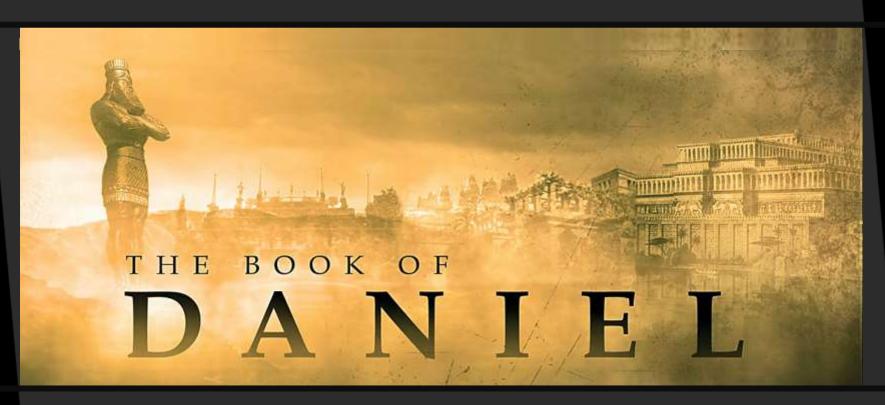
#### calvary chaper portsmouth





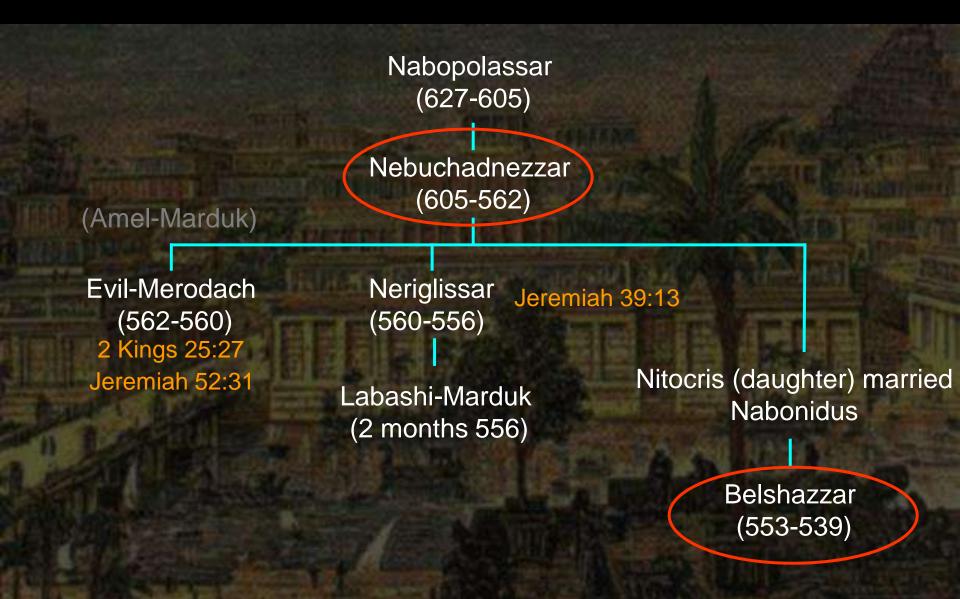
...a verse by verse study

# Chronological Order

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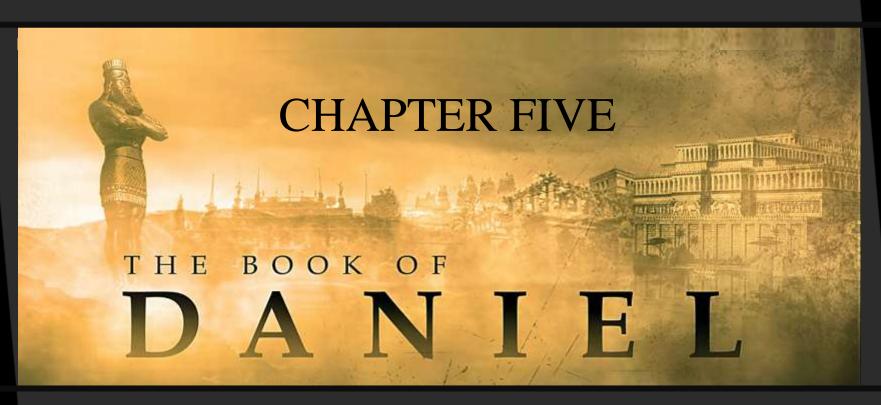
1	Babylonian Captivity	606 B.C.
2	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	604 B.C.
3	Nebuchadnezzar's Image	587 B.C.
4	Nebuchadnezzar's Pride	570-563 B.C.
7	The vision of the 4 beasts	552 B.C.
8	Ram and He-goat vision	550 B.C.
5	Babylon falls to Persians	539 B.C.
6	The Lions' Den	539 B.C.
9	Vision of seventy weeks	537 B.C.
10 -	12 Closing visions	536 B.C.

