

## BEL AND THE DRAGON

### THE STORY OF BEL

--- --- --- These 3 verses may be valid, are only in the Oxford version --- --- ---

1 From the prophecy of Habakkuk the son of Jesus of the tribe of Levi.

2 There was a certain man a priest, by name Daniel, son of Abal, a companion of the King of Babylon.

3 And there was an idol Bel whom the Babylonians worshipped. And they expended on him daily twelve artabas of fine wheaten flour, and four sheep, and six measures of oil.

--- --- --- Now begins the King James Version --- --- ---

1 And king Astyages was gathered to his fathers, and Cyrus of Persia received his kingdom.

2 And Daniel conversed with the king, and was honored above all his friends.

3 Now the Babylonians had an idol, called Bel, and there were spent upon him every day twelve great measures of fine flour, and forty sheep, and six vessels of wine.

4 And the king worshipped it, and went daily to adore it; but Daniel worshipped his own God. And the king said unto him, Why does not thou worship Bel?

5 Who answered and said; Because I may not worship idols made with hands, but the living God, who has created the heaven and the earth, and has sovereignty over all flesh.

6 Then said the king unto him; Thinkest thou not that Bel is a living God? See thou not how much he eats and drinks every day?

7 Then Daniel smiled, and said; O king, be not deceived; for this is but clay within, and brass without, and did never eat or drink anything.

8 So the king was wroth, and called for his priests, and said unto them; If ye tell me not who this is that devours these expenses, ye shall die.

9 But if ye can certify me that Bel devours them, then Daniel shall die; for he has spoken blasphemy against Bel. And Daniel said unto the king; Let it be according to thy word.

10 Now the priests of Bel were threescore and ten, beside their wives and children. And the king went with Daniel into the temple of Bel.

11 So Bel's priests said; Lo, we go out; but thou, O king, set on the meat, and make ready the wine and shut the door fast, and seal it with thine own signet.

12 And to morrow when thou comes, if thou finds not that Bel has eaten up all, we will suffer death; or else Daniel, that speaks falsely against us.

13 And they little regarded it; for under the table they had made a privy entrance, whereby they entered in continually, and consumed those things.

14 So when they were gone forth, the king set meats before Bel. Now Daniel had commanded his servants to bring ashes, and they strewed all the temple in the presence of the king alone; then went they out, and shut the door, and sealed it with the king's signet, and so departed.

15 Now in the night came the priests with their wives and children, as they were wont to do, and did eat and drink up all.

16 In the morning betime the king arose, and Daniel with him.

17 And the king said, Daniel, are the seals whole? And he said; Yea, O king, they be whole.

18 And as soon as he had opened the door, the king looked upon the table, and cried with a loud voice, Great are thou, O Bel, and with thee is no deceit at all.

19 Then laughed Daniel, and held the king that he should not go in, and said; Behold now the pavement, and mark well whose footsteps are these.

20 And the king said, I see the footsteps of men, women, and children. And then the king was angry.

21 And took the priests with their wives and children, who showed him the privy doors, where they came in, and consumed such things as were upon the table.

22 Therefore the king slew them, and delivered Bel into Daniel's power, who destroyed him and his temple.

--- --- --- Now the Dragon --- --- ---

23 And in that same place there was a great dragon, which they of Babylon worshipped.

24 And the king said unto Daniel; Will thou also say that this is of brass? Lo, he lives, he eats and drinks; thou can not say that he is no living god; therefore worship him.

25 Then said Daniel unto the king; I will worship the Lord my God; for he is the living God.

26 But give me leave, O king, and I shall slay this dragon without sword or staff. The king said; I give thee leave.

27 Then Daniel took pitch, and fat, and hair, and did seethe them together, and made lumps thereof; this he put in the dragon's mouth, and so the dragon burst in sunder; and Daniel said; Lo, these are the gods ye worship.

28 When they of Babylon heard that, they took great indignation, and conspired against the king, saying; The king is become a Jew, and he has destroyed Bel, and slain the dragon, and put the priests to death.

29 So they came to the king, and said; Deliver us Daniel, or else we will destroy thee and thine house.

30 Now when the king saw that they pressed him sore, being constrained, he delivered Daniel unto them.

31 Who cast him into the lions' den; where he was six days.

32 And in the den there were seven lions, and they had given them every day two carcasses, and two sheep; which then were not given to them, to the intent they might devour Daniel.

33 Now there was in Jewry the prophet, called Habacuc (Habakkuk?), who had made pottage, and had broken bread into a bowl, and was going into the field, for to bring it to the reapers.

34 But the angel of the Lord said unto Habacuc; Go, carry the dinner that thou has into Babylon unto Daniel, who is in the lions' den.

35 And Habacuc said; Lord, I never saw Babylon; neither do I know where the den is.

36 Then the angel of the Lord took him by the crown, and lifted him up by the hair of his head, and through the vehemency of his spirit set him in Babylon over the den.

37 And Habakkuk cried, saying, O Daniel, Daniel, take the dinner which God has sent thee.

38 And Daniel said; Thou has remembered me, O God; neither has thou forsaken them that love thee.

39 So Daniel arose, and did eat; and the angel of the Lord set Habacuc in his own place again immediately.

40 Upon the seventh day the king went to bewail Daniel; and when he came to the den, he looked in, and, behold, Daniel was sitting.

41 Then cried the king with a loud voice, saying; Great are thou, O Lord God of Daniel, and there is none other beside thee.

42 And he drew him out, and cast those that were the cause of his destruction into the den; and they were devoured in a moment before his face.

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Estimated Timeline of this event

**cy3374** Nebuchadnezzar in his 9th year invades Israel and draws all the affluent people of Israel-Judah into slavery in Babylon. (2-Kings 25:1, Jere 39:1, Antiq 20.10.1)  
Book of Lamentations - During destruction; possibly by Jeremiah or Jehoiachin or Josedech or Ezekiel or others who saw the curse of destruction after heathen entered the sanctuary (Ezek 32:2)

**cy3378** The 5th yr of Jehoiachin-J captivity, Ezekiel saw a vision telling him to go into captivity without rebelling, and to consume the iniquity of the nation. (Ezek 1-5)  
Book of Ezekiel Begins – Age 30- the 5th year of King Jehoiachin captivity

**cy3382** 9th yr of Zedekiah, Jerusalem siege to his 11th yr. (2-Kings 25:1-10)

**cy3384** Nebuchadnezzar 19th yr sends Nebuzaradan captain of the guard to burn the Kings house & carry away the rest into slavery in Babylon  
(2-Kings 25:8-11, 2-Chron 38:19)

**cy3385** 20th yr of Nebuchadnezzar, was the destruction of Jerusalem the Temple burned and high priest Josedech taken to Babylon  
(2-Kings 25:1, Jere 39:1, Daniel 2, Antiq 10.7-8)

Jeremiah prophecy of **cy3365** began when High Priest was taken

When seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation (Jere 25:12, Dan 9:2, Antiq 11.1.1-4, Apion 1:20)

Book of Jeremiah Ends – 20th yr of Nebuchadnezzar -stating release of Jehoiachin in 25yrs

Apocrypha Book of Susanna – Daniel saves the wife of Joacim from false accusers  
(estimated time **cy3385**)

Apocrypha Book of Bel & Dragon – Daniel proves Babylon king's Idols are false -  
(estimated time **cy3385**)

Book of Habakkuk – Possibly in this time, fed Daniel in Apocrypha Bel & Dragon

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