

compared with certain astronomical historic records made by the ancients. The accession of Nabonassar took place at noon, Feb. 26, 747 B. C. Babylon, that great city whose oriental splendor seemed to outvie all the cities of the east. Her beautiful hanging-gardens which were built by Nebuchadnezzar; her ponderous gates attached to those almost impenetrable walls of massive masonry; her palaces and gigantic images of purest gold, besides her enormous wealth which she had acquired in plundering Jerusalem, Ninevah and other great cities, must have added much to her influence and external grandeur. Babylon, amidst her despotic sway shook the fetters of the Assyrian yoke from off her hands and proclaimed herself an independent monarchy. Under the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, a king of great despotic power, her revolting system of idolatry increased, and Polytheism seemed to take the lead; indeed the people were compelled to submit to his arbitrary sway. They had either to bow down and worship the golden image he had set up, or else sacrifice their lives merely to gratify the ignorance of their regal representative. But her fate was sealed. Such wickedness could not long remain unpunished. Amidst the glittering splendor of that great feast of Belshazzar, given to a thousand of his lords. "Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God, which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives and his concubines, drank in them. They drank wine and praised the gods of gold, of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood and of stone. In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king's countenance was changed and his thoughts troubled him so that the joints of his loins were loosed and his knees smote one against another."—(Daniel v. 3-6.) Why did he not appeal to those gods of gold and of silver, whom he had served so long and faithfully; why did he not pray to his gods to defend him from impending danger or to reveal the signification of the mysterious writing on the wall? The terror stricken king seemed to have entirely overlooked or disregarded his gods, as he gazed with transfixed wonderment upon that mysterious inscription on the wall, "great is God above all gods" was doubtless the inscription written upon his mind and countenance in characters so plain as to preclude the possibility of a mistake. After