# Kings of Babylonian Empire









...a verse by verse study

<sup>1</sup> Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand

## The Fall of the Babylonian Empire

- Nebuchadnezzar has been dead 23yrs
- News that the united Meads & Persians are now on the move and heading for Babylon has filtered through to the Palace
- In this emergency situation what should the king do?
- Throw a party!
  - 1000 of the lords of Babylon invited
    - If over confidence was his first mistake...

<sup>2</sup> Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

- At that time Merodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah: for he had heard that he had been sick, and was recovered.
- And Hezekiah was glad of them, and shewed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures:

- <sup>2</sup> there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.
- Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country unto me, even from Babylon.

- 4 Then said he, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All that is in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.
- <sup>5</sup> Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the Lord of hosts:
- 6 Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon:

- 6...nothing shall be left, saith the Lord.
- And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

- In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.
- <sup>2</sup> And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

**Daniel 1:1-2** 

- Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.
- 4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone

**Daniel 5:3-4** 

- 17 Every man is brutish by his knowledge; every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them.
- 18 They are vanity, the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

**Jeremiah 51:17-18** 

- Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:
- <sup>2</sup> Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.
- For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

**Jeremiah 10:1-5** 

- 4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.
- They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.

Jeremiah 10:1-5

- 4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.
- They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not:
- They have ears, but they hear not:noses have they, but they smell not:
- They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat.

8 They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.

Psalm 115:4-8

In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

- This would be enough to ruin anyone's party!
- This writing didn't just appear on the wall in any old place, it appeared by the candlestick – the brightest spot in the room so all would see.

# The Handwriting on the Wall



<sup>6</sup> Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.

Daniel 5:6

 In case you are unclear as to the King James phrase 'his loins were loosed' – lets just say he needed the bathroom but didn't make it in time! The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

# Professional Religion

- As in Ch 2, people are quick to turn to 'religion' when problems arise to seek answers from the 'professional' religious leaders.
  - they can seldom give the answers!
- Much is made in our day of 'ordained ministers' and so often the world will turn to them in the event of a tragedy or problem for their opinion
- Yet these are the ones we see undermining the word of God and compromising in order to be seen to be politically correct!
- Those ordained and appointed by men will forever be answerable to men.

8 Then came in all the king's wise men: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof

- Why couldn't anyone read the writing?
- The consensus is that it was encrypted

<sup>9</sup> Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonied

- In verse 6 Belshazzar was troubled and his countenance changed.
- Now he is really worried (Aramaic = exceedingly terrified) and it is obvious.
- It would appear from the word 'astonied' = shebash (Aramaic), that his lords were 'perplexed' because of the kings reactions.

<sup>9</sup> Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonied

- Wasn't this the king who had thrown a party to demonstrate his invincibility?
- Now he has not only wet his pants in public, but has turned white as a sheet because no one can explain what this writing means.

#### Belshazzar's Transgression

- We have seen the king make four major mistakes:
  - Overconfidence/Pride (verse 1)
  - Open defiance of the God of Heaven (verse 2)
  - Drinking to excess (verse 3)
  - Worshipping false gods (verse 4)
- Seldom do people in such open rebellion not know why judgment has come upon them.
- The king's conscience had already convicted him before a word had been spoken.
- People are wise after the event, but arrogant before.

Now the queen, by reason of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed

**Daniel 5:10** 

 The person referred to here as the queen is what we would understand as the queen mother, and from the writings of the Greek historian Herodotus, it would appear to be Nitocris, wife of Nabonidus and daughter of Nebuchadnezzar, whom Herodotus mentions as a 'woman of extraordinary prudence'. There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers;

12 Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation

**Daniel 5:12** 

 As Nebuchadnezzar's daughter she would have been well acquainted with Daniel and his exploits during her father's reign, and seems to put in a public 'dig' saying that Nebuchadnezzar your grandfather (in law) was a real king!

