*CSB – Ignatius Catholic Study Bible - Daniel*

*NJBC – New Jerome Biblical Commentary*

*SN = Special Notes*

*NAB = New American Bible*

*SK = Chinese Bible*

*CCC = Catholic Catechism*

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| **A** | **Introduction** * The writing on the wall foretells that those who are proud and resist God’s authority, like King Belshazzar, will be slained.
* Darius the Medes received the kingdom after Balshazzar was slained. Daniel was appointed a president. He ignored the King’s ordinances and “got down upon his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God”, therefore, was thrown into the lion’s den. However, God saves Daniel from the lions.

  | Dan 5-6Dan 5:1-30Dan 6:1-29 |
| **B** | **The Handwriting on the Wall*** Historical background – Daniel 4 recollects that for 20 years, Nebuchadnezzar “was driven from among men, and his mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys; he was fed grass like an ox”, while Nabonidus ruled over Babylon (556-539 BC). Since Nabonidus withdrew from Babylon to reside in western Arabia (Teima), Belshazzar did in fact exercise royal authority during his father’s absence.
* Great feasts in Babylon were often times of sexual and idolatrous revelry. The gold and silver vessels were confiscated from the Temple in Jerusalem.
* “O King, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty” – the power of all rulers on earth, whether they’re good or evil, comes from God. The loss and gain of Nebuchadnezzar demonstrates this teaching. Check out the following link for more details about rulers who are sent by God: <http://elodocuments.blogspot.ca/2011/07/my-early-retirement-story-part-1-why.html>
* The 5 sins of Belshazzar: 1) failing to learn the spiritual lessons of Nebuchadnezzar; 2) arrogance; 3) profanation; 4) promiscuity; and 5) sacrilege.
* The writing on the wall: “mina” (to number), “Shekel” (to weigh), and “Parsa” (to divide; Persia). In this context the language of commercial transaction points to the political transition soon to result from Persia’s conquest of Babylon. The Medo-Persian kingdom succeeded Neo-Babylon.
 | 5:1-30CSB 5:1-29SK Note 15:1 CSB 1:22 Ch 36:185:18 CSBJn 19:10-11Rm 13:11 Pet 2:13-155:22-23 CSB5: 24-28 CSB |
| **C** | **Daniel in the Den of Lions*** Historical background – Daniel’s incident is similar to the story about the three young men thrown into the furnace (Dan 3); both demonstrate how the Israelites are persecuted for their religion. The stories take place in different time period: Daniel 3 takes place in Babylon while Daniel 6 takes place during the reign of King Darius the Mede. There is; however, no historical record of King Darius; scholars posits that it refers to Cyrus II or General Gubaru who occupied Babylon.
* “… whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days , except to you, O King, shall be cast into the den of lions” – Fire is used to torture criminals in Babylon (Dan 3) while den of lions is preferred by the Persians. The Persians believe that fire is sacred that can help humans to get closer to creator (Ahura – Mzda). The shift in torture methods recorded in Dan 3 to 6 affirms the book’s historical verity.
* “When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house … and got down upon his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God” – Daniel appreciates only God has true authority, therefore, he has not broken any ordinance. Facing Jerusalem and praying on his kneels: seen in 1King 8:29,30; Ps 55:18. After the Exile, God’s people were unable to worship in the Temple; the prayers in the morning, noon, and evening replace the burnt offerings in the morning, grain offerings at noon, and the fact pieces of the sacrifices of well-being in the evening.
* “My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths” – God’s angels protect Daniel from harm. This demonstrates Daniel’s innocence.
* “And the king commanded, and those men who had accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions – they, their children, and their wives” – The family pays the price for the crime of one: this reflects the value of the time. Similarly, Dan 6:8 accurately reflects history.
 | Dan 6:1-29CSB 5:31SK 6 Note 16:8 (CSB 6:7)6:11 (CSB 6:10)SK Note 36:23 (CSB 6:22)6:25 (CSB 6:24) |