

So that the important mistakes that came in in the copying are extremely few in number. There is no other ancient literature that has been as well preserved thru the copying and recopying as has the Bible. I won't say that God kept it absolutely letter perfect but he caused that it be preserved with an accuracy far beyond any other ancient work, and as you examine it in relation to the history which was unknown ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ until archaeology dug up these tablets in recent years, we are amazed at the many evidences of accuracy that we find.

There are many instances I would like to give you if time permitted, but I think I'll call your attention now to the book of Daniel, and look at an incident in the book of Daniel which I'm sure you are familiar with. It is in the fifth chapter. Belshazzar the king made a great feast. At this feast Belshazzar saw a hand come out on the wall and write something there. And Belshazzar was very much upset. He called for the wise men and said, Whosoever shall read this writing and tell me the interpretation shall be clothed with scarlet and have a chain of gold about his neck and shall be the third ruler of the kingdom. But no one could tell him what the writing meant, until the queen mother came in.

She said in the days of Nebuchadnezzar your father there was a man who had great wisdom in the kingdom. Evidently Daniel was now living in retirement. He ~~xxx~~ must have been quite an old man by this time. She said, If you get him I think he will be able to explain it to you. Then we read later on in v. 16 that Belshazzar said to Daniel, If you can read the writing and make known to me the interpretation of it, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet and have a chain of gold about thy neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Then Daniel told him that the writing meant Belshazzar was weighed in the balances and found wanting, and that God was going to give his kingdom to the Medes and the Persians. Then we have one of the most astonishing verses anywhere in the Bible. In v.29 we read, "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." Can you imagine any modern dictator rewarding anybody who told him he was going to be killed and his kingdom taken away? Belshazzar must have been a very unusual person, because he gave the reward he had promised to Daniel.

The ch. says that night Babylon was taken and Belshazzar was killed and Darius the Mede took the kingdom. This is a very interesting story showing how God worked in the time of Daniel. But in recent years as we began to get material from archaeology, people began to question the story. Well, in the first place we find in the history of Babylon the last king of Babylon was not called Belshazzar. He was called Nabonidus. We find that when the city was taken that Nabonidus was taken captive. This says that Belshazzar was killed. That doesn't fit. But it fits with the idea of the critics that the history in the Bible is not dependable. Some say Look at this story ~~xxxxxxx~~ years later, the book of Daniel wasn't written at all they say at the time it was. They say he got his facts mixed. That's the way it looked a few years ago