

Daniel

Yesterday morning on the broadcast I gave a very interesting illustration from Daniel. How many here heard it yesterday? Only 3 or 4. I think I'm going to give that one again. I feel it is such an outstanding illustration and worth hearing twice. It is in Daniel 5. There we have an account which deals with people not known otherwise until comparatively recently.

Daniel has been attacked perhaps more than any book of the OT. They are quite unanimous in holding it was written 400 years after the time of Nebuchadnezzar, one of the principal characters in the book. The reason for this is easy to see. It does not purport to tell of events off in a distant corner of the world somewhere, but at the court of the greatest monarch of the day. To say that these supernatural events occurred there, and to have it written by a man who was actually there at that time can hardly be admitted unless he admits the existence of a miracle-working God who could perform such miracles as this if he choose.

Therefore the critics are quite unanimous in insisting that Daniel was written 400 years later. Even some who are rather conservative on other points have been carried by this pressure to the point where they say the Book of Daniel much have been written when the Macabees were fighting for their lives against the Syrian oppressors and at that time this book was written in order to encourage people to carry on the fight valiantly against the Syrian oppressors! It was written by someone imagining great events happening 400 years before in which God intervened on behalf of his people.

Now the 5th ch. of Dan. has an account which is well-known to those who have attended S.S. because it's a very striking story that is often told. It begins with the words, "Belshazzar the king made a great feast." Previously in the ~~OT~~ book we have no mention of Belshazzar. In fact we don't have him mentioned anywhere else in the Bible except in the book of Daniel. Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords and drank wine before the thousand. While he tasted the wine he commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father, Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem. That the king and his concubines might drink therein.

While they were engaging in this carousing and blasphemous use of these sacred things from the temple in Jerusalem, in v.5, in the same hour came forth the fingers of a man's hand and wrote over against the candlestick on the plaster of the wall. The king saw the part of the hand that wrote and the king was much disturbed about this writing. He wanted to know what it said and what it meant. So (v.7) the king called for the astrologers and Chaldeans and the soothsayers and says to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing and show the interpretation thereof shall be clothed with scarlet and have a chain of gold about his neck and shall be third ruler in the kingdom. They brought in all the wise men but none of them could read the writing.

The king was much disturbed that he could not find out what this meant. Then the queen mother came and said there was a man in