

LIGHT IN DARKNESS
Week 5: Focus on the Important
Daniel 5:1-31

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The year was 539 B.C. and King Nebuchadnezzar had been dead for almost 25 years. A new king was sitting on the throne of Babylon. His name was Belshazzar.
- B. Belshazzar ruled as a coregent with his father, Nabonidus, over what was once the great and proud Babylon.

THE UNGODLY PARTY (vs. 1-4)

- A. Belshazzar was hosting a party filled with debauchery.
- B. Note some of the many sins we see Belshazzar involved in: pride, drunkenness, sacrilege, mockery, idolatry.
- C. While Belshazzar was enjoying his party, the Medes and Persians were laying siege to the great city of Babylon.

THE UNEXPECTED GUEST (vs. 5-12)

- A. Out of nowhere, a disembodied hand appeared and began writing on the wall which caused quite a reaction.
- B. Belshazzar called out loudly to bring in his wise men, promising them wealth and a high ranking office if they could interpret the handwriting. Once again, they could not read the writing or make the interpretation known.
- C. The Queen Mother came in and told Belshazzar about Daniel and his great success under Nebuchadnezzar.

THE UNWAVERING PROPHET (vs. 13-23)

- A. Daniel refused the king's payment but still agreed to interpret the writing. By not accepting the payment, Daniel demonstrated that his interpretation could not be bought. He was going to tell the king exactly what was meant.
- B. Daniel began by telling Belshazzar that the Most High God was the one responsible for Nebuchadnezzar's success.
- C. Daniel rebuked the king for his sins and his failure to learn from what happened to Nebuchadnezzar (vs. 22-31).

WE MUST LEARN TO FOCUS ON WHAT'S IMPORTANT INSTEAD OF WHAT'S INSIGNIFICANT

- A. God is to be honored in all that we do.
 - 1. Daniel explained to Belshazzar that God rules over the kingdom of men. Nebuchadnezzar had learned this, but Belshazzar knew it yet didn't acknowledge God.
 - 2. Belshazzar did not honor God but publicly mocked Him.
 - 3. Our lives are to be able bringing glory and honor to the King of Kings (Matt. 5:16; Eph. 5:8; Jam. 1:22).
- B. Judgment is certainly coming.
 - 1. Daniel revealed that judgement was coming. Mene (numbered), Tekel (weighed), Peres (divided).
 - 2. Belshazzar had to face the judgment of God that very night. He may have felt he was secure behind those massive walls of Babylon, but he was not able to escape the judgment of God.
 - 3. No one can hide or escape the coming judgment (Heb. 9:27; Eccl. 12:14).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Our lives are but a vapor that appear for a little time and then vanish away (Jam. 4:14).
- B. Are we living our lives focused on what is most important or are we spending too much time focusing on the insignificant?