

THE HISTORIE OF Bel and of the dragon, which is the fourteenth chapter of Daniel after the Laten.

Now when King Astyages was laide with his fathers, Cyrus y^e Persian receiued his kingdome. And Daniel did eat at the Kings table, & was honored about all his friends.

Now the Babylonians had an idole, called Bel, and there were spent vpon him euerie day, twelue ^a great measures of fine floure, and fortie shepe, and six great ^b pottes of wine.

And the King worshipped it, and went daily to honour it: but Daniel worshipped his owne God. And the King said vnto him, Why doest not thou worship Bel?

Who answered, and said, Because I may not worship idoles made with hands, but the liuing God, which hath created the heauen & the earth, and hath power vpo all flesh.

Then said the King vnto him, Thinkest

thou not that Bel is a liuing God? seest thou not how muche he eateth and drinketh euerie day?

Then Daniel smiled and said, O King, be not deceiued: for this is but claye within, and brasse without, and did neuer eat any thing.

So the King was wroth, and called for his Priests, and said vnto them, If ye tell me not, who this is that eateth vp these expenses, ye shal dye:

But if ye can certifie me that Bel eateth them, then Daniel shal dye: for he hath spokē blasphemie against Bel. And Daniel said vnto the King, Let it be according to thy worde.

(Now the Priests of Bel were thre score and ten beside their wiues and childrē:) and the King went with Daniel into the temple of Bel.

So Bels Priests said, Beholde, we wil go out, and set thou the meat there, o King, & let the wine be filled: then shut the dore

^a Called Area
ba, whereof euerie one contained somewhat more the nine gallons, which make in all an hundred & eight gallons at the least
^b Called Metretes, and euerie one of these measures contained about ten gallons which in all make thre score.

Bel and the dragon.

- fast, and seale it with thine owne signet.
- 12 And to morowe when thou comest in, if thou findest not that Bel hath eaten vp all, we wil suffer death, or els Daniel that hath lyed vpon vs.
- 13 Now thei thought the selues sure ynough: for vnder the table thei had made a priuie entrance, and there went they in cuer, and toke away the things.
- 14 So whé they were gone forthe, the King set meates before Bel. Now Daniel had commanded his seruants to bring ashes, and these they strowed thorowout all the temple, in the presence of the King alone: then went they out, and shut the dore, & sealed it with the Kings signet, and so departed.
- 15 Now in the night came the Priests, with their wiues and children, (as they were wonte to do) and did eat and drinke vp all.
- 16 In the morning betimes, the King arose and Daniel with him.
- 17 And the King said, Daniel, are the scales whole? Who answered, Yea, ó King, they be whole.
- 18 And assone as he had opened the dore, the King looked vpon the table, and cryed with a loude voyce, Great art thou, ó Bel, and with thee is no disceite.
- 19 Then laughed Daniel, and helde the King that he shulde not go in, & said, Beholde now the pauement, and make wel whose footestepes are these.
- 20 And the King said, I se the footestepes of men, women, and children: therefore the King was angrie,
- 21 And toke the Priests, with their wiues, and children, and they shewed him the priuie dores, where they came in, and consumed suche things as were vpon the table.
- 22 Therefore the King slewe them, and deliuered Bel into Daniels power, who destroyed him and his temple.
- 23 ¶ Moreouer in that same place there was a great dragon, which the Babylonians worshipped.
- 24 And the King said vnto Daniel, Sayest thou, that this is of brasse also: he liueth and eateth and drinketh, so that thou canst not say, that he is no liuing god: therefore worshipp him.
- 25 Then said Daniel vnto the King, I wil worshipp the Lord my God: for he is the liuing God.
- 26 But giue me leaue, ó King, and I wil slay this dragon without sworde or staffe. And the King said, I giue thee leaue.
- 27 Then Daniel toke pitche, and fatte, & heere, and did seeth them together, & made lompes thereof; this he put in the dragons mouthe, and so the dragon burst in sunder. And Daniel said, Beholde, whome ye worshipp.
- 28 When the Babylonians heard it, they were wonderful wroth, and gathered them together against the King, saying, The King is become a Iewe: for he hath destroyed Bel, and hath slaine the dragon, and put the Priests to death.
- 29 So they came to the King, and said, Deliuer vs Daniel, or els we wil destroy thee and thine house.
- 30 Now whé the King sawe, that thei pressed fore vpon him, and that necessitie constrained him, he deliuered Daniel vnto them:
- 31 Who cast him into the lions denne, where he was six daies.
- 32 In the denne there were seuen lions, and they had giuen them euerie day two bodies and two shepe, which then were not giuen them, to the intent that they might deuour Daniel.
- 33 ¶ Now there was in Iewrie a Prophet called Abbacuc, which had made potage, and broken bread into a bowle, and was going into the field for to bring it to the reapers.
- 34 But y Angel of the Lord said vnto Abbacuc, Go, carye the meat y thou hast, into Babylon vnto Daniel, which is in the lions denne.
- 35 And Abbacuc said, Lord, I neuer sawe Babilon, nether do I knowe where the denne is.
- 36 Then the Angel toke him by the crowne of the head, and bare him by the heire of the head, and through a mightie winde set him in Babylon vpon the cenne.
- 37 And Abbacuc cryed, saying, O Daniel, Daniel, take the dinner that God hath sent thee.
- 38 Then said Daniel, O God, thou hast thought vpon me, and thou neuer failest the that seke thee and loue thee.
- 39 So Daniel arose, and did eat, and the Angel of the Lord set Abbacuc in his owne place againe immediatly.
- 40 Vpon the seuenth day, the King went to bewaile Daniel: and when he came to the denne, he looked in, and beholde, Daniel sat in the middes of the lions.
- 41 Then cryed the King with a loude voyce, saying, Great art thou, ó Lord God of Daniel, and there is none other besides thee.
- 42 And he drew him out of the denne, and cast the that were the cause of his destruction into the denne, & they were deuoured in a momente before his face.