

sight of which Belshazzar trembled, so that his knees knocked against one another for fear. Not knowing the meaning of the writing, the king called for all his astrologers and magicians, promising that whoever should be able to explain the meaning of the words should be made third ruler in the kingdom. But none of them were able to explain it.

Then the queen-mother came in and spoke to her son, saying, "There is a certain very wise old man here named Daniel, who has a gift for interpreting dreams. Send for him and it may be that he will be able to tell the meaning of the writing." So the king sent for Daniel, who now spoke to him in the name of his God, the Lord of Israel, saying, "O king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a great kingdom, but when his heart was lifted up with pride, his glory was taken away from him, and thou, knowing all this, hast sinned in the same way, and especially in that thou hast profaned these, the vessels of the house of the Lord, and hast given glory to graven images instead of to the Lord, in whose hand thy breath is. The interpretation of the writing is this: 'MENE, MENE,' 'God has numbered thy kingdom and finished it'; 'TEKEL,' 'Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting'; 'UPHARSIN,' 'Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.'"

Then the king gave orders that Daniel be dressed in the royal purple, with a chain of gold about his neck, and be proclaimed third ruler in his kingdom. That very night the king's enemies took the city, killing Belshazzar in his palace, according to all that Daniel had spoken in the name of the Lord.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Why did God punish Nebuchadnezzar?
2. Who was Belshazzar?
3. How did Belshazzar greatly dishonor God at his banquet?
4. Why should he not have made such use of the vessels?
5. What happened when the feast was at its height?
6. How did Belshazzar feel when he saw the hand upon the wall?
7. For whom did he send to read the writing?
8. Who suggested sending for Daniel?
9. What did he say the writing meant?
10. How was he rewarded?
11. How did Daniel's prophecy come true?

Lesson Hymn

God is always near me,
Though so young and small;
Not a look, or word, or thought
But God knows it all. Amen.
—Hymn 511, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—48. How long did Jesus remain on earth after He rose from the dead? Jesus remained forty days on earth after His resurrection. **49. What was Jesus doing for His disciples during the forty days after His resurrection?** He came to His disciples at different times to comfort and teach them.

SHORTER CATECHISM—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 showed 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.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

How kind God is to warn us against doing evil. He knows how full of danger it is. We

MENE MENE TEKEL
UPHARSIN

are always safe when we heed His warnings. The story of Belshazzar teaches us how sad is the end of those who despise them.

I Have Learned To-day

THAT GOD IS MY DEFENDER