

The Book of Daniel

Week 5

The setting of this chapter is a great banquet being hosted by King Belshazzar. Belshazzar's predecessor was the late King Nebuchadnezzar; but unlike his predecessor, this king has not learned his lesson on what it means to respect, honor, and humble himself before the one and only Sovereign God of Israel.

1. Great Banquet

- a. King Belshazzar flaunting himself (pride) because he is drinking in front of everyone.
- b. Nature of the party is vile. Large amounts of alcohol, concubines, public horrible behavior with no regard for honor or respect for anything other than themselves.
- c. Demands Israel's holy vessels be brought for unholy use (drinking & mockery)

2. Writing on the Wall

- a. Reaction of the king (blood drained, filled with fear, knees knocked, almost faints)
- b. All wisemen are unable to read the writing.
- c. Queen mother insists that Daniel would be able to read the writing and Daniel comes to the aid of the king.

3. Daniel and the King

- a. King belittles Daniel by using Hebrew name and referring to exiled nature of country.
- b. Offers Daniel substantial reward by Daniel refuses the reward.

Daniel now stands as a prophet speaking the words of God to King Belshazzar. Daniel is speaking to the sovereign power of God and to the nature of God upholding and defending the honor of His name. Daniel does not want the reward because he wants there to be no mistakes that he says what he says because God told him to.

- d. Daniel speaks to what happened to his successor King Nebuchadnezzar in order to teach him humility.
- e. Daniel accuses Belshazzar of not learning from that example and exalting himself against the Lord of Heaven.

4. Interpretation of the Writing

- a. MENE (numbered) MENE (numbered) TEKEL (weighed) PARSIN (divided)
- b. Unpointed Aramaic (consonants only)
- c. Perfect Form of the Verbs "Have Been" = Finality to God's decision & judgement

5. End of King Belshazzar reign

- a. King dies that very night and reign is transferred to King Darius the Mede
- b. God uses Daniel to again communicate that He alone is the Sovereign ruler over all things