A golden scale of justice is shown against a dark, textured background. The scale's beam is vertical, and a horizontal pan is suspended from it. The pan contains the text 'WEIGHED' and 'BALANCES'. The word 'WEIGHED' is at the top, and 'BALANCES' is at the bottom. The pan is tilted slightly to the right. The text is in a bold, serif font, with 'in the' in a smaller, cursive font between the two main words. The scale is made of a bright, reflective metal, possibly gold or brass, and is suspended by chains. The background is a dark, mottled brown with a vertical light streak running through the center, suggesting a beam of light or a shadow.

WEIGHED

in the

BALANCES

DANIEL 5:27

606 B.C.
Daniel,
Hananiah,
Mishael &
Azariah taken
to
"Shinar"
(Daniel 1:1)



605 B.C.
Nebuchadnezzar
ascends to the
throne of
Babylon
(Jer 25:1; 46:2)



597 B.C.
A second group
of captives of
10,000 Jews,
including Ezekiel,
taken to Babylon.
(2 Kings 24:8-16;
Ezekiel 1:1-3)



586 B.C.
Jerusalem falls
and the temple
was destroyed
during the reign
of Zedekiah
(2 Kings 25:1-7).

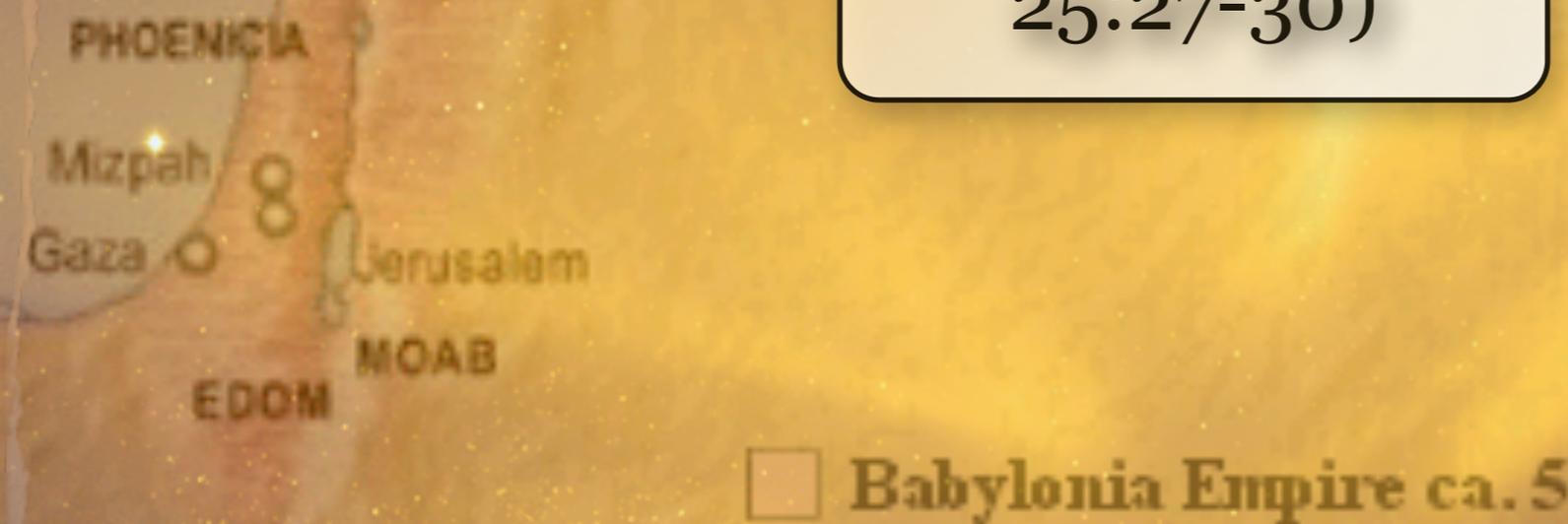
 Babylonia Empire ca. 560 B.C



562 B.C
Nebuchadnezzar
died in 562 b.c.
after ruling 43
years.& succeeded
by his son, Evil-
Merodach....
(Jeremiah 52:31;
II Kings
25:27-30)

◆ Evil-Merodach ruled for two years (562-560 b.c., 2 Kings 25:27-30; Jer. 52:31-34) & was murdered in August 560 by Neriglissar, Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law and Evil-Merodach's brother-in-law.

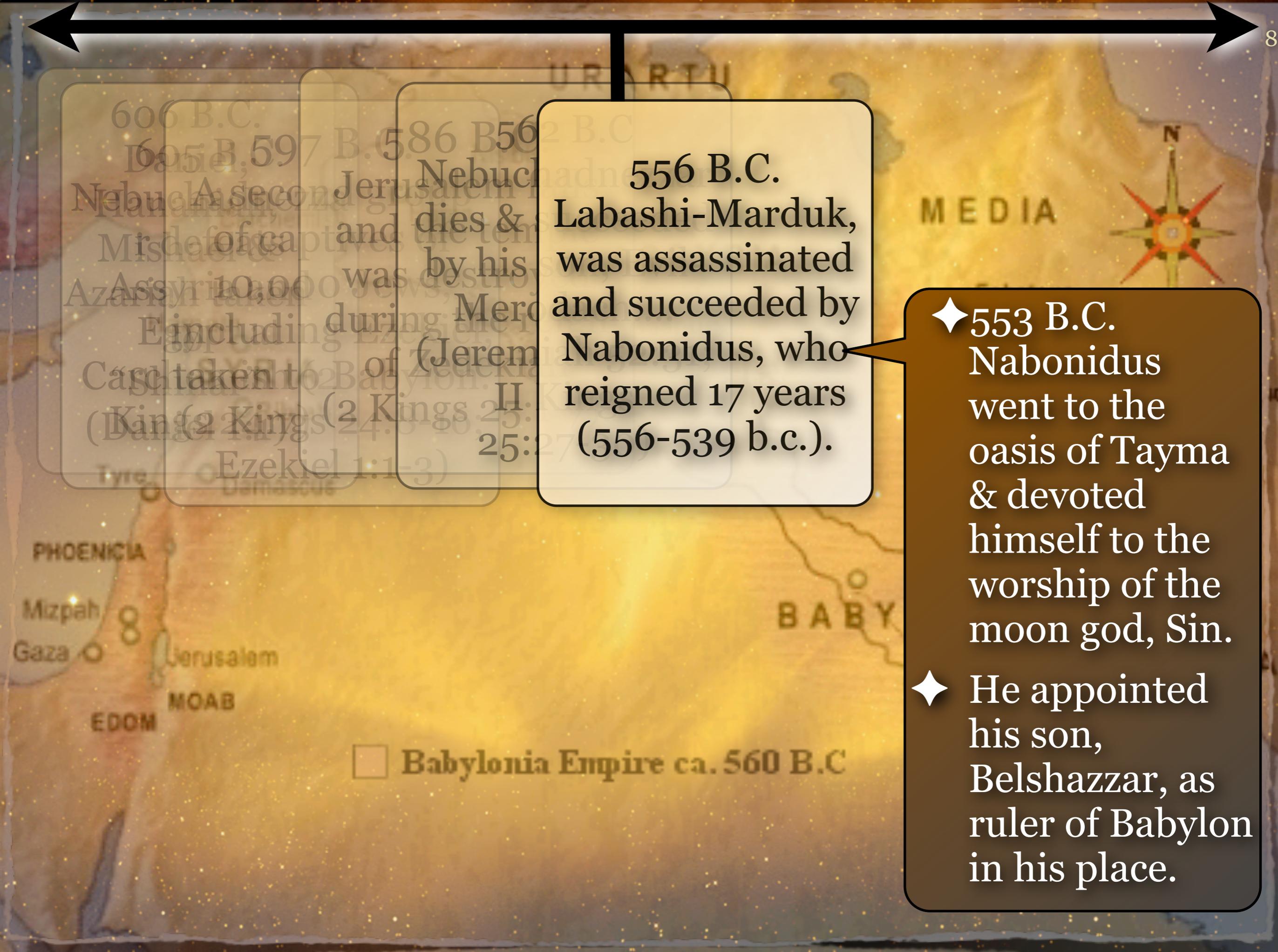
◆ Neriglissar then ruled four years (560-556 b.c.). [*He is the Nergal-Sharezer mentioned in Jer 39:3, 13*]. At his death, succeeded by his young son Labashi-Marduk, who ruled two months (May and June 556)



556 B.C.
 Labashi-Marduk,
 was assassinated
 and succeeded by
 Nabonidus, who
 reigned 17 years
 (556-539 b.c.).

- ◆ 553 B.C. Nabonidus went to the oasis of Tayma & devoted himself to the worship of the moon god, Sin.
- ◆ He appointed his son, Belshazzar, as ruler of Babylon in his place.

□ Babylonia Empire ca. 560 B.C



Weighed In The Balances



The Nabonidus Cylinder

- ◆ For years, historians knew nothing about Belshazzar, so many Biblical critics pointed to Daniel 5 as evidence against the accuracy Bible.
- ◆ In 1853 inscriptions in stone were unearthed by archaeologists which reveal that Nabonidus, much of the time, was in retirement outside of Babylon, and that Belshazzar, his son, was co-regent.

