

Daniel 5

EXAMINE

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Psalms 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.

The Lord wants to speak to you personally from His Scriptures!! Before you begin the remainder of the homework, read this chapter of Daniel slowly and carefully. Prayerfully ask the Lord to be your Teacher, and make a note of the things He shows you. You may want to ask Him to instruct you specifically in some of the following areas.

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin for me to avoid?
- Is there a command for me to obey?
- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- What do You want me to learn about You as God the Father, God the Son and/or God the Holy Spirit?
- Is there something for which to praise or thank You?
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- How do You want the lessons I have learned to affect my life today?

EXPLORE

Please note: There is a twenty-three year gap between chapters four and five of the book of Daniel. The following information about the kings of the Neo-Babylon Empire and the year(s) they reigned comes from The Bible Knowledge Commentary by John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck. In verse 2, Nebuchadnezzar is referred to as Belshazzar's *father* in the sense that he was his *ancestor*.

605-562 B.C.	Nebuchadnezzar
562-560 B.C.	Evil-Marduk (Nebuchadnezzar's son)
560-556 B.C.	Neriglissar (Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law)
556 B.C.	Labashi-Marduk (Neriglissar's son; Nebuchadnezzar's grandson)
556-539 B.C.	Nabonidus (Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law)
553-539 B.C.	Belshazzar (Nabonidus' son and co-regent with his father; grandson of Nebuchadnezzar)

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1. According to verse 1, what did King Belshazzar do?

2. Historians tell us that while King Belshazzar was holding his great feast inside the palace, the city of Babylon was under siege. Some commentators believe that the king was arrogantly unconcerned about the siege because within the thick city walls, Babylon had stored supplies to sustain the people for twenty years. The city also had an ample water supply from the Euphrates River. It appears that Belshazzar was trusting in himself and his own resources. What do the following verses say about the dangers of trusting in ourselves?
 - Proverbs 28:26a

 - Hosea 10:13

 - Obadiah 3-4

 - 1 Corinthians 10:12

3. In contrast to the "self" confidence that Belshazzar exhibited, where do the following verses say that are we to put our trust and confidence?
 - Psalm 37:5

 - Psalm 118:8-9

 - Proverbs 3:5-6

 - Isaiah 26:4

4. Select one of the verses from question 3 and explain how it has influenced

your life.

5. Is there an area of your life where you are putting your trust in your own resources, abilities, or wisdom rather than in the Lord? If so, turn it over to Him today.

6. Summarize verses 2-4.

7. Belshazzar had taken the sacred items from the temple and used them in a profane manner. These temple vessels were to be devoted exclusively for the worship of the Lord. Instead, Belshazzar used them in an unholy, irreverent way that showed contempt for the Lord. Look up the words *sacred* and *profane* in a dictionary and write the definitions.

8. What do you learn about using sacred things in a profane manner from the verses below?
 - Leviticus 19:8

 - Numbers 18:32

 - 1 Corinthians 11:26-30

9. What is sacred to you? How do you insure that it is never profaned?

10. Belshazzar was defying the Lord by using the temple vessels in an unholy way. Can you give a few examples of ways people today defy God with their actions or use the things of the Lord with contempt?

11. It appears that Belshazzar made his decisions while under the influence of alcohol. The Bible has much to say about the dangers of drunkenness. What does Ephesians 5:18-21 say about this?

12. In your own words, describe what happened in verses 5-9.

13. How is Daniel described in verses 11-12? Note: Verse 2 says that Belshazzar's wives and concubines were with him at the feast so the queen mentioned in verse 10 is probably not his wife. Many believe she was queen mother, wife of King Nebuchadnezzar.

14. Look at verses 13-17. What did Belshazzar offer Daniel and how did he respond? Why do you think he responded as he did?

15. Although there was no record of Daniel's life in the twenty-three years between chapters 4 and 5, he was ready to answer when called upon. What can you do to keep yourself spiritually prepared so that you will be ready when the Lord calls upon you?

16. Look at verses 18-23. How is Belshazzar's life contrasted with that of his grandfather? Please share how you are training others not to make the same mistakes that you have made.

17. According to Henrietta Mears, "The prophet (Daniel) fearlessly condemned the foolish and sensual young king." Belshazzar was a very powerful man. Have you ever had to confront someone in a position of power? How did you do so and what were the consequences?

18. In verses 23-24, Daniel said that the fingers were sent from the Lord and described Him as "the God who holds your breath in His hands and owns all your ways." What does this mean? How are you seeking to glorify Him today?
19. Look at verses 25-29 and explain how Daniel interpreted each of the following:
- Mene
 - Tekel
 - Upharsin (plural of Peres)
20. The Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever. Is He trying to tell you something today? Does He want to warn you, encourage you, or direct you in some way? If so, how will you respond to Him?
21. According to verses 30-31, what happened "that very night"? Now review chapter two of Daniel. How was King Nebuchadnezzar's dream being fulfilled?

ENJOY

Take time today to sit with the Lord and enjoy Him. Delight yourself in the God of your salvation! Bask in His love, rest in His protection, and take pleasure in a time of intimate fellowship with Him.

What have you learned from Him and about Him this week? How has this knowledge drawn you closer to Him? Make a note below. Now praise Him for who He is and thank Him for all He has done for you.

