1. Chapter 8 and its vision takes place long before the events of Daniel 5 with the overthrow of the Babylonian Empire
2. Two Years After Chapter 7
3. Chronologically Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 Precede Chapter 6 (THE LIONS DEN)
4. Shushan Was The Chief City Of Persia
5. A RAM WHICH HAD TWO HORNS – Symbolized the Medo-Persian Empire ruled by two KINGS- Darius of the Medes and Cyrus of Persia.
6. THE TWO HORNS WERE HIGH – Speaks of their power which was great enough to overthrow the Babylonian Empire to which Persia had been subject to for many years.
7. BUT ONE WAS HIGHER THAN THE OTHER AND THE HIGHER CAME UP LAST – Pertains to PERSIA developing after the Midian Empire but growing Stronger than the Two.
8. Daniel 8:4 – RAM PUSHING WESTWARD – Is the Empire of the MEDES and the PERSIANS pushing west against Babylon (DANIEL 5)
9. AND NORTHWARD – Refers to LYDIA (ASSYRIA, GREECE)
10. AND SOUTHWARD – Refers to EGYPT

Daniel 5 – The Overthrow of Babylon

1. This chapter Follows the events of Chapter 8
2. Daniel is in two books- Historical and Prophetic
3. Didn’t want the prophetic part interrupted
4. Belshazzar had great contempt for God:
5. Used Sacred Vessels In An Orgy
6. Used Them To Sacrifice To Heathen Gods
7. 5:3 – Golden Vessels was by design – They praised “Bel” for victory thinking they would have victory over the Medes-Persians
8. 5:4 – “gods” – gods of the nations they had conquered they insulted Jehovah doing it

Daniel 5:5 – The Handwriting On The Wall

1. Same Hand that inscribed the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai and which wrote on the ground in John 8:6,8 now write on the wall of a wicked kings banquet hall
2. This sobered Belshazzar up and was stricken with FEAR (5:6)
3. Daniel 5:7 – Belshazzar was the second ruler in the Kingdom with Nabonidus his father being first
4. 5:8 – These “astrologers” did him no good no more than they did his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar. – God wrote in a language no one could understand – BUT DANIEL!
5. 5:9 – TREMENDOUS FEAR STRUCK A PROUD KING
6. 5:10-12 – Daniel was known by the QUEEN but not the KING; Probably between 70 and 80 years old;
7. The Queen saw Daniel’s spirit and had faith in him not the heathen astrologers as Belshazzar did.

Belshazzar Calls For Daniel

1. He seeks God as a last resort, not first; “Daniel was brought in”
2. “I have even heard of you”
3. “The spirit of the gods is in you” - Never addresses or acknowledges the true God of heaven (Romans 1)
4. The Queen did, the King did not
5. Despite hearing of Daniel, the king never consulted Daniel; the world does same to church
6. The “wise men” and “astrologers” will never know the handwriting on the wall!! (5:15-16)
7. Babylon was blessed because of the MOST HIGH GOD not the foolish gods of Belshazzar (v.19)
8. Neb repented and was restored; his grandson was not
9. MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHAR-SIN – Mene indicated the immediacy of the doom
10. The writing cannot be changed or altered it is from Jehovah (5:20-25)

5:26-29

MENE- God has NUMBERED your kingdom and finished it

Numbered, Numbered – Sake of Emphasis

TEKEL – You are weighed in the balances and found wanting – WEIGHED – in other words the outcome depends on weight of the king’s heart toward God or against God

PERES – Kingdom is DIVIDED and GIVEN to the Medes-Persians

“Numbered is the time of your kingdom; ceases your kingdom cut short and ended has been your kingdom to the Medes-Persians and to the Persians it shall be given”

5:30-31 THE VERY NIGHT OF THE HANDWRITING OF THE WALL – Darius The Medes took the kingdom at 62 years of age.