Weighed In The Balances

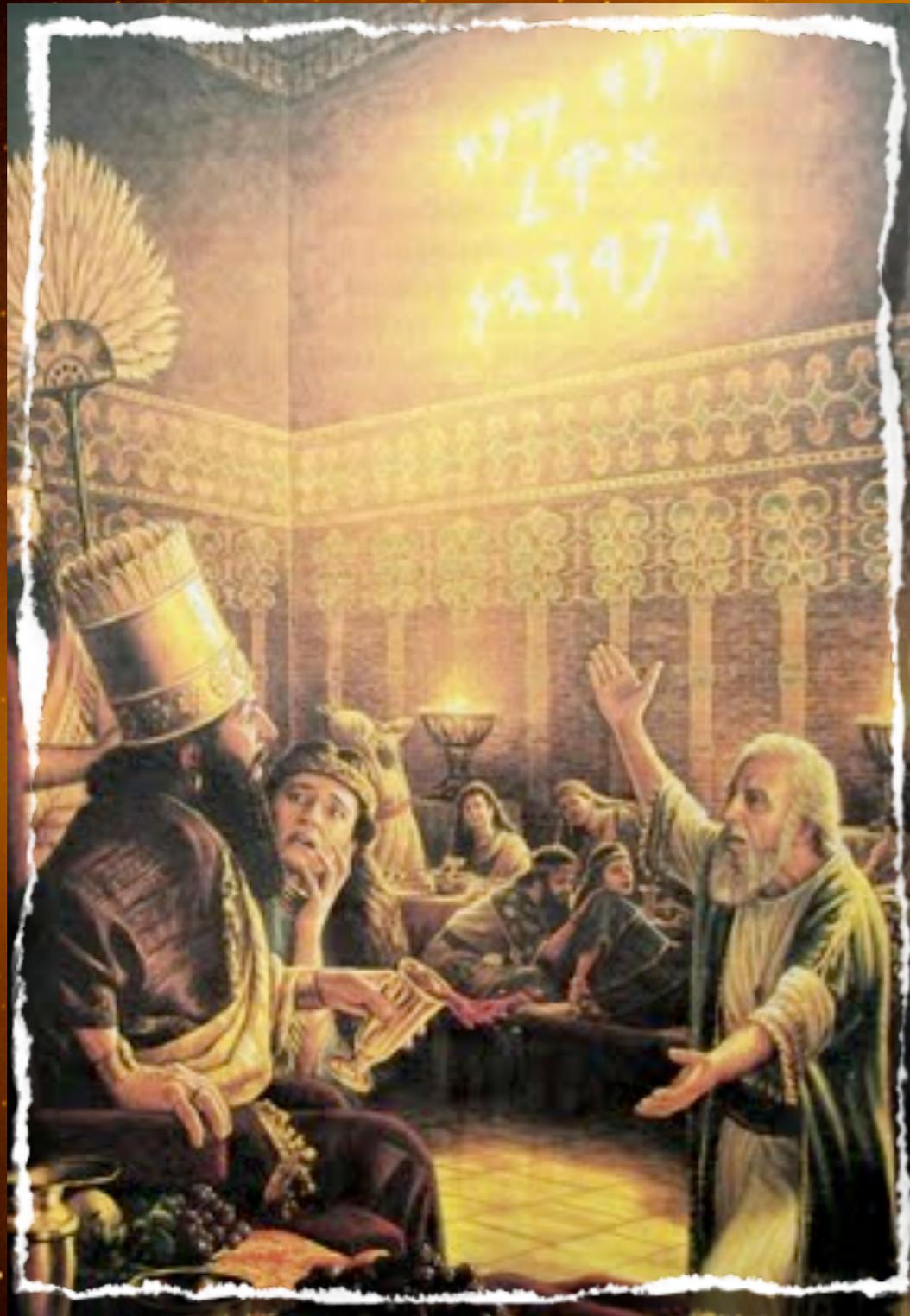


The Nabonidus Cylinder

"And as for Belshazzar my firstborn son, my own child, let the fear of your great divinity be in his heart, and may he commit no sin; may he enjoy happiness in life".

"[Nabonidus] entrusted the army to his oldest son, his first born, the troops in the country he ordered under his command. He let everything go, entrusted the kingship to him, and, himself, he started out for a long journey. The military forces of Akkad marching with him, he turned to Temâ deep in the west" (Col. II, lines 18 - 29. 18).

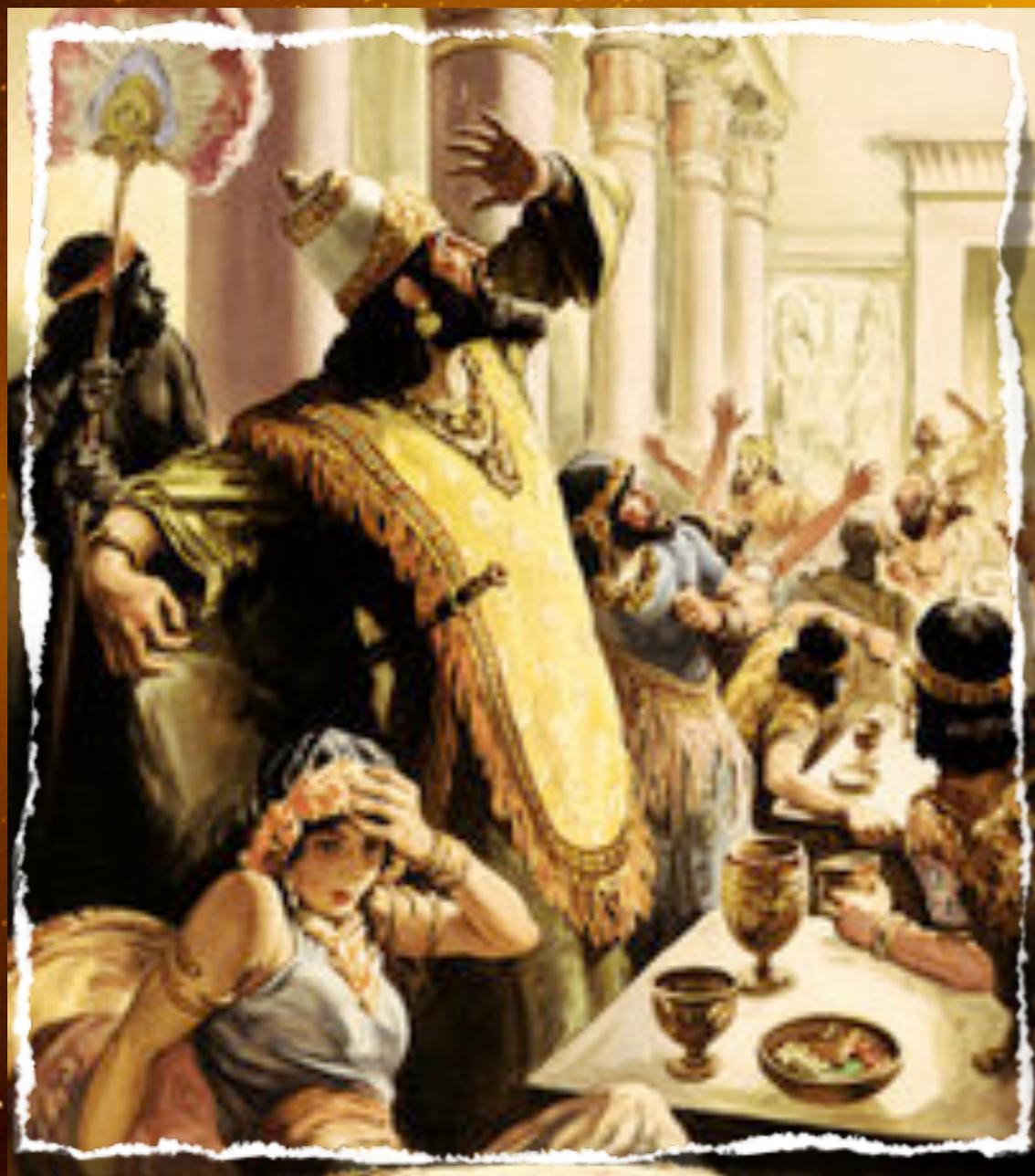
Weighed In The Balances



- ◆ Nabonidus returned 540 B.C. to defend against the Persians. In 539 B.C. Belshazzar was positioned in the city of Babylon to hold the capital, while Nabonidus, marched his troops north to meet Cyrus.
- ◆ October 10, 539 B.C. Nabonidus surrendered to Cyrus & exiled.
- ◆ Two days later, October 12, 539 B.C., the Persian armies overthrew the city of Babylon.

Weighed In The Balances

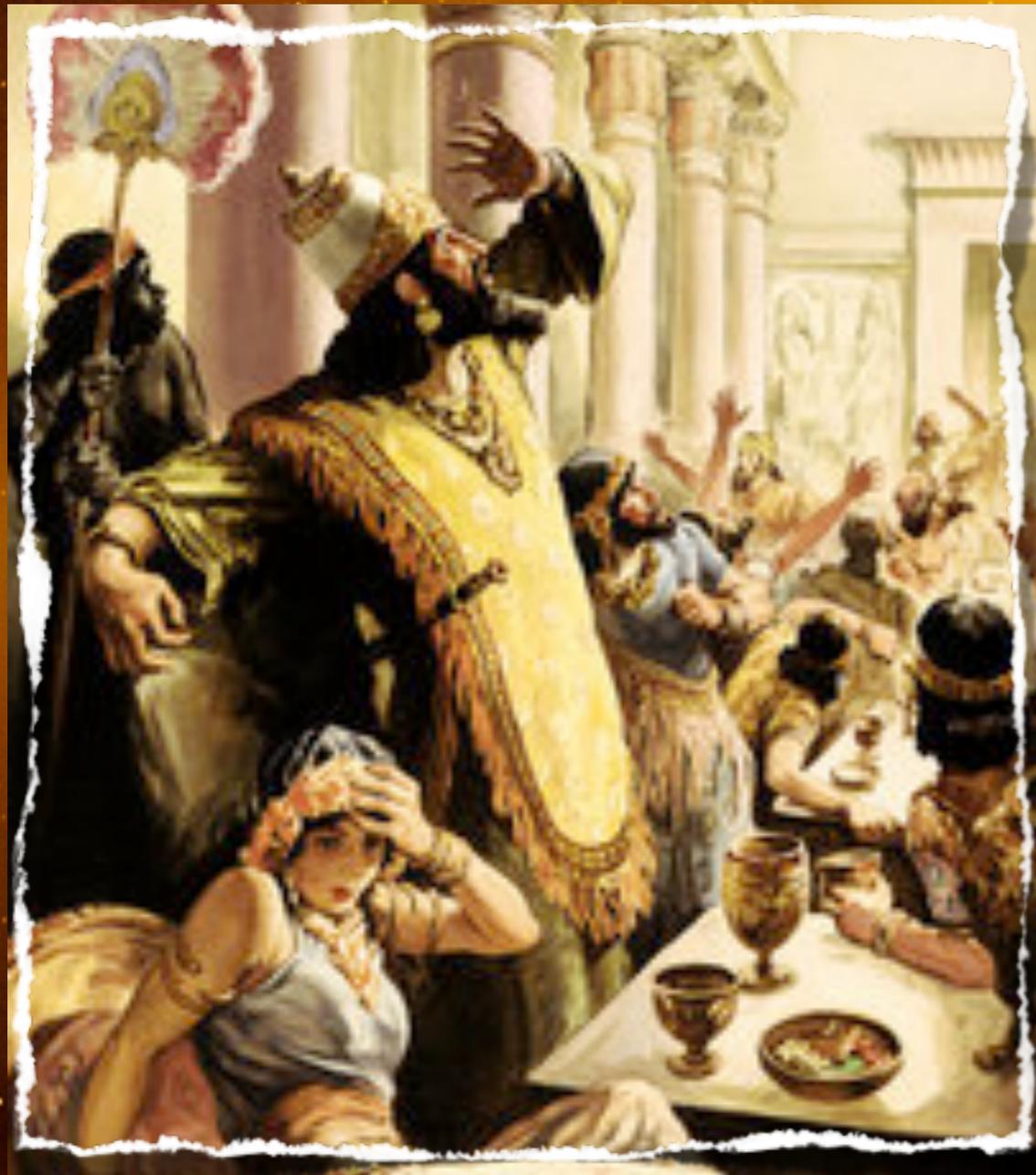
The Revelry of the King - (5:1-4)



