

many of these tablets from the reign of Nabonidus. Eventually he found one which contained the actual name Belshazzar, thus showing that this name had been borne by someone who lived at the ~~end~~ time at the end of the Babylonian kingdom. Later further search revealed other tablets with this ~~same~~ name ~~only~~ and one of them proved to be a contract which entered into for the rental of a house by a man who described himself as agent for the king's son Belshazzar. This connected Belshazzar with the royal family.

Further search brought to light tablets in which the oath was taken in the name of Nabonidus and Belshazzar. Now oaths were never taken, were always taken either in the name of the king or of a god or of a reigning king. This proves that Nabonidus had actually associated Belshazzar with him as king, a practice which is not at all uncommon in the ancient world.

Now Professor Dougherty of Yale University began a further investigation into the matter. He undertook to make a careful study of all the records that have come to us from that period. Eventually, ultimately, he wrote a book on the subject. It is in the Yale Oriental Researches, vol. so-and-so, and is entitled "Nabonidus and Belshazzar." This book which was published in 1928, Professor Dougherty tells us the results of his research. He found absolute proof that Belshazzar had indeed been ~~co-king~~ ~~along~~ with Nabonidus during the latter years of Nabonidus' reign. In fact, Nabonidus had lived for a number of years at Tema, an oasis in the Arabian Desert, leaving his son Belshazzar as actual reigning king in complete charge of affairs and commander-in-chief of the army. One tablet actually, when correctly read, as now recognized by all scholars, that the king's son was killed in the conquest of the city.

Now Professor Dougherty made an investigation of all subsequent writings which have been preserved telling something about the end of the Babylonian kingdom.