

had been immediately seen to be interesting literary documents and most of the documents of that sort have been carefully studied. The great bulk of the others, however, are legal documents -- tablets, lists of properties, wills, etc. Many of these have been merely glanced at. Pinches selected from a great number of tablets all he could find that were dated from the time of Nabonidus, and began laboriously to read them one by one. After a time he came to one that contained the very name Belshazzar, and showed that this was not a name that had been invented 400 years later but one that had actually been in use at the time which the Bible describes Daniel as having lived. Looking further he found a tablet which was a contract for the rent of a house for 3 years, which stated in it that the man who was renting it was doing so as agent for Belshazzar, the king's son. This tied Belshazzar up with Nabonidus, as a member of the royal family. At this point an American took up the study.

Professor Daugherty of Yale University began to study further on the tablets. He found a number of tablets in which oaths were taken in the name of Nabonidus and Belshazzar. It was an established principle of Babylonian policy that oaths were always taken in the name of a god or in the actual reign of a king. Thus the mention of Belshazzar along with Nabonidus' father as one in whose name the oath was taken would seem show that Nabonidus had put Belshazzar on the throne alongside of himself as a co-king. Further investigation proved that in the latter part of his reign Nabonidus retired to Tamah, an oasis in the Arabian desert leaving his son Belshazzar as co-king, actual ruler, and commander of the army in Babylon. It is customary in wars that someone on the other side be pictured as against whom all the hatred was directed