- ◆ Belshazzar throws a feast for 1,000 of his nobles - (1)
- * Babylon was at that moment being besieged by Cyrus' army
- * Belshazzar's name means "Bel (*i.e.*, *Marduk*) has protected the king." - This feast was in honor of his god's in a time of war.
- * Belshazzar felt safe within the massive walls (85' x 350') with supplies to last 20 years.

Weighed In The Balances

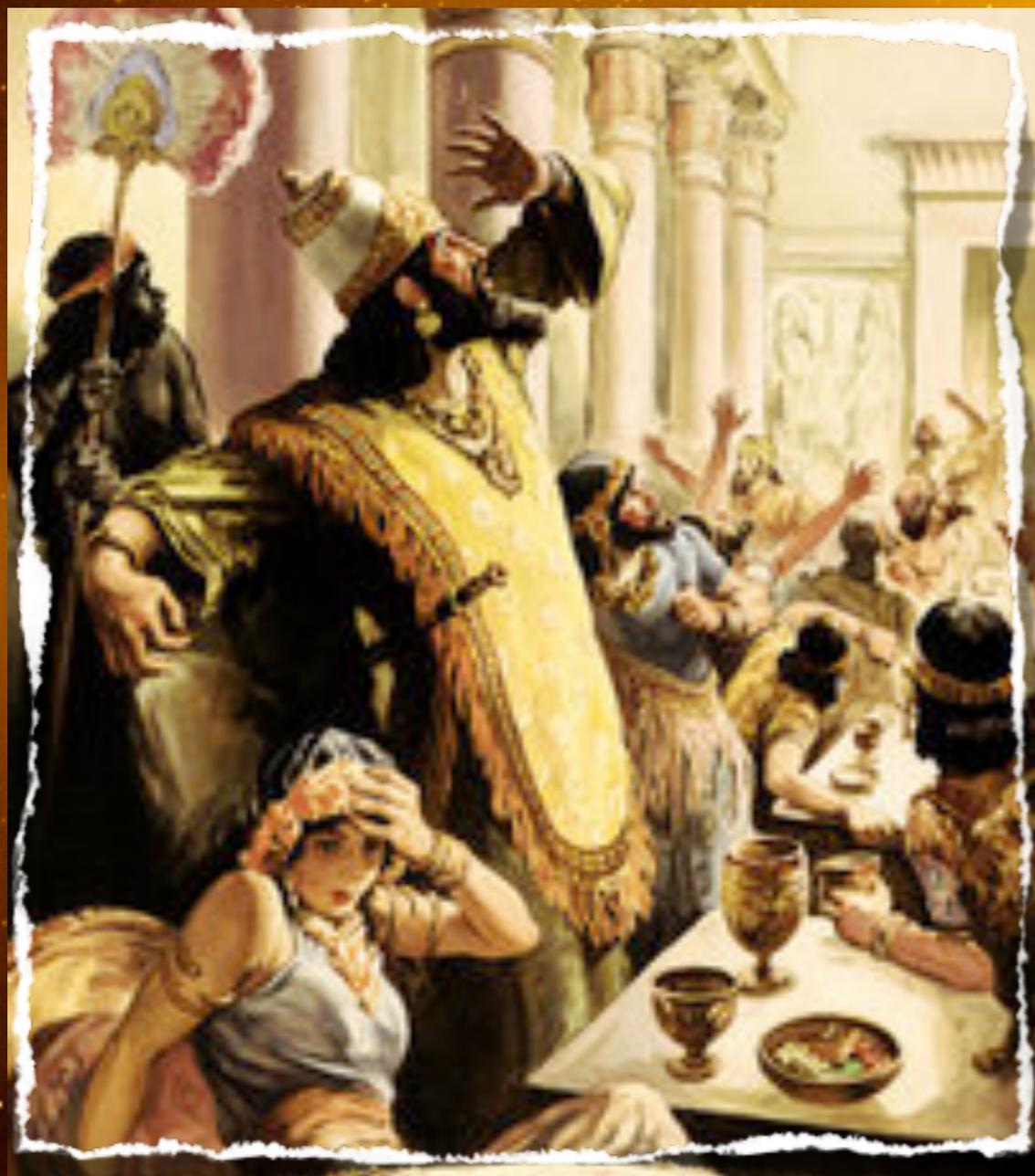
The Revelry of the King - (5:1-4)



- ◆ Things Of The Temple Desecrated - (2,3)
 - * Belshazzar orders vessels taken from the temple in Jerusalem, (2 Chr 36:10), be brought that they may drink wine from them in honor his god - (2)
 - * Nabonidus (*Belshazzar's father*) was probably Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law, making him Belshazzar's "grand-father"

Weighed In The Balances

The Revelry of the King - (5:1–4)



- ◆ Things Of The Temple Desecrated - (2,3)
 - * Belshazzar took that which was sanctified for a divine use and prostituted it to a common and debased use (Exodus 40:9–10; 1 Kings 8:14; Ezra 8:28).
 - * He used them to honor the name of “his gods” further insulting the one and only true God - (Habakkuk 1:5-11; Isaiah 42:8; 48:11).

Weighed In The Balances

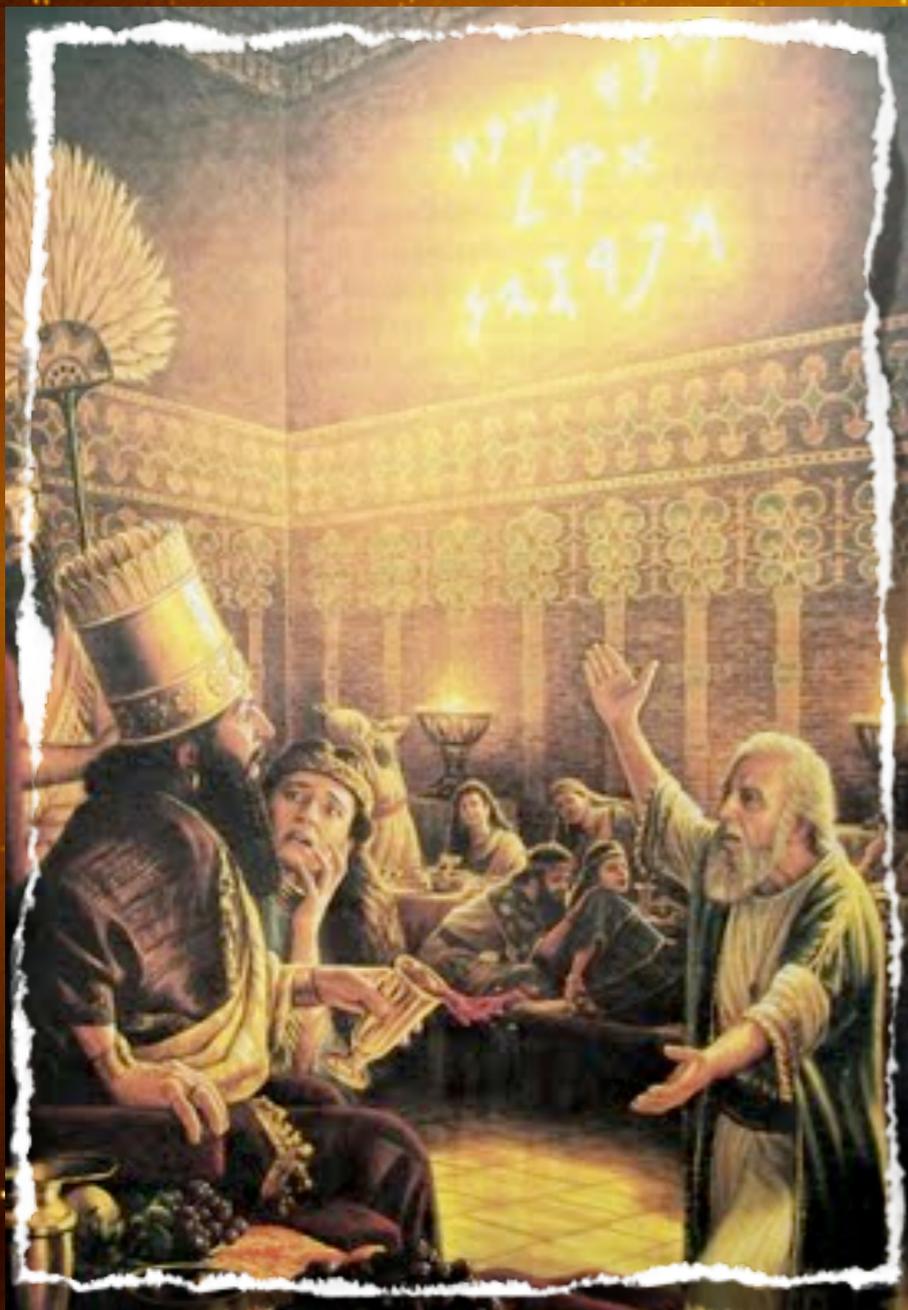
The Trembling King - (5:5-9)



