

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What was the final sin of Belshazzar that brought on God's judgment?
2. Why did Belshazzar tremble when he saw the handwriting on the wall?
3. What similar condition will exist in the last times?
(see Rev. 6:12-17)
4. How could Belshazzar have spared himself from the judgment of God?

SUMMARY:

Certain laws of science are accepted because having been proposed many years ago, and having been tested again and again over these years, they have never failed. God's laws, aside from being the Word of the living God, pass these tests marvelously. Yet man refuses to apply the same confidence to God's laws, including the things which He has prophesied (and have been fulfilled!) in the Bible. One can only conclude that man does not want to believe and thus will find himself just as guilty as the king of Babylon in our text today. Just as we can look at him and say "he should have known better," so it can be said of man as he on that last day stands before the Lord, speechless and awaiting the inevitable condemnation to which a just God must sentence him. Consider the stakes in such a terrible gamble and choose you this day the Lord.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #10

June 9, 2013

Second Quarter

HANDWRITING OF DOOM

LESSON TEXT: *Daniel 5:1-31*

LESSON SETTING: Palace in Babylon where king Belshazzar replaces King Nebuchadnezzar.

TIME: Approximately 538 B.C.

I. BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST Daniel 5:1-4

- A. Feasting (vs. 1) Numbers 11:32-33; 1 Peter 4:3
- B. Drinking (vs. 2) Proverbs 23:20-21; 31:4-5
- C. Sacrilege (vs. 3) Matthew 21:13

II. BELSHAZZAR'S FEAR Daniel 5:5-17

- A. A Guilty Conscience (vs. 6) Genesis 42:21; John 8:9
- B. Guilty Fear (vs. 6) Genesis 3:8; Isaiah 33:14; Hebrews 10:27
- C. No Peace (vs. 9) Isaiah 48:22; 59:8; Ezekiel 7:25

III. BELSHAZZAR'S FUTURE Daniel 5:18-31

- A. Daniel Rebukes the King (vs. 20-23)
- B. Life Revealed (vs. 23) Proverbs 5:21; Jeremiah 16:17
- C. Life Tested (vs. 27) 1 Corinthians 3:13
- D. Life Ended (vs. 28) Proverbs 6:15; 29:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:3
- E. Sin's Penalty (vs. 28) 1 Chronicles 10:13; Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:23

GOLDEN TEXT: *BE NOT DECEIVED; GOD IS NOT MOCKED: FOR WHATSOEVER A MAN SOWETH, THAT SHALL HE ALSO REAP.*
Galatians 6:7

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Daniel 6:1-28

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Psalm 91:1-14; Acts 12:1-17;
Romans 8:35-39;
2 Timothy 4:9-18

QUARTERLY THEME: God's People in Captivity

TOPIC: DANIEL DELIVERED FROM THE LIONS

INTRODUCTION:

In our lesson today, we find two types of men, both of which are present in our society yet today—one in large proportions and the other all too few. The one group was not only selfish, they thought all others selfish too, and they were willing to go to any extreme that their own ends might be met. They were sure they were smarter than all others and that the very tactics that they used would never be successfully used against them. What conceit! Yet, we see this very thing today, men willing to trust their own arm and convinced that the world (whatever that is) owes them the best, even though it must come from the property of others.

The other type are those of strong moral fiber who believe that the eye cannot see everything and that there is a loving God who is faithful and who will provide the physical, moral and spiritual values that bring the satisfaction everyone is looking for. Daniel was of the latter type. He trusted God and was not willing to compromise the principles the Lord had placed in his heart over the years.

We can easily see the outcome. God not only brought Daniel through the crisis but He amply rewarded those who trusted in themselves. It is not always the case that God punishes those who engage in unrighteousness immediately, but in His own time He will certainly do so. It is also true that God does not always, immediately, outwardly reward those who stand firm in Him, but He will certainly do so even though the inward peace at the time seems ample reason for doing the right thing in His sight.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Men will reap the results of their actions, whether good or bad.

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . *THY GOD WHOM THOU SERVEST CONTINUALLY, HE WILL DELIVER THEE.*

Daniel 6:16

Think, if you will, of the various outwardly good reasons why Daniel might have responded to the King's decree in a different manner. He might have reasoned that his relationship with God was not dependent on outward actions. He might have closed the window before praying and told himself that God could see through the closed doors and windows. He might have said to continue in this practice would hurt his relationship with the king and to maintain the relationship there were certain compromises that ought to be made. Today we might find ourselves making similar concessions in less severe circumstances. Note here, that the king knew how Daniel should act and knew Daniel would act accordingly. Daniel's testimony would have been seriously blighted had he yielded as might have occurred to us in similar circumstances.

Today, the world knows how the believer ought to act, even though they themselves will not do so. To act other than that, or in other words to lower our standards, can serve only to make us less pleasing to God, make us less effective to our fellow man and remove the inner peace that could be ours after such an experience as Daniel went through. Oh, perhaps it will not be such an experience visible to all men, but within us we can have the faith that God will "stop the mouths of lions."

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 10 – 16

M. Joseph Delivered from Prison. Genesis 41:38-46

T. Israel Delivered from Egypt. Exodus 13:14-22

W. David Delivered from Saul. 1 Samuel 19:9-18

T. Elisha Delivered from Syria. 2 Kings 6:11-20

F. *Daniel Delivered from the Lions. Daniel 6:1-28

S. Christ Delivered from His Enemies. Luke 4:23-31

S. Peter Delivered from Prison. Acts 12:5-16

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