#### Daniel's Witness

- Maybe because Daniel cared for her father for the seven years of chapter 4, she seems to be fond of Daniel and presents a brief resume' that is bound to impress.
- She acknowledges (in verse 11) that the spirit of the 'holy gods' is in him and boldly declares that he will shew the interpretation.
- This shows her faith not only in Daniel but in his 'Gods' – plural: Father, Son & Spirit.
- Daniel would have been around 81 years old by now!

13 Then was Daniel brought in before the king. And the king spake and said unto Daniel, Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry

14 I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee.

- Note the king's humility... "Even I have heard of you..."
- This begs the question, why was Daniel not called immediately?

If And now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but they could not shew the interpretation of the thing

16 And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.

#### **Enter Daniel!**

- The aged (81yrs) Daniel is sent for and arrives in the banqueting hall
- He first gives Belshazzar a telling off!
- Then begins to interpret the dream

17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation

**Daniel 5:17** 

- 18 O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour:
- 19 And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down.

**Daniel 5:18-19** 

20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: <sup>21</sup>And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.

- 22 And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this;
- 23 But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

#### The Proud Abased!

- Just picture this situation:
- In the middle of his big party, with a thousand of his lords present, a hand out of nowhere writes on the wall.
- The king has an 'accident' and turns as white as a sheet.
- The best men of the land are unable to help him.
- By now word has got out about what has happened (the whole city has probably heard about his 'problem')

#### The Proud Abased!

- His mum hears about it, comes in and embarrasses him yet further;
- Eventually an 81-year-old man is called who, in front of a thousand lords, gives him a right telling off – and we haven't even got to the interpretation of the writing yet!

 This is a classic case of God resisting the proud, and should serve as a graphic example that pride is an abomination to the Lord (see Proverbs 16:5)

- Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written.
- <sup>25</sup> And this is the writing that was written, mene, mene, tekel, upharsin.

**Daniel 5:24-25** 

## The First Cryptologist

Interpreting the "Handwriting on the Wall"

## Encryptions in the Bible

- Albam
- Atbash

- Albam used in Isaiah 7:6
- Atbash used in Jeremiah 25:26

#### Albam





#### Atbash

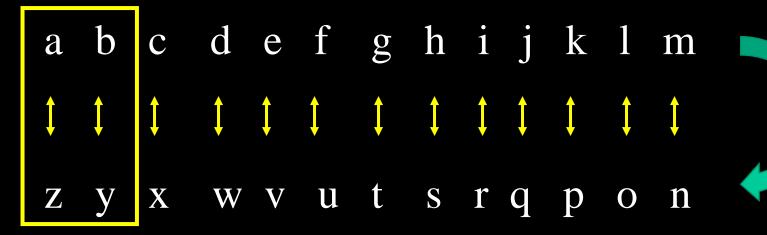


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a b g d h w z j f y k

Aleph becomes Tau / Bet becomes Shin

t v r q x p x s n m L
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- <sup>26</sup> This is the interpretation of the thing: mene; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.
- <sup>27</sup> tekel; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.
- 28 peres; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians

**Daniel 5:26-28** 

## The Handwriting on the Wall



# The Interpretation j gw kda tfy tfy

- Mene (Mene) tfy tfy
  - · God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it
- Tekel KOA
  - You are weighed and are found wanting
- -Peres j gw
  - Your kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