- ◆ The fingers of a man's hand writes a message on the wall - (5)
- ◆ The king is terrified - (6)
- ◆ Belshazzar summons the wise men, enchanters, astrologers, and diviners, promising to reward whoever could interpret the meaning of this strange phenomenon. **NONE COULD!** (7-9)

Weighed In The Balances

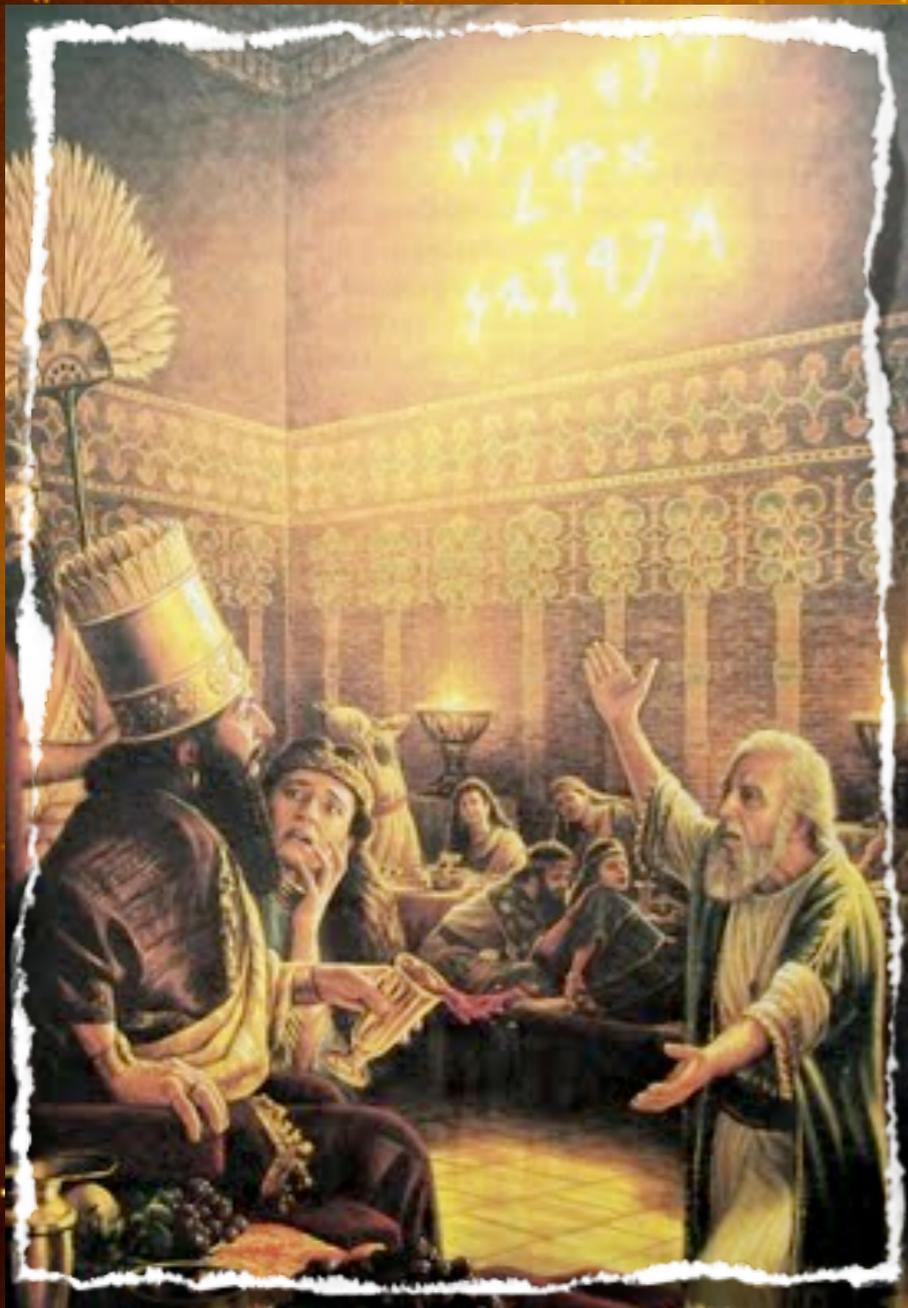
Daniel Is Summoned - (5:10-16)



- ◆ Arrival of the queen - (10-12)
 - * May have been Belshazzar's mother, Nitrocis, Nebuchadnezzar's daughter (cf. 5:1-2; II Chro 15:16).
 - * She evidently had previous contact with Daniel - She said, "he has the spirit of the holy God" (11; cf. 4:8-9, 18; 5:14).
 - * She knew of his insight, intelligence, wisdom (v. 11), knowledge, understanding & ability to interpret dreams (v. 12).
 - * Daniel can give the interpretation (12)

Weighed In The Balances

Daniel Is Summoned - (5:10-16)

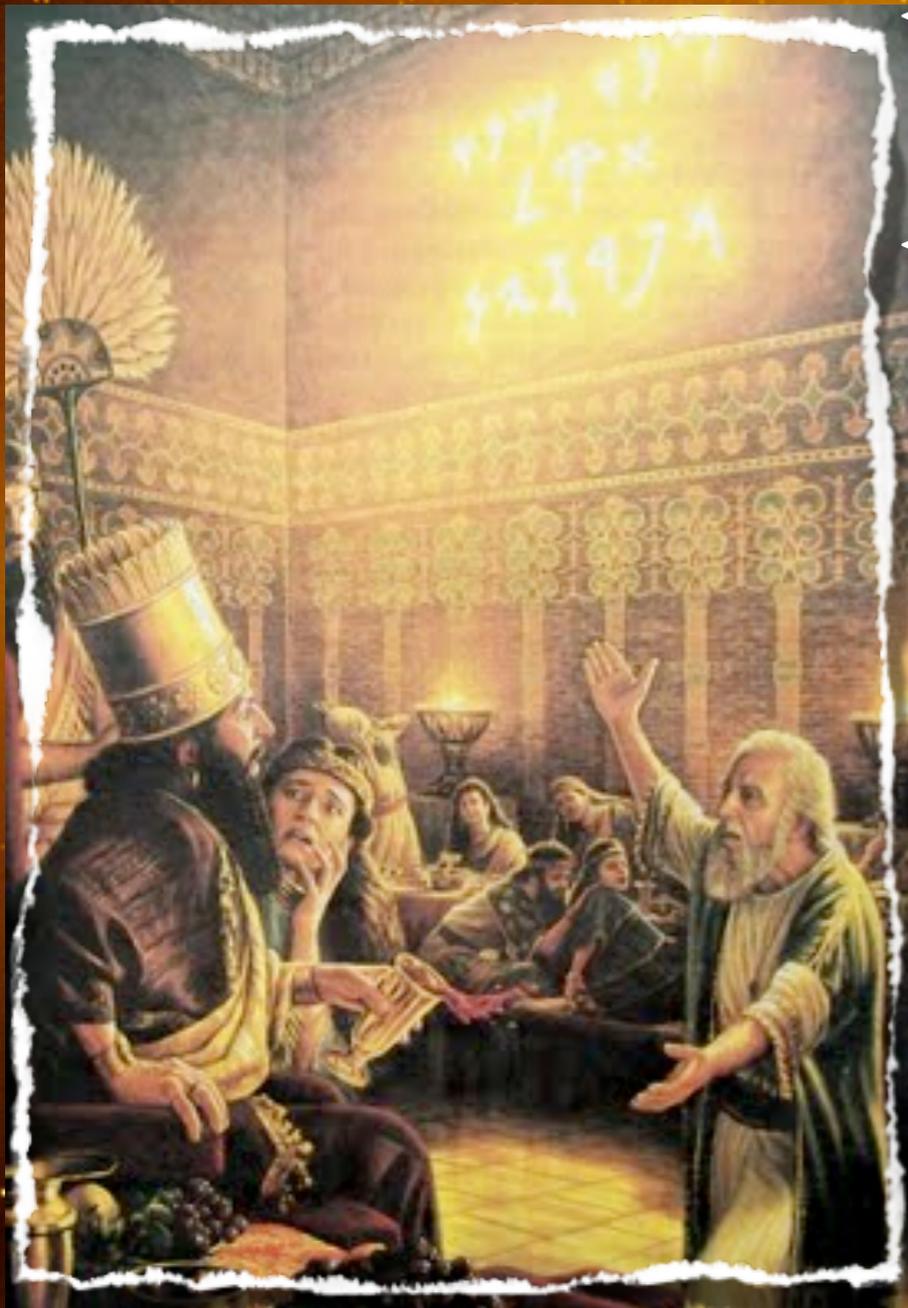


◆ Arrival of Daniel - (13-16)

- ✦ The king Acknowledged Daniel as being from the same land whose God Belshazzar was holding in contempt! (13; cf.. 2-3)
- ✦ The king told Daniel what he had heard from the queen (vv. 11-12) about Daniel's ability to do what the wise men and enchanter's could not. (14,15)
- ✦ The king promised Daniel the same rich rewards he had promised the wise men (v. 16; cf. v. 7)

