

Lesson I.

DANIEL AND BELSHAZZAR

October 1, 1905

Daniel 5: 17-30. Study the chapter. Commit to memory vs. 29, 30.* Read chs. 3, 4.

GOLDEN TEXT—The face of the Lord is against them that do evil.—Psalm 34: 16.

17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; ¹ yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

18 O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father ² a kingdom, and ³ majesty, and glory, and honour:

19 And ⁴ for the majesty that he gave him, all ⁵ people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him; whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he ⁶ set up; and whom he would he put down.

20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his ⁷ mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him:

21 And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: ⁸ they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ⁹ ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he ¹⁰ appointeth over it whomsoever he will.

22 And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this;

Revised Version—¹ nevertheless; ² the; ³ greatness, and glory, and majesty; ⁴ because of the greatness; ⁵ the peoples; ⁶ raised; ⁷ spirit was hardened that he dealt proudly; ⁸ he was fed with; ⁹ ruleth; ¹⁰ setteth up; ¹¹ before him; ¹² inscribed; ¹³ brought it to an end; ¹⁴ purple; ¹⁵ Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain.

23 But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose ¹⁶ are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

24 Then was part of the hand sent from ¹⁷ him; and this writing was ¹⁸ written.

25 And this is the writing that was ¹⁹ written, MENE, ME'NE, TE'KEL, UPHARSIN.

26 This is the interpretation of the thing: ME'NE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and ²⁰ finished it.

27 TE'KEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

28 PE'RES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with ²¹ scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

30 In that night ²² was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

of Nabonidus, a usurper, probably not related to Nebuchadnezzar. His heart was lifted up; with pride in his great kingdom. How vast it was, v. 19 tells. Deposed (removed from the throne) . . . made like the beasts. For detail see v. 21: the awful punishment of his pride (see Prov. 16: 18).

22, 23. Thou, . . . O Belshazzar. He is not called king on the tablets which record the history of Babylon, but bears the title of "crown prince." He was apparently the acting king and real ruler, his father perhaps being absent from the capital. **Hast not humbled thine heart.** He had known how Nebuchadnezzar had been punished for his sin, and yet had gone stubbornly on in his own wicked way. **Against the Lord of heaven.** The Ruler high over all, full of goodness and power, who gives men all they have. **The vessels of his house;** God's holy temple at Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar had brought the vessels used in its services to Babylon, 2 Chron. 36: 7. What an insult to use these sacred things in an impure and idolatrous feast.

II. DOOM.—24-28. Then was the part of the hand sent; to write the sentence of doom for Belshazzar's obstinate wickedness (see v. 5). **This is the writing, etc.** The words written on the wall were probably the names of three weights. But what could they mean? **This is the interpretation.** Straight as an arrow Daniel aims the fiery words at Belshazzar. **MENE.** Besides being the name of a weight, this word means **numbered.** The years of the kingdom of Babylon were fixed, and the end was at hand. **TEKEL;** meaning **weighed.** Like a false weight, Belshazzar is condemned. **PERES;** the singular of **PHARSIN**, the

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Lesson Course are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. They will be found in the Supplemental Lesson Leaflet.