

and said bravely, "Keep your gifts. I do not want them. Yet will I explain to you what the writing means. God gave to Nebuchadnezzar a kingdom and glory and honor, but his heart was so full of pride that he forgot God. Then his throne was taken from him; he was driven from his palace and made to live with the beasts of the fields until he acknowledged God as the Lord and the Ruler of the whole earth. You knew all this, O king", said Daniel, "yet you, too, have sinned greatly against God. You have brought the precious vessels of His holy temple before you, and you and this wicked company have drunk wine from them, praising your idols of gold and silver, wood and stone, and praising not the one true God. So God has sent this message to you." Then Daniel read from the wall the four strange words that none could understand: "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN." "This means", he said: "Thy kingdom shall be taken from thee, O king. God has tried thee, and thou hast not obeyed Him; so he will give thy kingdom to the Medes and Persians."

Then Daniel was given the beautiful robes that the king had promised him, and the gold chain, and was made third ruler of the kingdom. And that very night God's message came true. Belshazzar's enemies, the Medes and Persians, came with a great army and took the city, and killed the king.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Who reigned in Babylon after King Nebuchadnezzar died? 2. Whom did Belshazzar entertain one night? 3. From what did they eat and drink? 4. What wicked thing did Belshazzar do? 5. What suddenly happened that frightened the king and his guests? 6. For whom did the king send? 7. What did the king promise these men? 8. Could the wise men explain the writing? 9. Who reminded the king of Daniel? 10. What did the king promise Daniel? 11. How did Daniel answer? 12. Of what did Daniel remind the king? 13. Why was God going to punish Belshazzar? 14. What were the four words of the message? 15. What did these words mean? 16. How was Daniel rewarded? 17. What happened that night? 18. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Hymn

I need Thee, precious Jesus,
For I am very poor;
A stranger and a pilgrim,
I have no earthly store:
I need the love of Jesus
To cheer me on my way,
To guide my doubting footsteps,
To be my strength and stay. Amen.
—Hymn 121, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—56. What will the Holy Spirit do for us? The Holy Spirit will dwell in our hearts, cleansing them from sin and helping us to be good.

SHORTER CATECHISM—106. What do we pray for in the sixth petition? A. In the sixth petition (which is, *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*), we pray, That God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

The Question on Missions

7. What is the special work of the Bible Society? To give to all nations the Word of God. The Society circulates the Bible by itself, and in the native language of each people. In this way the Bible is like a letter from home to one far away.

SOMETHING TO DO AT HOME

The words to be copied are those which Belshazzar saw written on the wall at his wicked feast. Now we know that strong drink

MENE, MENE TEKEL
UPHARSIN

causes people to do many wicked things. How we should hate drink, and work and pray that it may be driven from our land!

I Have Learned To-day

THAT I SHOULD BE TEMPERATE