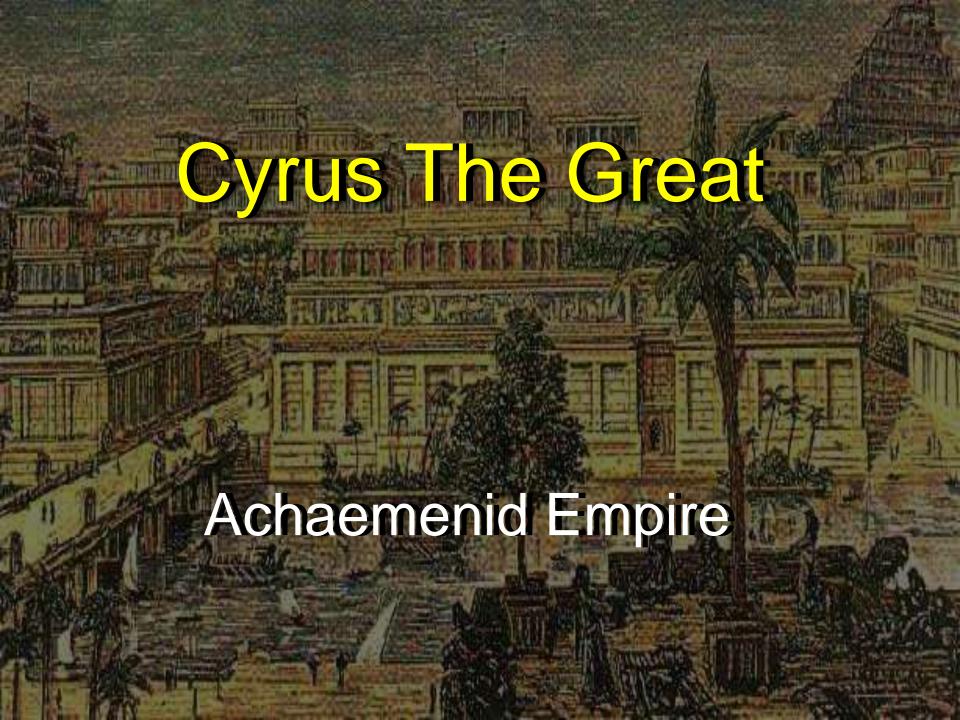
#### Paras is also the word for Persians

 Thus king Belshazzar's worst fears are realised, his time of playing games with the God of Israel is over, in the most dramatic fashion. <sup>29</sup> Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

**Daniel 5:29** 

# In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain

**Daniel 5:30** 



#### Cyrus The Great

- Cyrus established the great Medo-Persian empire – uniting the Meads and Persians
  - His father was Cambyses I (600-559 B.C.)
    - King of Anshan (East Elam)
  - His mother was Madane
    - Daughter of Astyages, king of Media
- In 550 B.C he attacked his corrupt father-in-law,
   Astyages, & captured Ecbatana without a battle
- He successfully brought the Medes and Persians together into a unified Empire that lasted two centuries



- His empire stretched the Aegean Sea to the Indus River
- He was heralded as a brave, daring yet tolerant and magnanimous leader
- In 1971 Iran celebrated the 2500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his monarchy

## Cyrus' Conquest of Babylon

- On October 12<sup>th</sup>, 539 B.C. Cyrus' general captured Babylon without a Battle
- His army diverted the flow of the river Euphrates into a canal further upstream causing the water level to drop as it entered Babylon
  - The height of the river dropped "to the height of the middle of a man's thigh" - Herodotus
- It was a stroke of genius as it allowed his army to get under the gates that protected the city by literally walking in through the river bed.

#### Isaiah's Letter to Cyrus

- When Cyrus made his grand entrance to Babylon a few days later, Josephus records that Daniel presented him with a scroll of Isaiah
- Daniel specifically showed him ch 44-45 where Isaiah addresses Cyrus by name, and describes the way Belshazar would fall and the way Cyrus' army would enter the city!
  - Remember that Isaiah had died 150 years before Cyrus was born!
- Cyrus was duly impressed!
- He subsequently freed the Jewish captives and allowed them to return home to rebuild

Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish;

Isaiah 44:24-25

- That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof:
- That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers:

Isaiah 44:26-27

- That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.
- Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

Isaiah 44:28-45:1

- <sup>2</sup> I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:
- And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.
- 4 For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name:
- I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

Isaiah 45:2-4

#### The Decree of Cyrus

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, <sup>2</sup> Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

