

This week we will study about how a kingdom was overthrown when the king defied God!



Torchlight

*"In that last night of mad folly, Belshazzar and his lords had filled up the measure of their guilt and the guilt of the Chaldean kingdom. No longer could God's restraining hand ward off the impending evil. Through manifold providences, God had sought to teach them reverence for His law."
– Prophets and Kings p. 530*



Babylon's Last Party



SUNDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, may Your Holy Spirit give us understanding of the things we will study this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PROVERBS 16:18

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Daniel 5:1–2

KEY TEXT: Daniel 5:2

“While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple ...”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

From reliable history records we know that when King Nebuchadnezzar died, his son Nabonidus became king of Babylon. However, our story begins with Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, Belshazzar, who at the time of our story was co-ruler of Babylon with his father Nabonidus.

Belshazzar was young, self-centred and rebellious. It is therefore not surprising that he also liked big parties which included alcoholic wine, women and ultimately drunken behaviour.

By defiling sacred vessels from the temple, Belshazzar had gone too far in disrespecting God. Everything used in a worship service and dedicated for this use is considered sacred.

SACRED AND COMMON — WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

Can you tell the difference between sacred and common items?





MONDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, please help me to be wise like Daniel, and to always follow Your ways. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PROVERBS 16:18

“_____ goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Daniel 5:3–4

KEY TEXT: Daniel 5:4

“They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone.”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

In a previous study relating to God's health laws, we learnt that God does not approve of alcoholic drink. The reason for this is that alcohol affects our thinking and behaviour in such a way, that it ultimately leads us away from God.

We notice that King Belshazzar and his friends were not following God. Instead, they were worshipping idols made from gold, silver, bronze, iron and wood.

WALKING TOWARDS JESUS

Write your name in the spaces if you are doing these activities which are leading you to Jesus.











TUESDAY

LET'S PRAY Loving Father in heaven, thank You for helping us unlock treasures in the Bible. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PROVERBS 16:18

“_____ goes before _____, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Daniel 5:5–8

KEY TEXT: Daniel 5:8

“Now all the wise men came, but they could not read the writing, or make known to the king its interpretation.”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

The pagan wise men were still no wiser than in the days of King Nebuchadnezzar. They could not give the meaning of the supernatural writing on the wall.

Even in our day, God communicates with us through writing. However, He does not do it as dramatically as He did in Belshazzar's day. He does it through the bible which we call “God's written word” or “the word of God”.

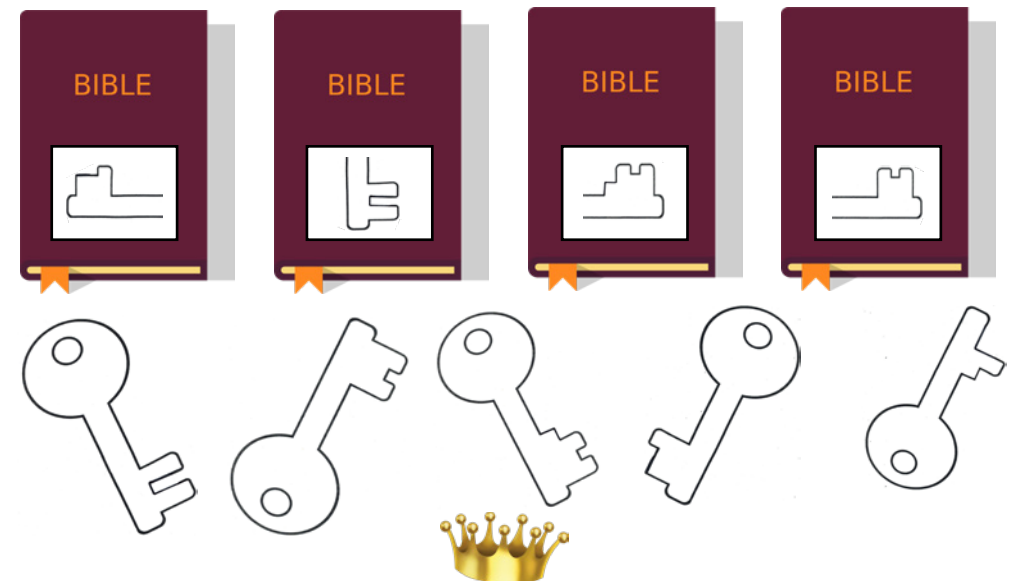
It is also very important that we have the correct meaning, or understanding, of God's word. We do this in several ways:

1. We always pray before we open our Bibles, asking God to give us the correct understanding.
2. We search the Bible to make sure that our interpretation of a specific topic is consistent, or in harmony, throughout the bible.

This is how we unlock the truth. If the key ideas fit throughout the Bible, we then have the correct key to unlock interpretation.

UNLOCKING THE TRUTH

Find the correct key to accurately unlock different Bible topics





WEDNESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, please help me to remain faithful like Daniel, and especially as I get older. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PROVERBS 16:18

“_____ goes before _____, and a _____ spirit before a fall.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Daniel 5:9–17

KEY TEXT: Daniel 5:17

“Then Daniel answered, and said before the king, ‘Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another; yet I will read the writing to the king, and make known to him the interpretation’.”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Fortunately the queen, Belshazzar's mother, remembered that Daniel had a reputation for solving mysteries, riddles and puzzles; that's what explaining enigmas means. So, Daniel was finally called before the frantic Belshazzar.

