

# Daniel 5:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

## Analysis

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Judgment strikes immediately: 'In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.' The timing 'in that night'—the same night as the feast and writing—emphasizes immediate fulfillment. No delay, no opportunity for repentance (unlike Nebuchadnezzar who had twelve months, 4:29). Belshazzar's death represents the kingdom's end. The verse's brevity mirrors the judgment's swiftness—one moment feasting in apparent security, next moment dead and kingdom transferred. This demonstrates that God's patience has limits; there comes a time when judgment cannot be delayed further.

## Historical Context

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Historical sources (Xenophon, Herodotus) describe Babylon's capture during a feast. While details vary, extra-biblical sources confirm sudden conquest with minimal resistance. Belshazzar's death marked dynastic end. The city's capture involved diverting the Euphrates River and entering through lowered waterways. The Persians entered the city during night hours. Archaeological evidence including the Nabonidus Chronicle documents the conquest in 539 BC, with Cyrus entering Babylon peacefully after initial military victory.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

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