Weighed In The Balances

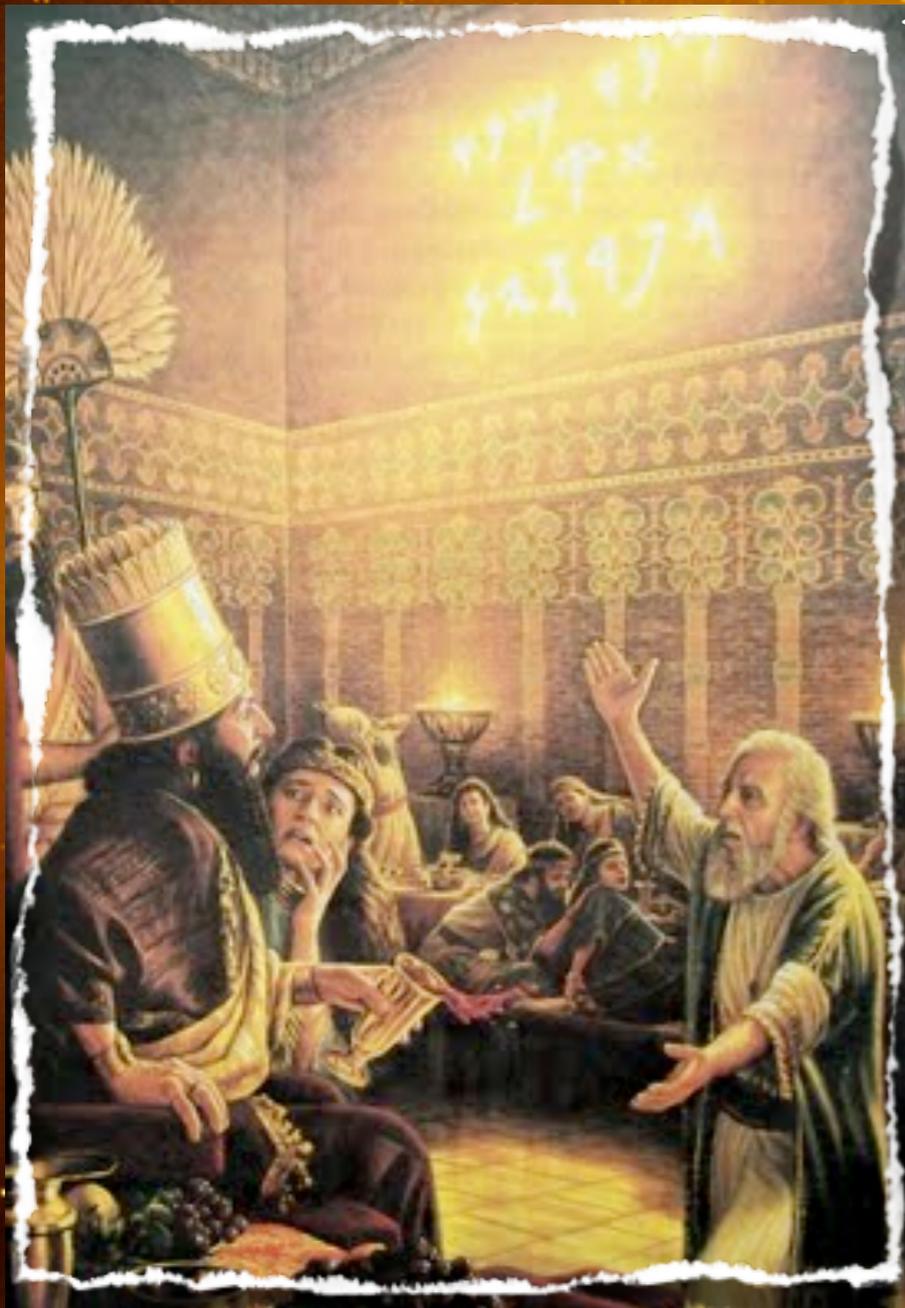
Daniel Rebukes The King - (5:17-24)



- ◆ Daniel rejects the king's offer of reward - but will “read & interpret” for free - (17)
- ◆ Daniel summarizes God’s dealing with Belshazzar’s predecessor Nebuchadnezzar - (18-21)
 - * Nebuchadnezzar was given his position by “The Most High God” - (18,19; 3:26),
 - * He became arrogant and proud (cf. 4:30), so God humbled him, stripping him of his throne - (20; 4:31-33)
 - * Nebuchadnezzar learned his lesson and praised God (21; 4:34-37)

Weighed In The Balances

Daniel Rebukes The King - (5:17-24)



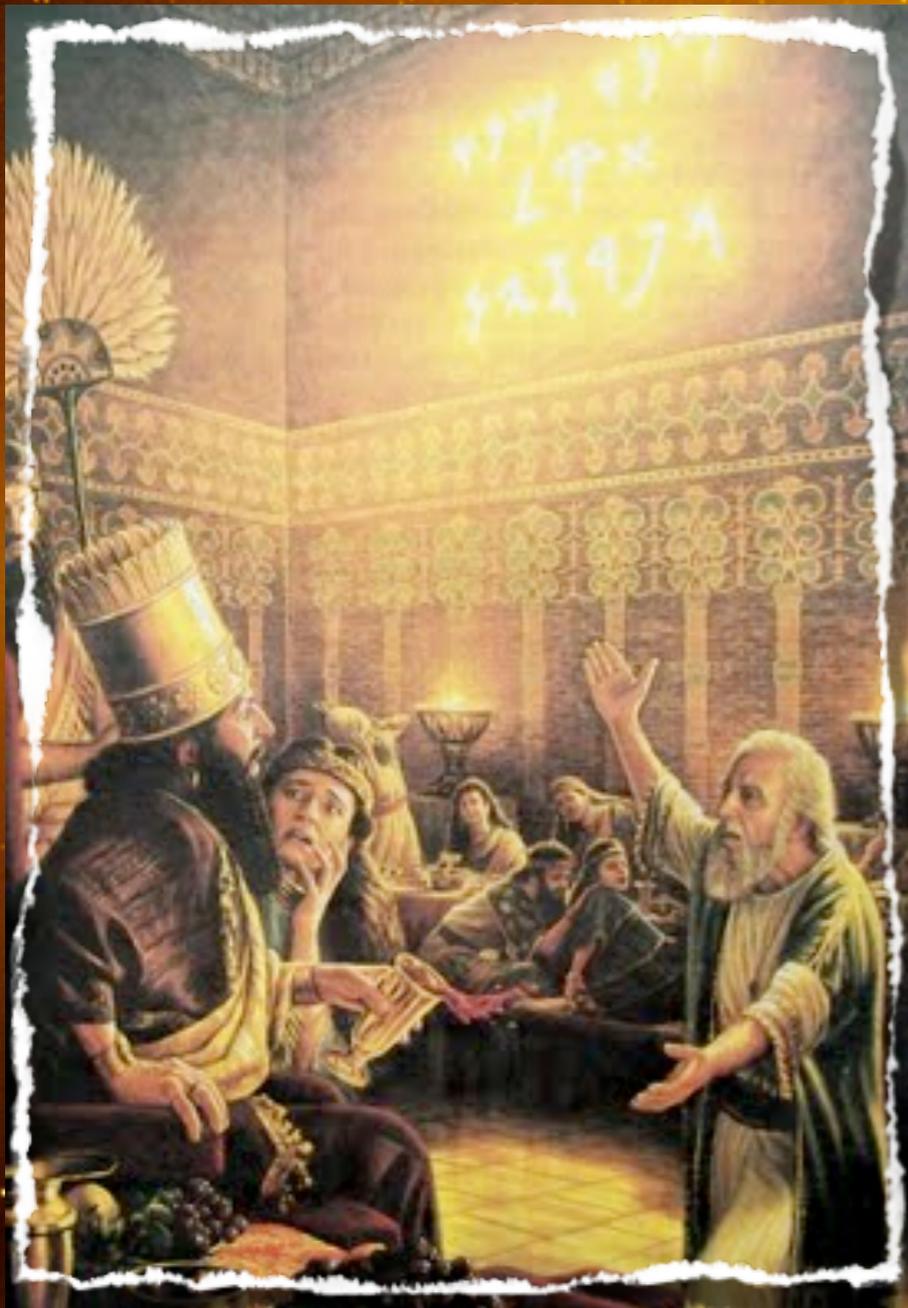
- ◆ The pride of Belshazzar (5:22-24)
 - * Belshazzar knew what his predecessor had experienced, and should have learned from it - but instead did even worse - (22,23 a)
 - * Belshazzar had openly challenged the Lord of heaven (cf. “the King of heaven,” 4:37) by drinking from the vessels taken from the temple in Jerusalem (5:2-3) and praised his false gods (v. 4) - (23)
 - * They have no life, but by contrast the true and living God held Belshazzar’s life in His hand - (23,24; Act 17:24-31)

Weighed In The Balances

Daniel Rebukes The King - (5:17-24)

Daniel 5:23 (NKJV)

