

WRITING ON THE WALL

Daniel 5

Introduction

Daniel 4 reveals how Nebuchadnezzar lifted himself up in pride, but after he was judged by God with sickness for seven years, he humbled himself to the power and control of God. However, Belshazzar did not learn from his grandfather's experience. He also lifted himself up in pride and blatantly scorned God's power. Therefore, he received the judgment of God immediately without any extended mercy.

Aim of the Lesson

God puts down those who are proud and lifts up those who are humble.

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God (Jam 4:6-7).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer

I. Revelry of Belshazzar (5:1-4)

1. How did Belshazzar show his contempt for the Medo-Persian army outside the walls of Babylon? 5:1
2. How did Belshazzar show his disdain for God? 5:2-4

II. Revelation of God (5:5-9)

3. How did God respond to Belshazzar's disdain? 5:5
4. How did Belshazzar react to God's miracle? 5:6
5. What offer did Belshazzar make to his court counselors that could read and interpret the writing? 5:7
6. Since none of them could read or interpret the writing, what does that tell us about God's Word? 5:8; 1 Cor 2:12-14

III. Recommendation of the Queen (5:10-12)

7. Why did the mother queen urge Belshazzar to call for Daniel to read and interpret the writing?

IV. Reception of Daniel (5:13-16)

8. Why do you think the king received Daniel so well after he had shown disdain for Daniel's God? 5:15-16

V. Rebuke of Belshazzar (5:17-24)

9. What was the first thing that Daniel told Belshazzar? 5:17
10. What did Daniel tell Belshazzar about God's relationship to Nebuchadnezzar? 5:18-19
11. What happened when Nebuchadnezzar was proud and thought that his kingdom was for his glory? 5:20-21
12. What did Belshazzar fail to do that caused him to lose his life and his kingdom? 5:23

VI. Rendering of the Handwriting (5:25-29)

13. Match the words written on the wall of the banquet hall with the correct meaning. 5:25-28

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|------------------------------|-------------------|
| MENE | Divided or Broken |
| TEKEL | Persia |
| UPHARSIN (the root is PERES) | Numbered |
| | Weighed |

VII. Reality of the Prophecy (5:30-31)

14. When was God's message to Belshazzar fulfilled that was written on the wall? 5:30
15. Who became the king of Babylon after it was conquered by Medo-Persia? 5:31
16. Write down any steps you have taken to put down pride in your life.