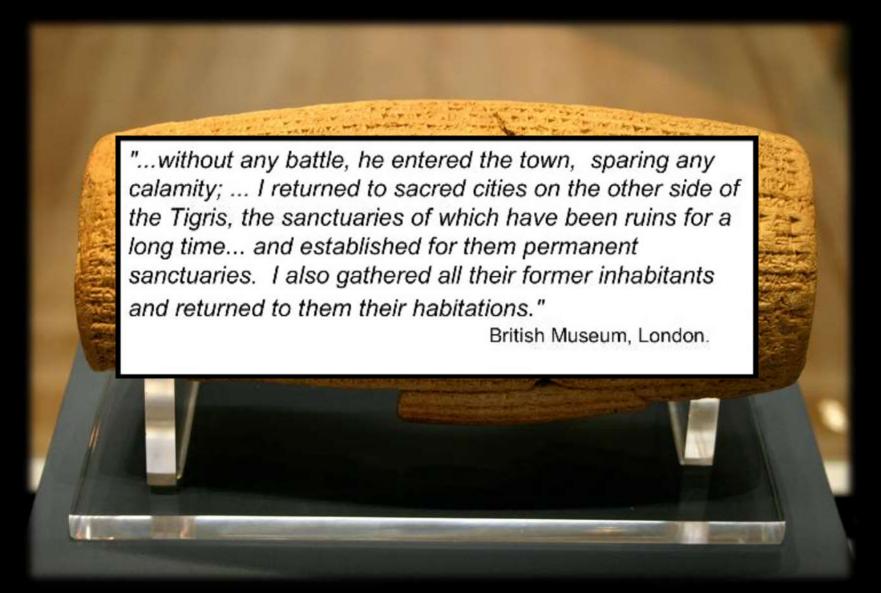
#### The Decree of Cyrus

- Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem.
- And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.

## The Steele of Cyrus



#### The Steele of Cyrus



#### The Doom of Babylon

#### Fall of Babylon

539 BC

- Without a battle
- Became Alexander's capital
- Atrophied over the centuries
- Presently being rebuilt
- Destruction of Babylon

Isaiah 13, 14; Jeremiah 50, 51

- "Never to be inhabited"
- "Building materials never reused"
- "Like Sodom and Gomorrah"
- "Mystery Babylon?"

Revelation 17-18

## Destruction of Babylon

	Isaiah		Jeremiah		Revelation	
	13	14	50	51	17	18
Many Nations Attacking	4, 5	2, 26	2, 9 41, 46	7	16	
Israel in the Land, Forgiven		1	4, 20			
Like Sodom & Gomorrah	19		40			
Never to be inhabited Bricks never reused	20	23	13, 26 39	26, 29 37		
During "Day of the Lord"	6, 10 11, 13		25		?	?
Literal (Chaldean) Babylon	19	22	50	4, 24 63		
King's fornication  Drunk with wine				7	2	3, 9
Scarlet, purple Golden Cup				7	3, 4	6, 16

<sup>31</sup> And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

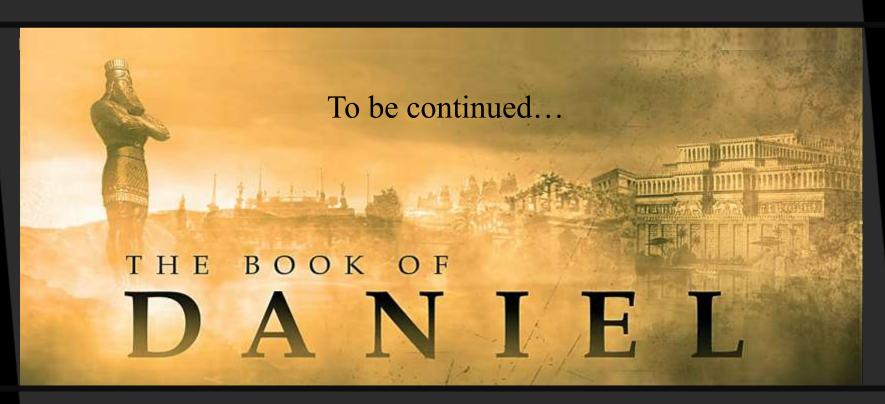
**Daniel 5:31** 

## Kings of Persian Empire

Cyrus (559-530) (537 B.C. Jews Return Home) Darius (Gubaru) (539-?) Ruled Babylon Cambyses II (Artaxerxes – Ezra 4:7-24) (530-521) (Work on Temple stopped) **Smerdis** (8 months 521-520) Darius The Great (Hystaspes) (520 486) (Ezra 4:24) Xerxes (Esther) (486-465)Artaxerxes Longimanus (465-424)







...a verse by verse study