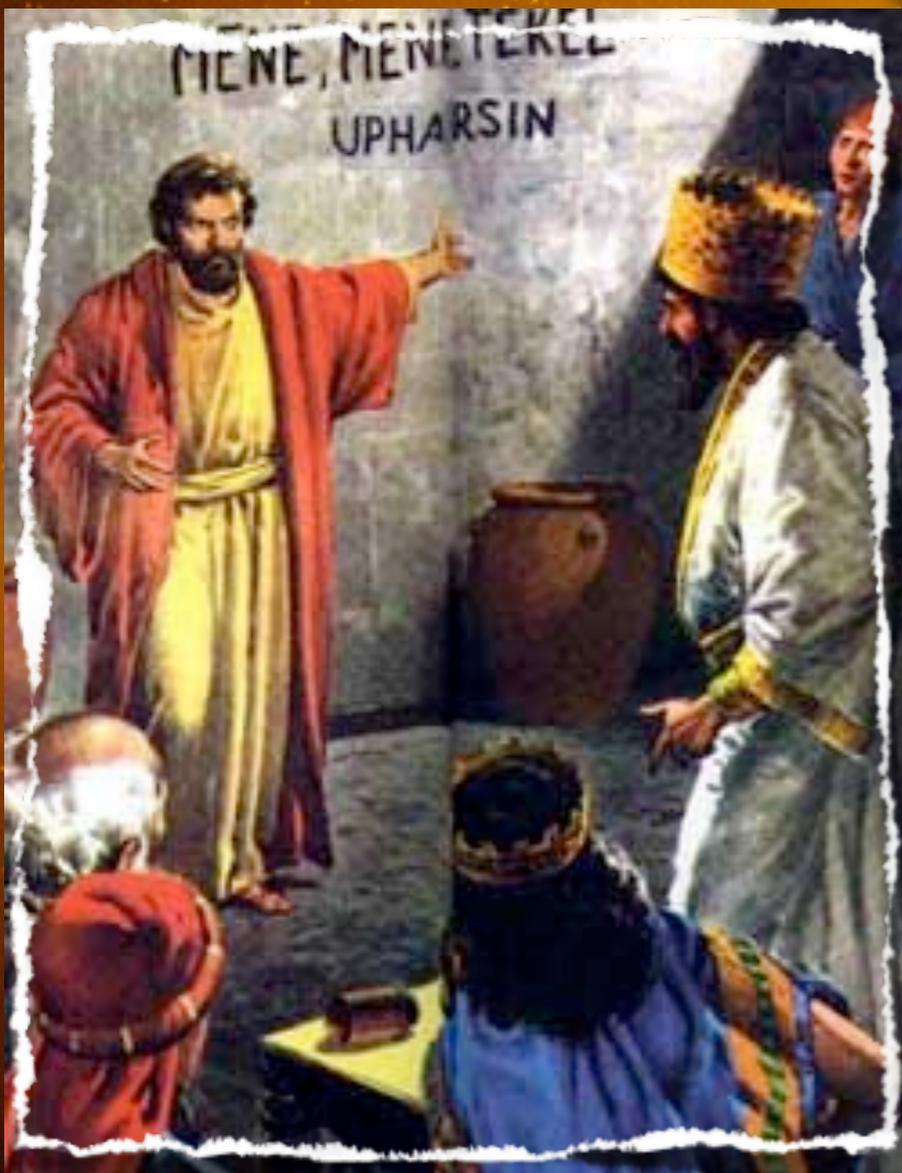
And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.



Weighed In The Balances

Interpretation of the Writing (5:24–28)

- ◆ The message written on the wall is from the “Lord of Heaven,” . . . He “Who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways” and it is for the king - (24,25)

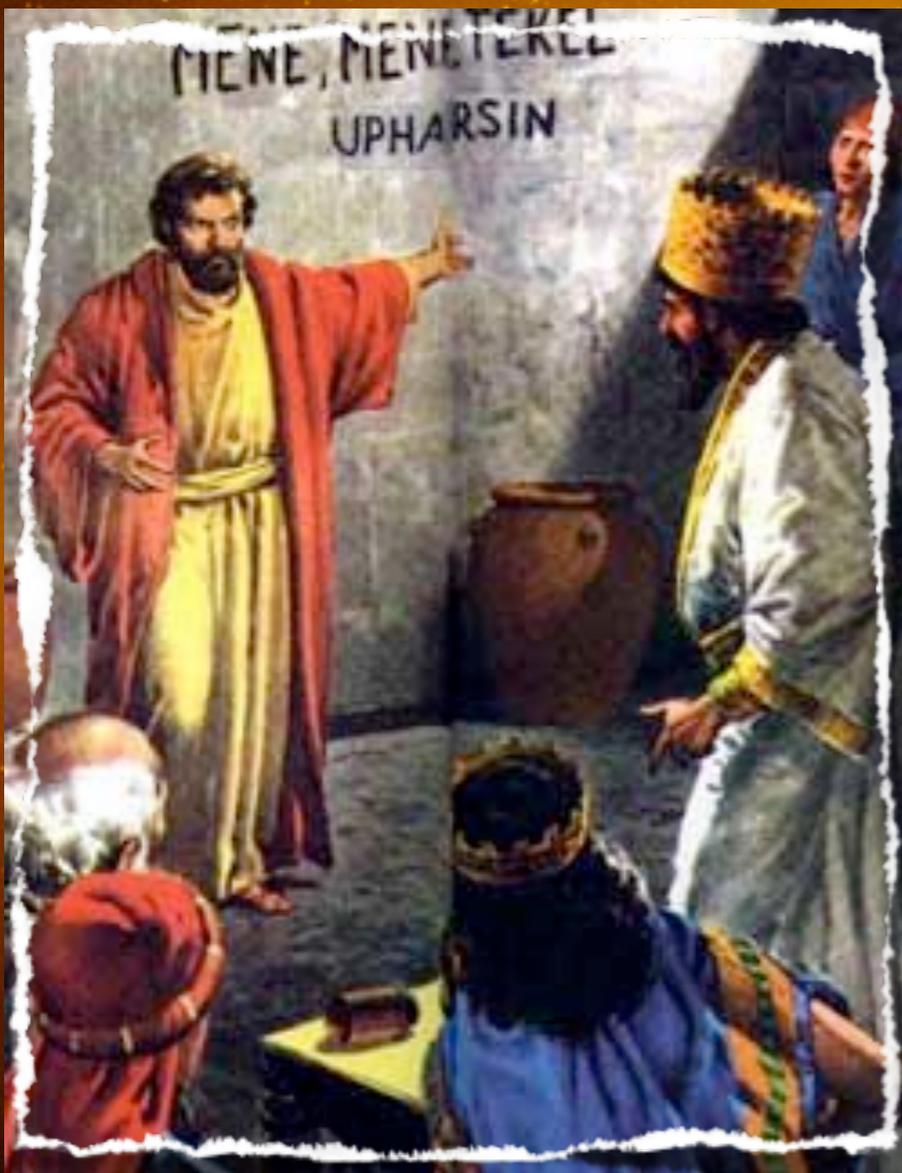


Daniel 5:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ "And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

Weighed In The Balances

Interpretation of the Writing (5:24–28)

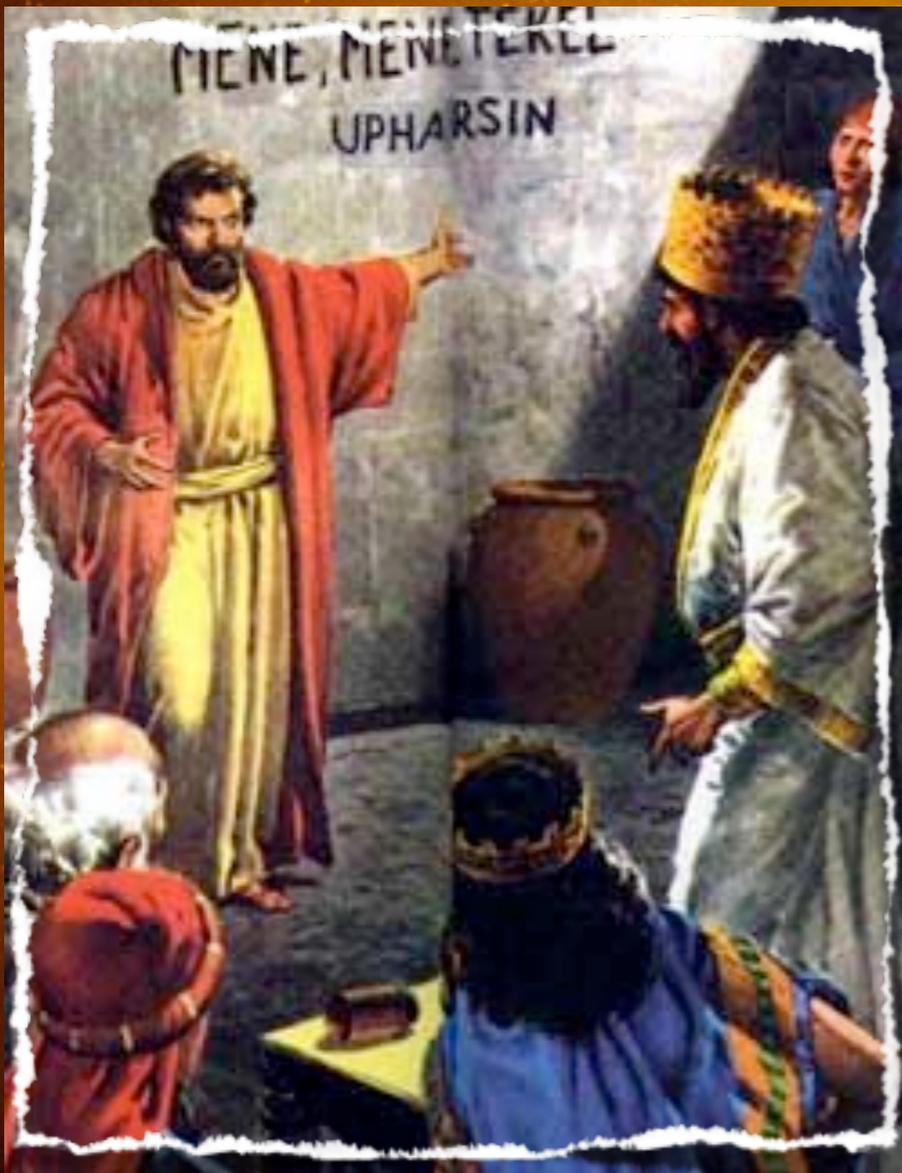


◆ God's judgment - (5:25-28)

- * **Mene** – “God has numbered your kingdom and finished it” (5:26).
- * **Tekel** – “You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting” (5:27; Job 31:6; Psa. 62:9-10).
- * **Upharsin** (peras) – “Your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

