

**THE HISTORY OF THE
DESTRUCTION
OF
BEL AND THE DRAGON,
CUT OFF FROM THE END OF DANIEL.**

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* honoured 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 dost not thou worship Bel? ⁵ Who *answered and* said, Because I *may* not worship idols made with hands, but the living God, who hath created the heaven and the earth, and hath sovereignty over all flesh. ⁶ Then said the king unto him, Thinkest thou not that Bel is a living god? seest thou not how much he eateth and drinketh 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 *any thing*. ⁸ So the king was wroth, and called for his priests, and said unto them, If ye tell me not who *this is that* devoureth these expences, ye shall die. ⁹ But if ye can certify *me* that Bel devoureth them, *then* Daniel shall die: for he hath 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 comest *in*, if thou findest not that Bel hath eaten *up* all, we will suffer death; or *else* Daniel, that speaketh 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 *those* they strewed *throughout* 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 art 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 shewed 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.

²³ And in *that same* place there was a great dragon, which they of Babylon worshipped. ²⁴ And the king said unto Daniel, Wilt thou also say that this is of brass? lo, he liveth, he eateth and drinketh; thou canst 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 you 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 hath destroyed Bel, he hath 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 a prophet, called Habacuc, who had made pottage, and had broken bread in 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 hast 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 bare *him* by the hair of his head, *and* through the vehemency of his spirit set him in Babylon over the den. ³⁷ And Habacuc cried, saying, O Daniel, Daniel, take the dinner which God hath sent thee. ³⁸ And Daniel said, Thou hast remembered me, O God: neither hast thou forsaken them that seek thee and 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 art thou, O Lord God of Daniel, and there is none other besides 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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Language: English

2020-12-20

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 11 Nov 2022 from source
files dated 30 Nov 2021

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