

Chaldeans and soothsayers; he was able to solve problems no one else was able to solve. She said, Call this man Daniel and he'll tell you what this writing means. So he called him and (v.16) said to Daniel, 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 shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

I think Daniel could already read what the writing said, and he knew the king's gifts wouldn't be much good, they would not last long. At any rate, Daniel said, Let thy gifts be to thyself and give thy rewards to another, yet I will read the writing and make known the interpretation. Daniel said, This means that God has numbered thy kingdom and finished it, thou ~~xxx~~ art weighed in the balances and found wanting, thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians. Then v. 29 is one of the most astonishing vv. in all literature. This man Belshazzar seems to have been a man of an utterly different type from dictators of today. X Can you imagine someone going up to Stalin, Hitler, or Kruschev and saying, God has numbered thy kingdom and found it weighed in the balances and found wanting; thy kingdom is given to other nations? What do you think he'd do? If he didn't cut off his head immediately he'd at least put him in prison. But Belshazzar seems to have been a different kind of man/^{he seems to have been a mad} because we read in v. 29, 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. In that night was Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans slain and Darius the Mede took the kingdom. That's the story, and up until a few years ago it seemed like a good presentation of a great historical event. But