Weighed In The Balances

Interpretation of the Writing (5:24–28)

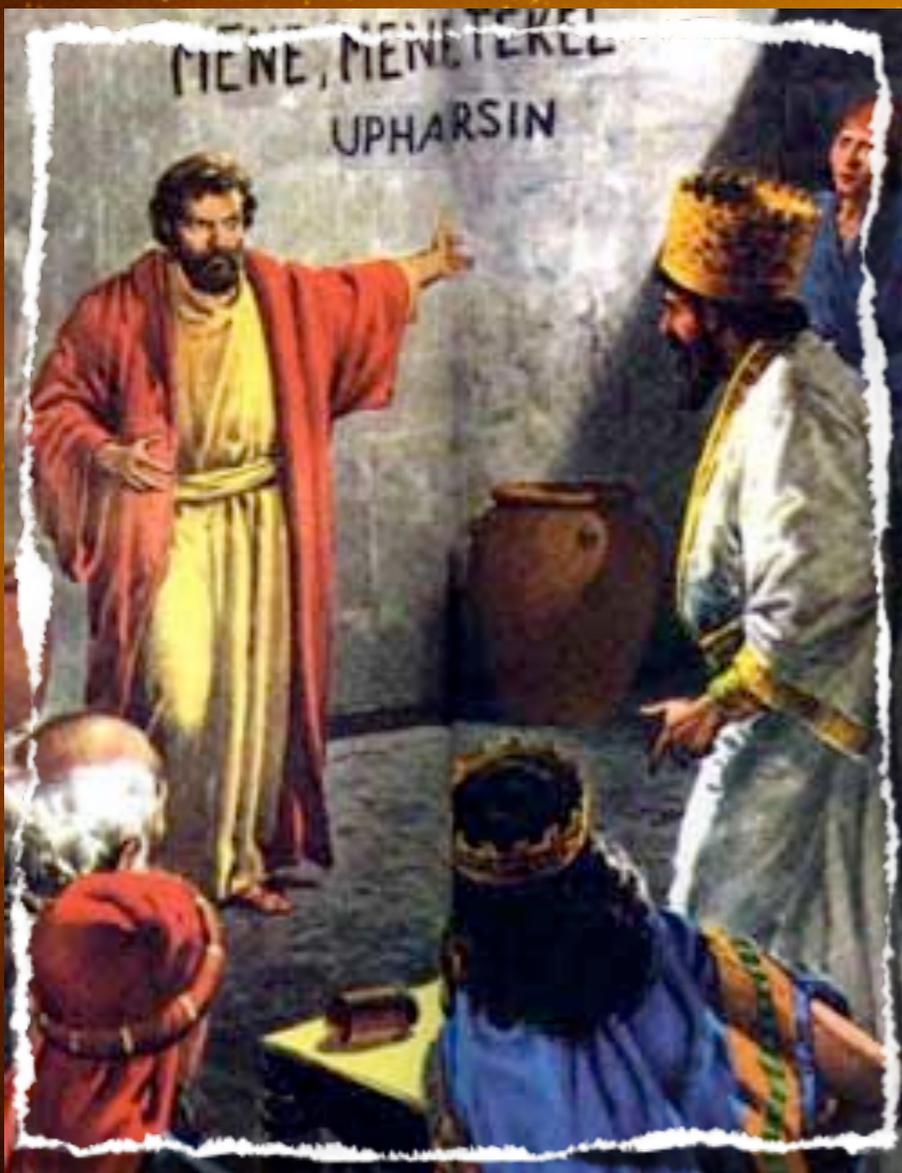


◆ God's judgment - (5:25-28)

- * God had set limits on Belshazzar's kingdom - (Acts 17:26-29)
- * Belshazzar's moral and spiritual character did not measure up to the standard of God's righteousness so he was rejected. "By Him [God] deeds are weighed (1 Sam. 2:3; Acts 17:30).
- * Because of the degradation of the king and his kingdom, God would terminate the Babylonian Empire and give it to the Medes and Persians - (Prov 14:34)

Weighed In The Balances

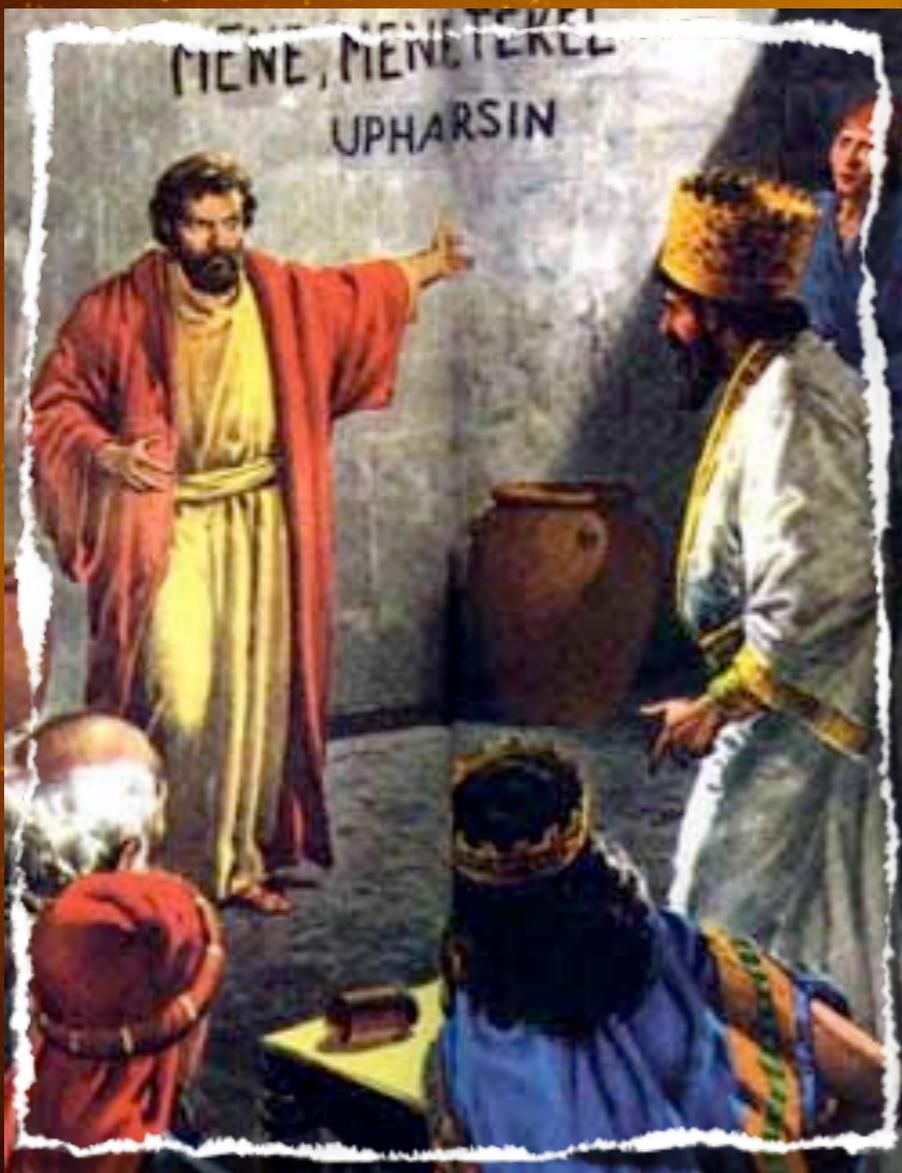
The Writing Fulfilled - (5:29–31)



- ◆ Daniel received 1/3 of nothing – (29)
- ◆ Belshazzar lost his life & kingdom that very night – (30)
- ◆ His kingdom was divided between the Medes & the Persians – (31)

Weighed In The Balances

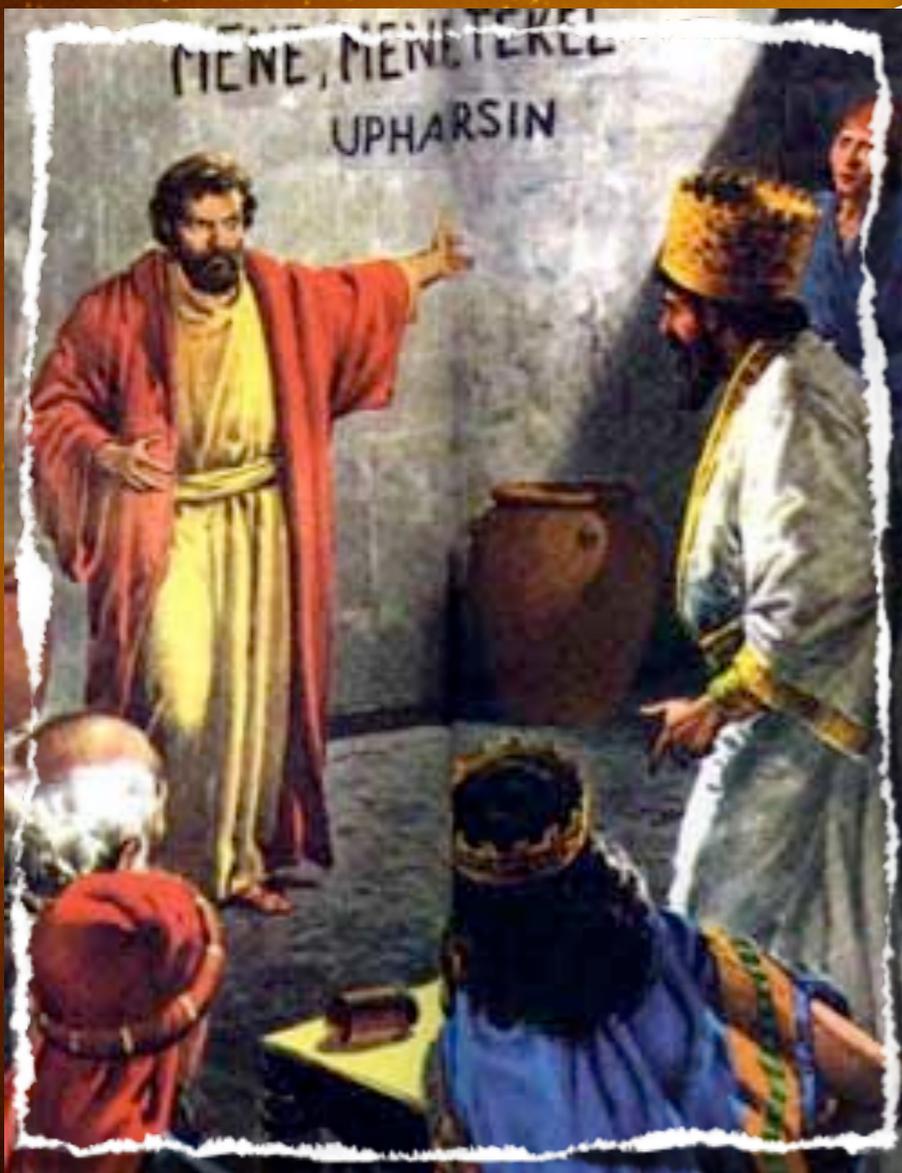
Lessons For Us (Will We Learn?)



