



# CAPITOL COMMISSION<sup>®</sup>

## The Leader Most Despised has the Answer

FEBRUARY 1, 2024

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**Daniel 5:10-16** *The queen, because of the words of the king and his lords, came to the banquet hall. The queen spoke, saying, “O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts trouble you, nor let your countenance change. 11) There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the Holy God. And in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers. 12) Inasmuch as an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar, now let Daniel be called, and he will give the interpretation.” 13) Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king spoke, and said to Daniel, “Are you that Daniel who is one of the captives from Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah? 14) I have heard of you, that the Spirit of God is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. 15) Now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, but they could not give the interpretation of the thing. 16) And I have heard of you, that you can give interpretations and explain enigmas. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple*

*and have a chain of gold around your neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.” (NKJV)*

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*HEAR, O OUR GOD, FOR WE ARE DESPISED; TURN THEIR REPROACH ON THEIR OWN HEADS, AND GIVE THEM AS PLUNDER TO A LAND OF CAPTIVITY!*  
NEHEMIAH 4:4

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Who is this queen? Does she speak to the king as if he is her son? Is it possible that she is a believer in Daniel's God? How does the king show that he despises Daniel? What does the king think of his own name and Daniel's captive name? How does this king reveal that he does not believe that Daniel can read and interpret the words inscribed by God on the wall? To what degree is this king willing to go to learn the truth about the writing on the wall? Does he know that he is in trouble?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

➤ FEBRUARY 8: DANIEL 5:17-31 *A LEADER WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE OF GOD AND FOUND WANTING!*

➤ FEBRUARY 15: DANIEL 6:1-5 *THE PROFOUND INNOCENCE OF DANIEL*

Belshazzar the king has forsaken the God of his father, King Nebuchadnezzar. After humbly eating grass for seven years, “*this head of gold*” (Daniel 2:38), not only as the first, but the best of all the leaders of the empires of the world according to God's revelation, had proven it by writing a letter to the whole world as a testimony to his conversion to the God of Israel, “*the King of heaven*” (4:36). Upon seeing the three Jews, whom he had tried to incinerate in the fiery furnace, joined by a fourth, “*like the Son of God*” (3:25), though in his arrogant pride he had refused to believe, he decreed immunity for the Jews, not only forbidding future persecution, but he even strictly forbade anyone to speak anything against their God. “*Therefore, I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach,*

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### BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 14<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 14<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

# Virginia

## The Leader Most Despised has the Answer

*Mesbach and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this” (3:29).* With that law still in force, Belshazzar had come as close as he could to disobeying it and had taken the Temple vessels dedicated to Israel’s God and had desecrated them with a thousand of his leaders in setting up a drunken orgy with his own wives and concubines and had praised their gods. He has led the party in scorning what was holy and approving that which they knew was contemptible. Now their mirth had turned to terror as the finger of God wrote on the wall!

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*THEREFORE GOD ALSO GAVE THEM UP TO UNCLEANNES, IN THE LUSTS OF THEIR HEARTS, TO DISHONOR THEIR BODIES AMONG THEMSELVES, WHO EXCHANGED THE TRUTH OF GOD FOR THE LIE, AND WORSHIPPED AND SERVED THE CREATURE RATHER THAN THE CREATOR, WHO IS BLESSED FOREVER. AMEN. ROMANS 1:24-25*

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**I. DELIGHTFUL ACCOLADES DANIEL 5:10-12**  
When even the wise men could not read God’s words on the wall, the knee-knocking terror of the king intensified and spread to all his leaders and their shrieks were so loud that they were heard by the queen. Thus she boldly ignores all protocol and enters the presence of the king and his lords unannounced and uninvited. The earliest historians record her as the wise Queen Nitocris, the widow of Nebuchadnezzar whom King Nabonidus had married to legitimize his ascent to the throne and who had adopted her son. Inscriptions of Babylon describe Belshazzar as his oldest son and co-regent of the empire with his father, Nabonidus. She wants to console her son in that she knows one who is able to read the writing and interpret it. Probably she had become a believer with Nebuchadnezzar who had referred to this Jew in his letter as one in whom was “*the Spirit of the Holy God*” (4:9), just as she does here. Only one who embraced the God of Israel as “*the Most High*” (4:34) and “*the King of*

*heaven*” (4:36) used this kind of language. The queen scolds her son by contrasting him with his “*father*” who had promoted Daniel and with many accolades she requires her son to call this Jew, whose God he has just scorned, and to provide him the same opportunity as the other wise men and “*he will give the interpretation.*”

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*BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, FOR HE WHO COMES TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM. HEBREWS 11:6*

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**II. DESPISING ATTITUDE DANIEL 5:13**  
In his desperation, the king obeys his mother and summons Daniel. Yet the first words out of his mouth are used to demean Daniel and remind him of his slavery as “*one of the captives of Judah,*” which he repeats twice in one question. In his utter wickedness, he is showing in front of all his leaders, that he openly despises the only man who can help him by reading and interpreting God’s mighty words so boldly inscribed upon his palace wall!

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*THEREFORE I SAID TO YOU THAT YOU WILL DIE IN YOUR SINS; FOR IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE THAT I AM HE, YOU WILL DIE IN YOUR SINS. JESUS CHRIST JOHN 8:24*

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**III. DOUBTING ACTIONS DANIEL 5:14-16**  
With not a single word showing that he believed Daniel or his God, Belshazzar presents his lame appeal to have his slave fulfill his desire to know what God has said by saying, “*I have heard of you*” and then he repeats briefly the words of his mother. Then he explains the reason why Daniel has been called: all his wise men have failed. And again, “*I have heard*” with the accolades of his mother and the same rewards offered before. In his unbelief, he has stubbornly sinned away his final opportunity to repent.

### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you willing to scorn that which is holy and approve that which is contemptible to God?
- 2) Do your words reveal to those around you that you believe in God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent?
- 3) Will you stubbornly sin away your final opportunity to repent and believe in Jesus Christ who gave His life for you?