

Party's Over

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 (Lar) Ladies Summer social
- B. Slide3 (Lar) Chocolate for the Soul
- C. Slide4 (Lar) Summer Baptism [next one Sept 6th at fam camp]
- D. Slide5a (Lar) Koinonia Widows Fellowship Slide5b *disappear*
- E. Children at risk not mtg this month due to Fathers Day.
- F. Slide6-9 Israel Information Mtg today 1:30, new rm, *exact dates March 29 - April9th.*
- G. Host Home for 1 month A Chinese **mom** (Anna), is coming to drop off her **son** for our school, her son has a place, she needs a place June16-July15. If you could help w/this see me after service. [a missionary friend we met, taught her son in school, dad left early in his life]

I. Intro: Party's Over

- A. Neb walks off the pages of scripture on a positive note.
 - 1. Look at the last things to come off his kingly lips (4:37b)
- B. Chapter 5 comes a 30 year gap, 23 yrs since Neb died, 4 leaders have come & gone.
 - 1. Daniel had been their 70 years.
- C. Slide10a Neb's family tree...has some *rotten branches*.
 - 1. After **Neb** died his son **Evil-Merodach** reigned (only 2 years).
 - 2. Slide10b Because his *brother-in-law* **General Neriglissar** assassinated him.
 - a) Reigned 6 years & died.
 - 3. Slide10c His son **Labashi-Marduk** took over but only ruled 2 months & was overthrown by **Nabonidus** (son-in-law to Neb.)
 - 4. Slide10d **Nabonidus** spent most of his reign away from Babylon securing the borders & strengthening his empire. Slide10e He appointed his son **Belshazzar** to be a **co-ruler** w/him, he was in charge of the city **Babylon**.
 - a) **Belshazzar** sat comfortably on the throne in *Babylon*, as it hadn't been overthrown in **1000 years**
 - b) **Babylon was impregnable...or was it?** [like Titanic quote*Even God couldn't sink this ship*]
- D. Slide11a **Meanwhile:**
 - 1. Medo-Persian King **Cyrus** & his army are heading toward babylon.
 - 2. Slide11b **Nabonidus** cuts him off at Opis (on the Tigris river) but was forced to withdraw & **Cyrus** gets a straight shot to Babylon.

3. Slide11c **Belshazzar** didn't care. *He had big walls, a big moat, 20 years of food stored inside.* Even during the siege **he threw a party!**
 - a) Let's crash his party & see what's happening...

II. Slide12 **BELSHAZZAR (1-4)**

A. (1) **Belshazzar** - not Beltshazzar.

B. (2,3) **Father** = ancestor. This is Neb's grandson, not son.

1. Slide13 Archaeological evidence *The foundation of this very wall has been discovered.* Halley's Bible Handbook pg 344
2. And we know exactly when...it was on Oct.12,539bc.

C. **While he tasted the wine** – *oh the foolishness of wine.*

1. Prov.31:4,5 It is **not** for kings, O Lemuel, It is **not** for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink; (why?) Lest they drink and forget the law, And pervert the justice of all the afflicted.
 2. They *Toasted their gods* with the **gold** vessels (Babylon). **And** not w/silver (M&P).
 - a) Nothing makes Satan happier *than* to treat what is **Holy** as if it is **unholy**.
Nothing makes Satan happier *than* using **our vessels** (our bodies) to toast an *unholy* cause.
- (1) **What are you toasting to the god of this world?**

D. Drunk w/wine, he commits **the ultimate blasphemy**, *never attempted by any of the Babylonian kings before him...* **The desecration of the Temple items.**

1. Here is a good example of when we talk about **Fearing God**, this is exactly what it **isn't!**
2. *"He treated the Lion of the Tribe of Judah like a Tamed pussycat."*¹
3. He didn't **fear God**...he *toy'd* with Him.

E. (4) His 2nd major issue **Idolatry**.

III. Slide14/auto **READ MY WRITING (5-9)**

A. Slide15 (5,6) Read the writing on the wall. [**when was the only other time we have God writing?** - *Jesus writing in dirt*, Jn.8:6]

1. He probably knows that it spelled **DOOM**.
2. I love verse 6's picture that it paints.

¹ Swindoll

- a) No one has done this verse better than *the Old King Jimmy*, **Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.**
- b) You know the feeling. **Where were you when you were most scarred?** (a cliff or in cave) (on a cliff w/a cable as a kid).