- ◆ God's word is true - John 17:17
- ◆ Folly of Idolatry - False Gods can't save or protect - Daniel 5:23; Isaiah 44:9!
- ◆ The Danger of Misusing things which belong to God - Lev 10:1-4; 1 Cor. 6:19,20

Weighed In The Balances

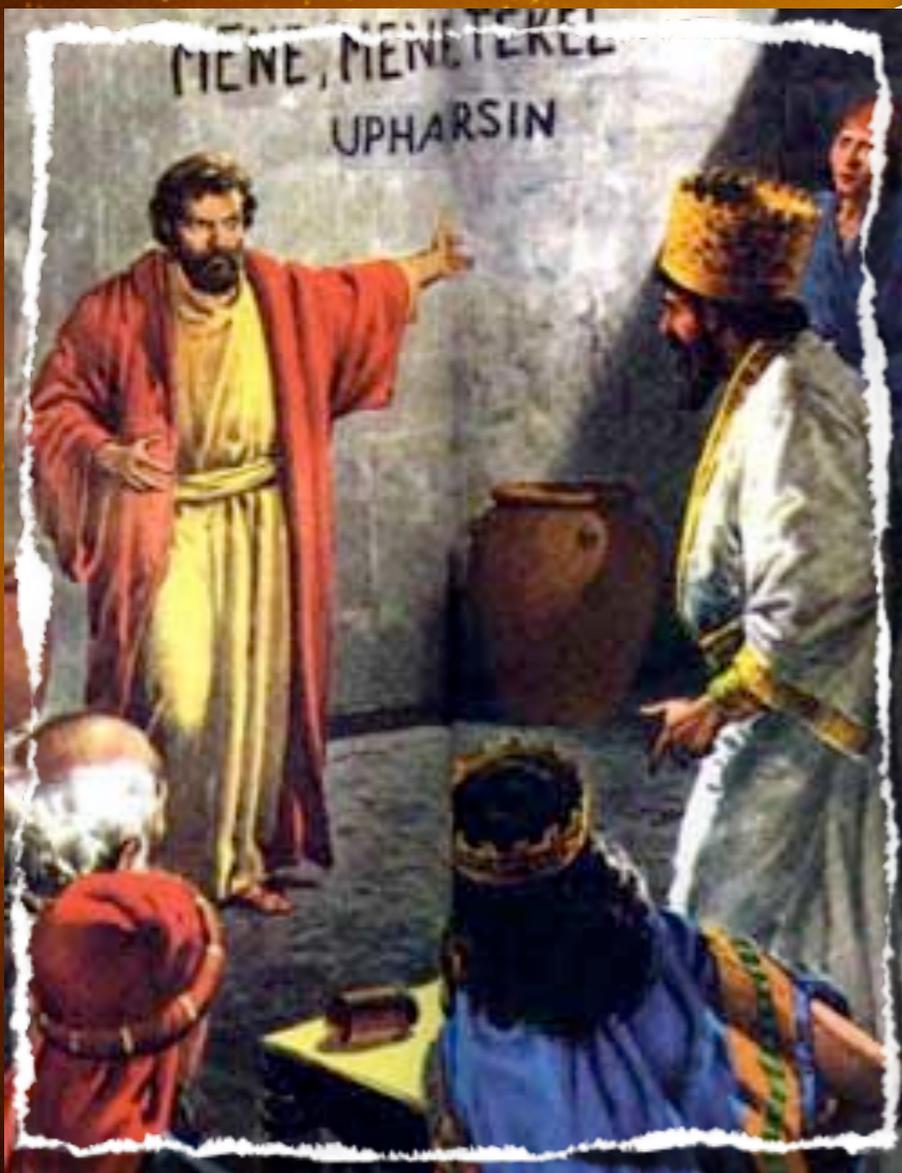
Lessons For Us (Will We Learn?)



- ◆ Danger of Overconfidence - 1 Cor 10:12
- ◆ The Importance of Knowing and Applying, the Lessons of History - Daniel 5:18-22; 1 Cor. 10:1-12
- ◆ God weighs the nations as well as the hearts of each one of us - Prov 14:34; Acts 17:29-31; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom 2:5-11

Weighed In The Balances

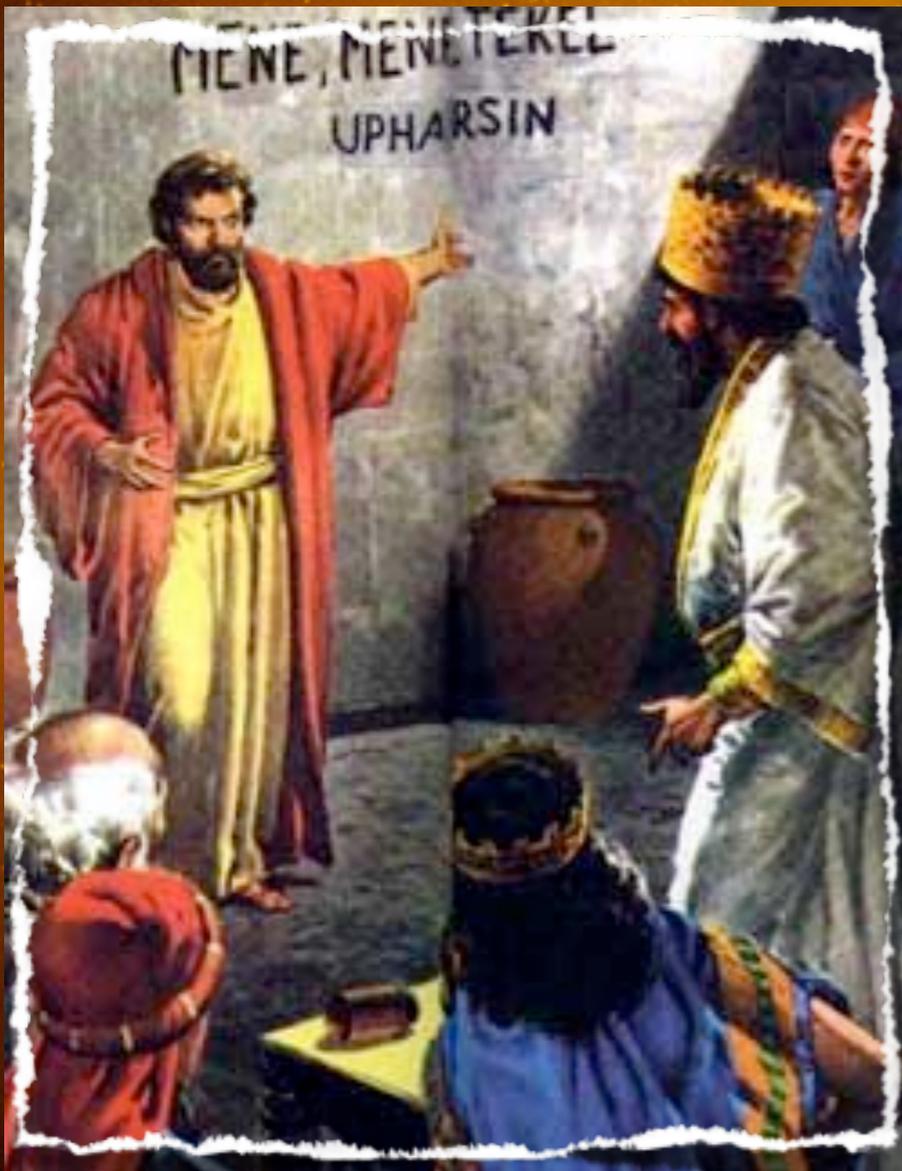
Lessons For Us (Will We Learn?)



- ◆ One may have everything this world has to offer - but if we fail to honor God with all we have been blessed with, with our words, with our deeds, our bodies - we have nothing and will receive nothing but eternal loss! - Mat 16:24-27; Lk 12:15-21

Weighed In The Balances

Lessons For Us (Will We Learn?)



- ◆ Let's not wait for "The Hand Writing On The Wall" to tell us it is too late, that judgment has been passed and the sentence is final.
- ◆ Humble yourself before God and obey Him TODAY!! - Mark 16:16

Weighed In The Balances

30

Charts by Don McClain

Prepared June 19-22, 2013; Preached June 23, 2013

West 65th Street church of Christ

P.O. Box 190062, Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062

Prepared using Keynote

Email - donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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Romans 2:2-11 (NKJV)

² But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. ³ And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴ Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Romans 2:2-11 (NKJV)

⁵ But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ who "will render to each one according to his deeds": ⁷ eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;

Romans 2:2-11 (NKJV)

⁸ but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath, ⁹ tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; ¹⁰ but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God.