

gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. The following verse tells of the fulfillment of the terrible prediction of disaster. And that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

Now it is evident that according to this chapter Belshazzar is the last king of Babylon before the kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians, before the kingdom is conquered by the Medes and Persians. Under these circumstances, it naturally was very interesting to find that many clay tablets discovered at Babylon showed that ~~the~~, mentioned the last king of Babylon before the Persians conquered, as a man named Nabonidus. In addition to this, the tablets show that Nabonidus was not killed at the time of the Persian conquest but that he was given a pension and allowed to live out his natural life. Here are two very sharp contradictions to the narrative. If the story was written in Babylon at the time of these events it is simply impossible to understand how such mistakes could have occurred. If however it was written by an unknown writer clear across the desert in Palestine in the time of the Maccabee revolt in the 2nd century B.C., it is easy to see how these historical details might be incorrect.

It is never safe however to assume, when there is an apparent contradiction to the Scripture that the Bible is proven to be wrong. In connection with any study it is necessary to get all the data before we can be sure of our conclusions. The God of history and the God of the Bible is one God. If the Bible is his word it would hardly have an error on so important a point as this. This being the case, it seemed desirable to examine the facts more fully. Professor Pinches of the British Museum began, accordingly undertook a thorough investigation of the clay tablets from the reign of Nabonidus. There were a great many of these in the British Museum, since the business documents of ancient Mesopotamia were written, not on destructible paper or papyrus, but on clay tablets, which (9 1/4). Dr. Pinches began going through