

HEROES OF THE FAITH

DANIEL: King Belshazzar

13 January 2021



Chapter 5

- Babylon's new king (v. 1)
 - ❖ Belshazzar (Ruled: 550 – 539 B.C.) Co-Regent with Nabonidus
 - ❑ Year: 539 B.C. – the final year of his reign. Over two decades after Nebuchadnezzar's death.
 - ❖ Daniel
 - ❑ He had now been in captivity for 66 years (605 B.C. – 539 B.C.).
 - ❑ At this juncture, he was approximately 76 to 81-years old.
- The party. (vv. 2-4)
 - ❖ During the evening, Belshazzar wanted to drink from the Jews gold & silver goblets. (v. 2)
 - ❖ "...his father..." = (Aramaic) Predecessor; ancestor; possibly his grandfather. (v. 2)
 - ❖ They desecrated the gold vessels, by drinking wine from them. (vv. 3-4)
 - ❑ These gold goblets had been made specifically for God's temple in Jerusalem. (v. 3)
 - ❑ They used these goblets to praise false gods, in so doing, mocking God. (v. 4)
- God spoke. *Spiritual warfare* deepened. (vv. 5-12)
 - ❖ Immediately: God wrote on the palace wall in the king's presence. (v. 5)
 - ❖ Reality struck. The king grew weak and extremely afraid. (v. 6)
 - ❖ Belshazzar called in his spiritual court. (v. 7)
 - ❖ The king was ready to immediately promote whoever could translate the message.
 - ❖ No one on the spiritual court could read the mysterious writing on the wall. (v. 8)
 - ❖ Once again, the king became extremely afraid. (v. 9)
 - ❖ The queen (surviving wife, or daughter, of Nebuchadnezzar. If the latter, she was one of Nabonidus' wives) heard about this and came unannounced to the banquet hall. (v. 10)
 - ❖ The queen told the king about the *forgotten* former chief of the spiritual court. (vv. 11-12)
 - ❑ This man possessed "*the spirit of the holy gods.*" (v. 11)
 - ❑ He possessed light, understanding, & wisdom of the gods was in him.
 - ❑ King Nebuchadnezzar made him chief of the spiritual court.
 - ❑ Daniel had an excellent spirit, knowledge, & understanding to interpret dreams, riddles, & solve problems. (v. 12)
 - ❑ She knew this man could interpret the writing on the wall.



- Daniel interpreted the message on the wall. (vv. 13-30)
 - ❖ Belshazzar spoke with Daniel & placed his hope in him. (vv. 13-16)
 - ❑ The king looked down upon Daniel. (v. 13)
 - He did recognize him as the chief leader of the spiritual court.
 - He identified him as one of Judah's exiles.
 - This reveals why Belshazzar had forgotten Daniel even existed.
 - ❑ The king did, however, complement Daniel before he sought his help. (v. 14)
 - ❑ The king identified his problem. (v. 15)
 - ❑ He made an official offer to Daniel to elevate him in leadership in his kingdom. (v. 16)
 - ❖ Daniel's character & his wisdom. (vv. 17-23)
 - ❑ Daniel did not want the king's gifts. He wanted to honor God. (v. 17)
 - ❑ Daniel began with God & king Nebuchadnezzar. (vv. 18-21)
 - The Most High God gave king Nebuchadnezzar greatness, glory, & majesty. (v. 18)
 - Because of this, all people groups and nations trembled before the king. (v. 19)
 - Nebuchadnezzar held absolute God-given power.
 - Because of the king's pride, arrogance, & hard heart God humbled him. (v. 20)
 - God took everything away from Nebuchadnezzar. (v. 21)
 - The Most High God forced him to live like a beast and eat grass.
 - Until the king humbled himself before God, he lived like a beast.
 - ❑ Daniel now spoke directly to the king. (vv. 22-23)
 - As Nebuchadnezzar's successor, you knew all of this. (v. 22)
 - Belshazzar chose not to humble himself before God.
 - Belshazzar defied The Most High God. (v. 23)
 - He brought vessels dedicated to God into his court.
 - He, his leaders, wives, & concubines drunk from these vessels.
 - He praised inanimate idols – gold, silver, wood, stone, etc.
 - He did not worship, honor, or praise the God who gave him life.
 - ❖ Daniel interpreted the message inscribed upon the wall. (vv. 24-28)
 - ❑ "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin" (vv. 24-25)
 - ❑ Mene: God had numbered the days of the king's reign & brought it to an end. (v. 26)
 - ❑ Tekel: God judged Belshazzar & he was spiritually lacking. (v. 27)
 - ❑ Peres (the singular form of Parsin): God divided Belshazzar's kingdom & gave it to the Medes & Persians. (v. 28)
 - ❖ Belshazzar kept his word. He promoted Daniel to the kingdom's third highest ruler. (v. 29)
 - ❖ That night, Belshazzar died. The Medo-Persian empire conquered Babylon. (v. 30)
 - ❖ Darius 1 (Cyrus) (Mede) conquered the Babylonian kingdom.

