

## In the Fire Part 6

### **Daniel 5**

King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. **2** While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. **3** So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. **4** As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.

**5** Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. **6** His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his legs became weak and his knees were knocking.

- At this point Nebuchadnezzar is no longer the king of Babylon.
- Nebuchadnezzar died after a 43-year reign.
- Bible Historians tell us that in Daniel 5, Babylon was under siege by the Medo-Persian and they were looking for a way into the strongly defended city.

### **There was a wall around the city:**

Conservative calculations tell us:

- The outer walls were 17 miles long.
- These walls were 22 feet thick and 90 feet high.
- The outer wall also had guard towers another 100 feet high.
- The city gates were made of bronze.
- A system of inner and outer walls and moats made the city even more secure.

- Belshazzar was not afraid of the siege surrounding the city. He was confident because of Babylon's impressive defenses and his vast supplies.
- During the siege, the king was foolish enough to not only lose all semblance of self-control at this party, but also to openly mock God.
- Belshazzar is guilty of disregard for the situation he faced; He engages in drinking and partying in the place of sober awareness.
- Ultimately, Belshazzar is guilty of committing the sin of sacrilege; a violation or misuse of something that is regarded as sacred.
- Belshazzar takes hold of the sacred in an irreverent way...

**7** The king summoned the enchanters, astrologers and diviners. Then he said to these wise men of Babylon, "Whoever reads this writing and tells me what it means will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around his neck, and he will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom."

**8** Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or tell the king what it meant. **9** So King Belshazzar became even more terrified and his face grew more pale. His nobles were baffled.

**10** The queen, hearing the voices of the king and his nobles, came into the banquet hall. "May the king live forever!" she said. "Don't be alarmed! Don't look so pale! **11** There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods. Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners. **12** He did this because Daniel, whom the king called Belteshazzar, was found to have a keen mind and knowledge and understanding, and also the ability to

interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems. **Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means.”**

- In the midst of the situation, God humbles Belshazzar...
- Belshazzar encounters the divine...
- A Word from God appears, written on the wall...
- Belshazzar can see it, but he can't comprehend what it says...

Vs. 12

**“...Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means.”**

- Daniel has interpreted dreams
- But now Daniel interprets the word of the Lord...
- Lord, like in Daniels day, raise up a generation who sees the Word of God and interprets it to those who can't...

**13** So Daniel was brought before the king, and the king said to him, “Are you Daniel, one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah? **14** I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in you and that you have insight, intelligence and outstanding wisdom. **15** The wise men and enchanters were brought before me to read this writing and tell me what it means, but they could not explain it. **16** Now I have heard that you are able to give interpretations and to solve difficult problems. If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, you will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around your neck, and you will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.”

**17** Then Daniel answered the king, “You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means.

**18** “Your Majesty, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor. **19** Because of the high position he gave him, all the nations and peoples of every language dreaded and feared him. Those the king wanted to put to death, he put to death; those he wanted to spare, he spared; those he wanted to promote, he promoted; and those he wanted to humble, he humbled. **20** But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory. **21** He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal; he lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like the ox; and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and sets over them anyone he wishes.

**22** “But you, Belshazzar, his son, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. **23** Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways. **24** Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription.

**25** “This is the inscription that was written:

mene, mene, tekel, parsin

**26-28** “Here is what these words mean:

*Mene*: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.

*Tekel*: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

*Peres*: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

**29** Then at Belshazzar’s command, Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

**30** That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain,  
**31** and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two.

Belshazzar days were numbered and the kingdom given away because he did not humble himself and he handled the sacred things of God in an ungodly way.

### **Vs. 3**

So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them.

- Belshazzar took hold of what God told Moses to make in Exodus 25 that was anointed with the oil of Exodus 30 in an unworthy manner...

Scripture says in

### **Exodus 30** NKJV

**25** And you shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a holy anointing oil. **26** With it you shall anoint the tabernacle of meeting and the ark of the Testimony; **27** the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense; **28** the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base. **29** You shall consecrate them, that they may be most holy; whatever touches them must be holy.

The golden goblets were holy and Belshazzar was not...

**Illustration:** common utensils vs uncommon utensils

**Belshazzar was in proximity of something that was meant to be a blessing when used for God's purposes... now his life was cut short because he handled something sacred in an ungodly way...**

## **Acts 10:15**

The Lord shows Peter a vision and says to him: “What God has made clean, do not call common.”

In the OT it was utensils and things from the Temple...

In the NT it is people who have been washed in the blood of the lamb...

Do you remember the story of when David was moving the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem? In the story they weren't handling the Ark incorrectly on a cart, and the oxen pulling the cart stumbled and Uzzah reached out his hand to grab the Ark...

## **2 Samuel 6:7**

The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God.

Then it says:

## **2 Samuel 6**

**9** David was afraid of the Lord that day and said, “How can the ark of the Lord ever come to me?” **10** He was not willing to take the ark of the Lord to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. **11** The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the Lord blessed him and his entire household.

- This same Ark of the Covenant that was anointed and had the presence of God on it when it was stolen by the Philistines in 1 Samuel 5 they thought it would bring them blessing and power.
- They put the Ark in the temple of Dagon and the next day the idol was face down in front of the Ark...
- They set Dagon back up and the next morning, Dagon was face down and every part of the idol was broken except the torso...

- Then because they had stolen the Ark and handled it irreverently everybody in the Philistine city of Ashdod got tumors in the groin.
- so they moved the Ark to the Philistine city of Gath and they all young and old got outbreak of tumors in the groin...
- Then they moved the Ark of the Covenant to Ekron and guess what? the people of Ekron cried out, “They have brought the ark of the god of Israel around to us to kill us and our people.” So they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and said, “Send the ark of the god of Israel away; let it go back to its own place... **1 Samuel 5:10:11**