Searchlight* is now available, featuring an article on the Judgment Seat of Christ, a much-debated issue lately in the grace movement.

Assistant Pastor Paul Balbach will be our guest speaker on March 21, as Pastor Kurth ministers the word at the *West Valley Grace Fellowship* in Sun City West, Arizona.

Our offering box is located just left of the kitchen door.

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone

Daniel 5:1-31 *A Feast Unfit for a King*

Nebuchadnezzar was actually Belshazzar's *grandfather*, not his "father" (v.2), but Daniel was writing in Chaldean, and there was no Chaldean word for grandfather, nor any Heb-rew word for it (cf.IISam.9:6,7) or Greek word (cf.Mt.1:1).

Belshazzar asked to drink out of the vessels from Israel's *temple* (v.2,3) to show his contempt for Israel's *God*. So God allowed him to be conquered by the Medes and Persians (Jer.51:37-39; 51:57,58) later that night (Dn.5:30,31).

Daniel 5:5 mentions the hand's "fingers" because back then "the finger of God" was a figure of speech that meant God must have His finger in something (Ex.8:18). But in the Bible, "the finger of God" was a symbol of "the Spirit of God" (Mt.11:28 cf. Lu.11:20). God's Spirit wrote the law (Deut.9:10) and the rest of the Word of God (IIPe.1:20,21).

The Spirit wrote on the wall by "the candlestick" (Dan.5:5) the king probably *also* got from the temple (Jer.52:12-19). God predicted the king's fear *100 years earlier* (Isa.21:2-4).

Belshazzar could only offer his wise men "third" place in the kingdom because his father Nabonidus was actually the king; he was just out of town. That made Belshazzar *himself* second in the kingdom, so he couldn't offer that position as a reward as Pharaoh did for Joseph (Gen.41:42).

Belshazzar's wise men couldn't interpret the writing (cf.Isa. 44:24,25) for *it was God's Word*, and unsaved men can't understand the Word (ICor.2:14). Only a man with the Spirit can, something we see symbolized by the way God laid out the temple. The bread on the table of showbread had *two rows of six loaves* (Lev.24:5,6) to represent the Bible's 66 books, for man doesn't live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from God's mouth. God parked that bread under the candlestick that

represents the Spirit to symbolize that only He can shed “light” on God’s Word.

The queen heard the king’s fear and came in (5:9,10). She must have been his mother, for “all” his wives were already at the party (5:2). She told him to call Daniel in to interpret the writing (5:11-17). Daniel refused the king’s offer to be Babylon’s 3rd ruler, even though he accepted a reward from his grandfather (Dan.2:48), because he knew Babylon would fall that night and most of her rulers would likely be killed. Besides, he had all the “chains” (5:16) he needed (Pr.1:7-9).

After Daniel reminded the king that pride had been his grandfather’s downfall (5:18-25), he began to interpret his dream. “Mene” (v.26) means *numbered* and, being a prophet, Daniel amplified it to mean God had numbered the years of his kingdom to be 70 years (Jer.25:11,12), and his number was up! “Tekel” (Dan.5:27) means *weighed*, which Daniel amplified to mean he’d been weighed and found wanting. “Peres” (v.28) was a form of “upharsin” and meant his kingdom would be “divided” to the combined kingdom of Media-Persia. God predicted this 100 years earlier and said they couldn’t be bribed to *not* conquer them (Isa.13:1,17).

Daniel eventually had to *accept* a position as 3rd ruler because the king “commanded” it (Dan.5:29), and God’s people are supposed to do what the king commands. Besides, he just got done acting like the 3rd person in *God’s* kingdom, the Spirit, when he interpreted the Word of God. Joseph was a type of Christ, the 2nd person in the Trinity, so God allowed him to be made the 2nd ruler in Egypt.

God sketched out how Babylon would fall (Isa.21:4-9), but didn’t give the full story that history gives us. History says the Medes and Persians dammed up the Euphrates River that ran through Babylon, allowing them to sneak in under the massive walls. Belshazzar and all his rulers were too drunk to fight them off, or even believe the initial reports that the wall had been breached.

Why wouldn’t God include that great story in the Bible? Because Babylon will rise and fall again, and *this* fall is a type of *that* fall, and God didn’t want you to think future Babylon will fall the same way, for it will burn (Rev.18). Future Babylonians will be saying “peace and safety,” just as they did in ancient Babylon, but destruction will fall on them just as suddenly (IThes.5:3) “in one hour” (Rev.18:10).

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

February 28, 2021

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Thornton Harrison, Dave Stewart

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

Myrtle Harrison

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Assistant Pastor Steve Schwieger

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