

DANIEL AND BELSHAZZAR

Daniel 5:1-29



Contents

Message	God will never forsake those who place their trust in Him.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Daniel possessed the wisdom to decipher the writing on Belshazzar's wall.■ Like Daniel we live in a world where we face many difficulties; however, if we trust God, He will help us.
Bible Text	Daniel 5:1-29

Daniel and Belshazzar



King Belshazzar gave a great feast. He celebrated with a thousand of his mightiest lords. When he was drunk, he commanded his servants to bring the vessels of silver and gold that his father, King Nebuchadnezzar, had stolen from the temple in Jerusalem. The king and his guests drank wine out of these vessels and praised the gods that they had made out of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood and stone.

Suddenly a hand appeared out of nowhere and wrote on the wall of the king's palace. Belshazzar saw the hand and his face turned pale. He was so shocked that he could not move.

The king called out loudly, "Bring me my wise men, my scholars and magicians. If anyone can read this writing and tell me what it says, they will receive a garment of purple and a golden chain around their neck, and they will be the third most powerful man in my kingdom."

All the wise men came, but they could not read the writing or tell him what it meant. The king became more troubled.

Then Belshazzar's mother entered the banquet hall. She said, "Why are you so afraid? There is a man in your kingdom who bears the Spirit of the Holy God. Your father, Nebuchadnezzar, set him above all the wise men, magicians and astrologers. His name is Daniel. Call for him, and he will tell you what that writing says."

When Daniel arrived, the king said, "My wise men and scholars cannot tell me what this writing means. If you can read this writing and tell me what it says, you will receive a garment of purple and a golden chain, and you will become the third most important man in my kingdom." Daniel said, "Keep your gifts and give them to someone else.

I will read this writing to you and tell you what it says. God the Almighty gave your father a kingdom with power, glory and majesty, and all the nations were afraid of him. When he became proud, his throne was taken from him. You know all this, Belshazzar, yet you have not humbled yourself. You have raised yourself against God, the Lord of heaven.

You have fetched the vessels of God's temple and have drunk out of them, and praised your own gods which do not exist. But you have not honoured the living God. That is why he sent the hand that wrote these words. 'Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin'. This means, God has numbered the days of your kingdom (mene), you have been weighed in the balance and found wanting (tekel), and your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and the Persians (upharsin)."

That same night, King Belshazzar was killed.

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel...

Let some of the children play the story in a role-play. Instruct them before.

Provide disguise / fancy dress and additional materials like a poster with the sentence:

"Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin".

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- What happens on the feast of King Belshazzar?
(A hand appears out of nowhere and writes on the wall.)
- What does the King do? (He asks all wise men and finally Daniel to tell him the meaning.)
- What happens? (God reveals the meaning unto Daniel.)
- What does "Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin" mean?
 - God has numbered the days of your kingdom (mene),
 - you have been weighed in the balance and found wanting (tekel),
 - your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and the Persians (upharsin).
- Why does God help Daniel? (Because he pleads to and trusts in God)

Have the children repeat...

- Daniel possessed the wisdom to decipher the writing on Belshazzar's wall.
- Like Daniel, we live in a world where we face many difficulties.
- However, if we trust God, He will help us.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- Daniel and his friends prayed because of their fearful situation.
- We speak to the children about how prayer can help when we are afraid.

Repeat the Message

God will never forsake those who place their trust in Him.