B. (7-9) Again, God shows the *not so wise men* as **not so wise...actually completely helpless.**

C. Belshazzar is even more upset (9).

IV. Slide16 **THE QUEEN BEE (10-12)**

A. (10-12) **This queen** may be Belshazzar's grandmother, Neb's surviving wife, who *would have remembered Daniel.*

V. Slide17a **DANIEL'S INTERVIEW (13-16)**

A. (13-16) Daniel's about **80** now.

- 1. Slide17b "Before the sapling king, **Daniel** stands like an oak tree – his **character** firmly rooted, his **integrity** unshakable." Swindoll

VI. Slide18a **JUDGMENT DAY (17-31)**

A. (17-23) **Learn from those who have gone before you.**

- 1. (17) I can't be bought.
- 2. Before he reveals the meaning...**1st** a lesson from history (18-21)
- 3. Let's get personal Belshazzar...**but you...** (22-23)

B. (23) **What terrible sin was he guilty of according to verse 23? *Pride, Blasphemy, Idolatry.***

C. You worship *lifeless objects*, **instead of the One** who holds your life in His hands.

- 1. **Now that hand**, is about to take everything from you, in which you have boasted.
- 2. Slide18b Remember, **For when they say, "Peace and safety" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.**

D. Slide19a (25-28) **The Verdict**

- 1. **Literal translation** - *A mina, a mina, a shekel & ½ shekel.*
- 2. Slide19b **Mene** = *to number*. A mina is worth **50 shekels.**

a) We say today, *your number is up.*

b) All of our days are *numbered yet* we are not to *Temp the Lord thy God.*

(1) **So teach us to number our days.** Ps.90:12

3. **Slide19c Tekel** = to weigh.

a) Job 31:4-8 *Doesn't he see everything I do and every step I take? "Have I lied to anyone or deceived anyone? **Let God weigh me on the scales of justice, for he knows my integrity.** If I have strayed from his pathway, or if my heart has lusted for what my eyes have seen, or if I am guilty of any other sin, then let someone else eat the crops I have planted. Let all that I have planted be uprooted.*

4. **Slide19d Upharsin** = to break in two to divide.

a) **Peres** is the single form of **Upharsin**.

5. ******* It does us well to frequently **weigh ourselves** in the scale of God's Word.
For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 1 Cor.11:31

6. **Put it together...** The words were in **Chaldean**. In **Babylon** a mina and a tekell were different **weights**; and the word **peres** simply means **to divide**.

a) God gave Daniel the interpretation: *Numbered - weighed - divided*. Belshazzar's days had been *numbered* and time was up; **and** he had been *weighed* in God's scales and found wanting; **now** his kingdom would be taken from him and *divided* by the Medes and Persians. *Numbered, weighed, divided*.

b) Apparently Daniel intended a *play on words* for a *change in the vowels* in *perēs* gives the word "Persian" or *Pāras*.

E. **Slide19e/blank** (29) Belshazzar seems to be **unmoved** by this.

1. The smoke alarm was going off, you could smell smoke,...**but** the party continued.

a) Prov.21:24 **A proud and haughty man; "Scoffer" is his name; He acts with arrogant pride.**

b) Hey, Belshazzar...*parties over!*

(1) The **Head of Gold** was about to be *decapitated* & held under the **Silver arms** of the Medes & Persians.

2. **Is the Lord showing you any warnings** lately that you haven't been heeding?

a) How many **men** have waited to change just *a little too long* **before** they woke up & found their *wife & kids no where to be found?*

b) How many **women** have received one too many *flirtations* come their way **before** they found themselves fallen in the *arms of another man* that gave them the attention they so craved.

3. Oh, listen to the different *Daniel's* that God places in **your** life.
4. **Men & women**, strike a new course. Don't end up ship wrecked. Look for the lighthouses warnings.
5. Unknown to the King (according to 3 *Historians*, *Xenophon*, *Herodotus*, & *Berosus*) "Cyrus diverted the Euphrates (which ran thru middle of city) into a new channel, and, guided by 2 deserters, marched by the dry bed into the city, while the Babylonians were carousing at a feast of their gods."

F. *Slide120* (30,31) **The End...literally**

1. God gave **Neb** a year to repent...*but* He judged **Belshazzar** *that very night*.
2. **Belshazzar** was slain that very evening. *Never wait to repent*.
3. Judgement comes when people least expect it – *Like* during **Noah's** time & **Lot's** time. Lk.17:26-32

a) Lk.11:21-23 *When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.*

4. *The International Standard Encyclopedia* tells us that "by 200 a.d. the once-mighty Babylon, w/its towering walls & beautiful gardens, was **completely deserted**."
5. **Darius** was the 1st *Mede* to reign in Babylon, *till* **Cyrus** took over.

G. **End:** Never underestimate the impact of one solitary, godly life.

1. Against the **bleak backdrop** of judgment stood 1 *reassuring and constant light*: **Daniel**. He endured because he courageously spoke God's **truth and** refused to **compromise** his character.

a) Ask yourselves, *Are we doing the same?* You may be the only *light/testimony* some will ever see. *Be careful how you live; you may be the only bible people ever read.*