Many years had passed since the days of King Nebuchadnezzar. In fact, Daniel was by now an old man, having been in Babylon nearly 70 years. Despite all the pagan distractions and the luxurious lifestyle of the palace court, Daniel had remained faithful throughout this time.

It is no surprise then, that Daniel was still not interested in the promises of fame and fortune being offered in return for interpreting the supernatural text message on the wall.

SOLVING MYSTERIES, RIDDLES AND PUZZLES

What did Belshazzar and his friends do with the sacred vessels that infuriated God? There is a clue in the writing below - can you see it?

Belshazzar had a feast for a thousand friends
The drunken behaviour went beyond weekends
Misusing special temple vessels for a common use
Left God infuriated, and Belshazzar had no excuse
Soon a finger began writing a message for all to see
The king asked frantically “Please interpret for me”
The queen rushed in and shouted “Wait, wait!
It's only Daniel who can interpret your fate
The pagan wise men are all puzzled
Their brains are muddled
But Daniel is faithful
and smart
He was
sharp
and
accurate
from the start”





THURSDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, only You know the end from the beginning, so I leave my future in Your hands. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PROVERBS 16:18

“_____ goes before _____, and a
_____ before a fall.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Daniel 5:18–29

KEY TEXT: Daniel 5:25

“MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Before giving the interpretation, Daniel points out the reasons why God has had to act against Belshazzar. He was consistently defiant towards God, even though he knew of all the supernatural warnings that God had given to his grandfather, King Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel then explains the meaning of the words MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. Daniel however uses the word PERES in his explanation; this is the singular form of the word UPHARSIN.

INTERPRETATION OF A TEXT MESSAGE FROM GOD

Colour in the picture and write Daniel's interpretation on the wall





FRIDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, I am so pleased that You talk to me through Your word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - PROVERBS 16:18

“_____ goes before _____, and a _____ before a _____.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Daniel 5:30–31

KEY TEXT: Daniel 5:30

“That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain.”

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

As Daniel was explaining the mysterious writing on the wall, Cyrus, commander of the combined Medo-Persian armies, was already at work with his plans to invade Babylon. Cyrus was the nephew of King Darius the Mede, who eventually became the new ruler over Babylon.

The plan was to drain the river Euphrates which ran under the city wall. Once the river bed was totally drained of water, Cyrus and his soldiers could march under the wall, through the unlocked gate, and into the city.

Now, let's practice our lock and key method by comparing other Bible texts. Read the following verses and tick the ones that match what we are learning.

- Isaiah 45:1-5
- Psalm 107:16
- Jeremiah 51:8
- Exodus 10:19
- Daniel 2:39

CATCH UP ON THE MATCH UP

Draw a line to the matching texts that confirm one another

2 CHRONICLES 36:10

DANIEL 5:21

JEREMIAH 27:6-7

DANIEL 5:22

EZEKIEL 17:24

DANIEL 5:27

PSALM 62:9

DANIEL 5:3

2 CHRONICLES 33:23, 36:12

2 CHRONICLES 36:10





SABBATH

LET'S PRAY My Father in Heaven, thank You for the lessons I have learnt this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

LET'S REVISE WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT THIS WEEK

DOWN

1. The Babylonians were praising many different gods, but how many true Gods are there (3)
2. The sacred temple vessels were originally taken by Nebuchadnezzar from which city? (9)
3. The sacred temple vessels were made of gold and what other precious metal? (6)
5. The idols were made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood and what other material (5)
7. What ruler position was promised to the person who could interpret the writing? (5)
9. Who else, besides the king, his lords and his concubines, drank from the sacred vessels? (5)
10. Who reminded Belshazzar that Daniel had a good reputation as an interpreter? (5)
13. Which word meant "Your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians"? (5)
15. Who was responsible for the supernatural writing on the wall? (3)
16. Belshazzar commanded that Daniel be clothed in garments of which colour? (6)
17. What type of golden jewellery was placed around Daniel's neck? (5)
19. What was the name of the commander of the combined Medo-Persian armies? (5)

ACROSS

3. Belshazzar was the grand _____ of King Nebuchadnezzar (3)
4. Which parts of the terrified Belshazzar's body knocked against each other? (5)
6. The fingers wrote the message on which surface? (4)
8. The feast was made for how many people? (8)
9. What kind of drink was making the people drunk? (4)
11. What did Cyrus drain away to remain dry as they marched under the city wall? (5)
12. From what type of building, in Jerusalem, were the sacred vessels taken? (6)
14. A word the Bible (NKJV) uses for mysteries, riddles and puzzles (6)
18. At the age of 62, which Mede received the kingdom from Belshazzar? (6)
20. Was Daniel able to interpret the writing on the wall? (3)
21. These were left unlocked when Cyrus marched under the city wall (5)
22. With God's help, Daniel was able to _____ the writing on the wall (9)
23. To worship other gods, is to _____ against the true God of Heaven (3)

