

and none of them could explain it. And then the Queen Mother came in, and the Queen Mother said to Nebuchadnezzar there is a man in your kingdom now living in retirement, a man who used to be able to explain very difficult things in the days of your predecessor, Nebuchadnezzar, and you call Daniel in, I think he will be able to tell us. And so he called Daniel in, and he said to Daniel, verse 16. "I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom." Well, I think that Daniel had already read it about by this time and had a pretty good idea of what it meant and in a day or so Belshazzar's gifts wouldn't be worth anything, and at any rate what Daniel said was, "Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation." And then Daniel says is, What this means is, he tells us down in verse 26 and following: "This is the interpretation of the thing: Mene; God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it. Tekel, Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting, Peres; thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." Then verse 29, one of the strangest verses in all literature. We find here what did Belshazzar do, when Daniel said this. Well, if it had been Hitler or Napoleon or somebody like that--some modern dictator, I know what they would have done. They would have said, Put this man in prison on bread and water until it becomes evident