

U signifying "and"—; its meaning is, "divided." So the kingdom is to be taken from its present rulers. **Medes and Persians**; two nations east and north-east of Babylon, united under the great king Cyrus, whose armies were even then marching against Babylon.

29, 30. Clothed Daniel with purple (Rev. Ver.), the royal color. **A chain of gold**; an emblem of office, as well as honor (compare Joseph, Gen. 41: 42). **Third ruler in the kingdom**; probably next to Belshazzar himself, under his father, Nabonidus, the king. Thus the gifts offered and refused (vs. 16, 17) were bestowed. **In that night was Belshazzar . . . slain**; by the soldiers of Cyrus' army.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—An impious feast, Dan. 5: 1-9. T.—Daniel called, Dan. 5: 10-16. W.—Daniel and Belshazzar, Dan. 5: 17-30. Th.—The holy vessels, Jer. 52: 12-19. F.—God forgotten, Luke 12: 15-21. S.—Herod's punishment, Acts 12: 18-23. S.—Fate of the wicked, Psalm 37: 8-22.

Prove from Scripture—That our actions will be judged.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 96. What is the Lord's supper? A. The Lord's supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his death is shewed forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace.

The Question on Missions—37. Why are we specially interested in India as a foreign mission field? Because India has a population of nearly 300,000,000 souls, and three-fifths of these are under British rule, and, therefore, are our fellow-subjects.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 438 (Supplemental Lesson); 133; 136; 50 (Ps. Sel.); 511 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 148.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—What city is the scene of the Lesson? How old was Daniel at this time?

17-21 Who had made a feast? What strange sight appeared? Who was sent for to explain the writing? About what king does Daniel speak? What had happened to him? Why?

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How had Nebuchadnezzar's pride been punished?

2. What effect should this have had on Belshazzar?

3. In what form did punishment overtake him?

22, 23 What vessels had Belshazzar used at his feast? Who had brought these to Babylon?

24-28 From whom did the writing come? Does God punish willingly? Why does He punish? Of what were the words written on the wall names? What did each mean? To whom was the kingdom of Babylon given? How was Daniel rewarded? What happened to Belshazzar?

Seniors and the Home Department—What interval between last Lesson and to-day's?

17-23 What gifts did Daniel refuse? Who in the New Testament offered money for spiritual blessings? What reply was made to him? (Acts 8: 18-20.) What is the purpose of God's long-suffering? (Rom. 2: 4.) The fate of the obstinately wicked? (Prov. 29: 1.)

24, 25 What class of sinners will be punished the most severely? (Luke 12: 47, 48.)

26-28 Why was Belshazzar's kingdom taken from him? What kingdom did Christ preach? (Mark 1: 14.) Where do we find the laws of this kingdom? (Matt. 5: 1-11.) From whom will it be taken away; and to whom given? (Matt. 21: 43.)

THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. King or common man, our best friend is the one who knows the truth about us and is not afraid to tell us. His counsel is worth more than gold and silver. Followed in time, it may save us from many a foe.

2. Do you want to read of heroes? Where will you find them, if not in the Bible? An old man standing alone before a tyrant; who could have his head cut off at a word, and telling that tyrant the straight, terrible truth about himself and his kingdom—we do not feel much like boasting of our courage before such a sight.

3. When we cease to listen to warnings, we are on the edge of woe.

4. The thoughts of our own hearts and the deeds of our own hands are the letters that will spell out the sentence fixing our destiny.

5. "One"—"Two"—"Three"—the soldiers number, at the officer's command. And our days come and go like this, till the last is reached. But cram them full of happy, useful living, and they will store up for us an eternity of joy.

6. Death is a door. Will it open for us into light or darkness? That just depends on how we shall have used life.

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(1st six feet)*