

A Study of the Prophets

O.T. Survey Lesson 190--Daniel 5:1-31

Introduction: Chapter five of Daniel continues to emphasize the theme of God's sovereign rule over the kingdoms of men and his judgment upon those who prove themselves unworthy of the power given to them. Through Daniel, God announced to Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, that his kingdom would be taken from him and that Babylon's power would be transferred to the Medes and Persians. That very night (October 11-12, 539 b.c.) God's prediction was fulfilled.

Lesson aim: To show how God can remove ungodly men from the positions to which He has exalted them.

Belshazzar's failure to acknowledge the true God--Daniel 5:1-4

1. What is the setting of this chapter? (v. 1)
What was the nature of this feast?
2. In what vessels was the wine served? (v. 2-3)
Who was honored in the drinking that took place from these vessels? (v. 4)
3. What does this incident reveal about Belshazzar?

God reveals Belshazzar's judgment--Daniel 5:5-29

1. Describe the means by which God communicated His message to Belshazzar (v. 5). How did the king react? (v. 6)
2. What offer did Belshazzar make to the one who could interpret the writing on the wall? (v. 7)
Could the king's counselors do this? (v. 8-9)
Who did the queen reveal could interpret the message? (v. 10-12)
3. What offer did the king make to Daniel? (v. 13-16)
Did Daniel interpret the dream in order to receive the king's rewards? (v. 17)

4. To whose example did Daniel appeal? (v. 18-21)
How was Belshazzar living like his ancestor Nebuchadnezzar? (v. 22-23)
5. Make a list of the three distinct parts of the message written on the wall. What is the meaning of each? (v. 25-28)
6. Did Belshazzar keep his promise to Daniel? (v. 29) Why "third" ruler?

God's prediction is fulfilled--Daniel 5:30-31

1. What happened to Belshazzar that very night? (v. 30)
2. Who reigned in his stead? (v. 31)