

THE KING IS COMING

Survey of Judah Alone, Captivity, Return, and Years of Silence

LESSON 13: THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL (PART 2: DAN 5-6)
... *PROPHECY*

MEMORY. Memorize the main idea of each chapter of Daniel: Dan 1 = defiling foods (single-mindedness); Dan 2 = Nebuchadnezzar's dream (statue); Dan 3 = fiery furnace (three men); Dan 4 = Nebuchadnezzar's fall and rise (restore); Dan 5 = fall of Babylon or writing on the wall (fifth king = Belshazzar); Dan 6 = den of lions (tricks).

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READING. Read Dan 5-6. After doing your reading, in the space below write down something that you found to be interesting or important. It can be something that you have never noticed before or something that you want to remember and apply.

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DISCUSSION.

1. *Sacrilege*. While hosting a feast for his nobles, Belshazzar—under the influence of alcohol—asked for what gold and silver vessels and for what purpose? (Dan 5:1-4)

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DISCUSSION.

- 2. *Downfall.*** During the feast, what appeared to Belshazzar, and how did Belshazzar respond? (Dan 5:5-9; cf. vv. 10-12)
Summarize the prophecy/interpretation of Daniel (vv. 17-28; cf. vv. 13-16, 29-31). What should we (Christians) learn from the example of Belshazzar?

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DISCUSSION.

- 3. Plot.** As he was serving under the Medes and Persians, Daniel became the target of his colleagues. Why so, and how did they determine to entrap Daniel? (Dan 6:1-9) Though he knew of the consequences, what did Daniel continue to do, and what was Darius forced to do to Daniel? (vv. 10-18)

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DISCUSSION.

4. *Deliverance.* How had God responded to the faithfulness of Daniel? (Dan 6:19-23) What happened to the enemies of Daniel? (v. 24) What decreed did Darius make in his kingdom (Babylon)? (vv. 25-27) What did Daniel enjoy thereafter? (v. 28)

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CONNECTION. How does the faithfulness of Daniel in Dan 6 preview the faithfulness of Christ and of his disciples? Provide NT scriptures to show that Christians today must possess this same kind of faithfulness.

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APPLICATION. Belshazzar was an irreverent man. He treated the holy things of God as common. At least Nebuchadnezzar placed the temple objects in a “sacred” place (Ezra 1:7; 5:14)! Belshazzar, however, used the holy vessels in a drinking party to honor his gods. His disrespect for the Lord was his downfall. Schedule a time this week when you will perform an act of reverence for God (e.g., prayer, fasting, praise, meditation).