Lesson I.

DANIEL AND BELSHAZZAR

October 1, 1905

Daniel 5: 17-30. Study the chapter. Commit to memory vs. 29, 30.* Read chs. 3, 4. GOLDEN TEXT-The face of the Lord is against them that do evil .- Psalm 34: 16,

17 Then Dan'iel answered and said before the king, Let the gifts be to tryself, and give the rewards to another; 'yet I w' a read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

18 O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnez'zar the father 'a kingdom, and 'majesty, and clear and honour.'

glory, and honour:
19 And 4 for the majesty that he gave him, all

19 And 410r the majesty that he give him, an epople, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him; whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down.

20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his 7 mind healered in which he was decreased from his kindly

hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: 21 And he was driven from the sons of men; and

his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: * they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God 2 ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he 10 appointeth over

it whomsoever he will.

22 And thou his son, O Belshaz'zar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this;

heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and and thy concumes, have drunk which drunen, and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified: 24 Then was part of the hand sent from "him; and

23 But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of

24 Then was part of the hand sent from "him; and this writing was 12 written.
25 And this is the writing that was 12 written, ME'NE, ME'NE, TE'KEL, UPHAR'SIN.
26 This is the interpretation of the thing: ME'NE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and 12 finished it. 27 TE'KEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.
28 PE'RES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Per'sians.
29 Then commanded Belshaz'zar, and they clothed barviel with 12 scarlet, and mut a chain of gold about

29 The commanded Densina Zai, and they cooled bariel with "Searlet, and mut a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

30 In that night "was Belshaz'zar the king of the

Chalde'ans slain.

Revised Version.—I nevertheless; 2the; 3 greatness, and glory, and majesty; 4 because of the greatness; 5 the peoples; 6 raised; 7 spirit was hardened that he dealt proudly; 8 he was fed with; 9 ruleth; 10 setteth up; 11 before him; 12 inscribed; 13 brought it to an end; 14 purple; 15 Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain.

THE*LESSON EXPLAINED

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Name of Darius.

Cuneiform Letters

Time and Place-538 B.C.; Babylon; Euphrates. Connection-Daniel (see Lesson XII., Third Quarter) is now an old man, at least 80 years of age. I. THE WARNINGS.—17-21. Then Daniel answered. Belshazzar, now ruler of Babylon, had made a great feast to a thousand of his lords; while they were carousing, the fingers of a man's hand appeared writing, on the wall, vs. 1-5. Belshazzar was greatly startled, and called for the wise men in the kingdom to explain the writing, vs. 6, 7. queen, Belshazzar's mother (vs. 10-12), came in to the feast, and told of Daniel's explaining the dream of Nebuchadnezzar (see ch. 2). Daniel was sent for, and was offered rich gifts if he would tell what the writing on the wall meant, vs. 13-16. Let thy gifts be to thyself. Daniel required no gifts to persuade him to tell the truth to the king. He showed himself one of the bravest of men, speaking out the truth to this man, who might readily have taken his life. The most high God; who is above all, and alone could bestow gifts on king or subject. Gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father. "Father" here means one who

had preceded him as king. Belshazzar was the son

of Nabonidus, a usurper, probably not related to Nebuchadnezzar. His heart was lifted up; with pride in his great kingdom. How vast it was, v. 19 tells. Deposed (removed from the throne) . . made like the beasts. For detail see v. 21: the awful punishment of his pride (see Prov. 16: 18).

22, 23. Thou, . . O Belshazzar. He is not called king on the tablets which record the history of Babylon, but bears the title of "crown prince." He was apparently the acting king and real ruler, his father perhaps being absent from the capital. Hast not humbled thine heart. He had known how Nebuchadnezzar had been punished for his sin, and yet had gone stubbornly on in his own wicked way. Against the Lord of heaven. The Ruler high over all, full of goodness and power, who gives men all they have. The vessels of his house; God's holy temple at Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar had brought the vessels used in its services to Babylon, 2 Chron. 36:7. What an insult to use these sacred things in an impure and idolatrous feast.

II. DOOM.—24-28. Then was the part of the hand sent; to write the sentence of doom for Belshazzar's obstinate wickedness (see v. 5). This is the writing, etc. The words written on the wall were probably the names of three weights. But what could they mean? This is the interpretation. Straight as an arrow Daniel aims the fiery words at Belshazzar. MENE. Besides being the name of a weight, this word means numbered. The years of the kingdom of Babylon were fixed, and the end was at hand. TEKEL; meaning weighed. Like a false weight, Belshazzar is condemned. PERES; the singular of PHARSIN, the

^{*}The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Lesson Course are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. They will be found in the Supplemental Lesson Leaflet.