

# DANIEL THE PROPHET

## Summary & Quiz Book

Name:

Date:

### Chapter 5: "BABYLON FALLS"

#### THE MYSTERY OF BELSHAZZAR

This chapter introduces us to another ruler – Belshazzar, the last King of Babylon. His name meant "Bel protect the king." (Bel was another name for the god Marduk.)

Until recent times, complete mystery surrounded Belshazzar. Unlike the famous Nebuchadnezzar, his name had never been found outside Daniels writings. As well, all the ancient historians listed Nabonidus a Babylon's last king. So critics concluded that the story of Belshazzar was simply a myth.

#### THE SOLUTION

In 1854, Sir Henry Rawlinson deciphered the name "Belshazzar" on a clay cylinder, unearthed from the ruins of ancient Ur in Iraq. The inscription was a prayer of Nabonidus to his god Bel for himself and his son "Belshazzar."

Since then, more than five hundred other tablets containing Belshazzar's name have been found. From them his whole life history can be virtually reconstructed.

Why was Belshazzar, and not Nabonidus on the throne when Babylon fell? The answer is simple. When Belshazzar was about 30 years old, Nabonidus went into retirement at Tema in Arabia, leaving his son to rule the empire. Today, the Bible's claims about Belshazzar as the last king of Babylon can no longer be doubted.

#### BABYLON'S FADING GLORY

But Belshazzar was a failure both as a king and as a soldier. Fond of luxury, he succeeded only in bringing his empire to ruin.

This weakening of Babylon's leadership was noticed by the watchful Persians, Medes, and Elamites, over whom Babylon had ruled for 70 years. Under the command of their dynamic leader, Cyrus the Great, they began to push into Babylon's territory.

So deceived was Belshazzar by the old myth of "Babylon the Eternal" and so blind to the Persian military threat, that at the most dangerous time possible, he invited thousands of his lords and ladies to the inner citadel for a night of drunken revelry. That same night, the armies of Cyrus closed in and King Belshazzar, The prince who knew the best, but chose the worst, perished.

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 5:1-3) Feeling safe and secure behind the city walls, what did Belshazzar command to be brought to the banqueting hall?

(Belshazzar) gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the \_\_\_\_\_, Which had been in Jerusalem."

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 5:4,5) What frightening event interrupted the celebrations?

"In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's \_\_\_\_\_, and wrote over against the \_\_\_\_\_ upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace."

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 5:5-9) What facts show that the message on the wall could not have been written by a human being? "In the same hour came forth \_\_\_\_\_ of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ that wrote.

A WISE WOMAN TO THE RESCUE

Trembling with terror, Belshazzar shouted for somebody to bring in the astrologers, but they were unable to understand the writing, just as Nebuchadnezzar's wise men had been unable to interpret his dreams fifty years before.

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 5:10,11) When the queen heard about the trouble she hurried into the banquet hall. What wise suggestion did she make to the king?

"There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy \_\_\_\_\_."

What was the man's name? (verse 12) \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 5:13-16) When Daniel was brought before the king, what did Belshazzar promise to give him if he could interpret the writing on the wall?

Thou shalt be \_\_\_\_\_ with scarlet"

"have a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ around your neck"

"and shall be the third \_\_\_\_\_ in the kingdom"

QUESTION 6 (Daniel 5:17) Was Daniel interested in making money or receiving honours out of his work as a prophet? What reply did he make to the king?

"Let thy \_\_\_\_\_ be to thyself, and give thy \_\_\_\_\_ to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation." (Verse 17)

QUESTION 7 (Daniel 5:18-21) Daniel was not in a hurry to explain the writing on the wall. First, he wanted to remind Belshazzar about his failure to learn from God's dealings with Nebuchadnezzar, whom he said was "driven from the sons of \_\_\_\_\_; and his heart was made like the \_\_\_\_\_.

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 22-24) What did Daniel say was the reason for the writing on the wall? "And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not \_\_\_\_\_ thine heart, though thou knewest all this; But hast lifted up thyself against the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

QUESTION 9 (Daniel 5:23) What three things had Belshazzar done that were most offensive to God?

Lifted up thy \_\_\_\_\_.

Drunk \_\_\_\_\_ in the temple vessels.

Praised the \_\_\_\_\_ of silver, gold, brass, iron, wood, and stone.

QUESTION 10 (Daniel 5:23,24) Who did Daniel say was responsible for the writing on the wall? \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTION 11 (Daniel 5:25-29) What did Daniel say was the meaning of the mysterious words?

MENE God hath numbered thy kingdom, and \_\_\_\_\_ it.

TEKEL Thou art weighed in the \_\_\_\_\_, and art found wanting.

PERES or UPHARSIN Thy kingdom is \_\_\_\_\_, and given to the Medes and Persians.

QUESTION 12 (Daniel 5:30) How long did it take for judgment to come upon Belshazzar? (Circle your answer)

- (a) less than 24 hours                      (c) a year  
 (b) a month                                      (d) ten years

QUESTION 13(Daniel 5:31) Who received the kingdom after the death of Belshazzar?

ANSWER:\_\_\_\_\_

REVIEW QUIZ (T/F)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Belshazzar held a drunken orgy in which he openly challenged God by drinking from the sacred vessels of God's sanctuary.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A supernatural hand wrote on Belshazzar's palace wall to announce the end of the Babylonian kingdom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ It took less than 24 hours for the prophecy of Belshazzar's death to be fulfilled.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The kingdom of Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel was not able to make clear to Belshazzar exactly why the kingdom was being taken from him.

### Belshazzar's Feast

**Words in each line are merged together. Find the original words.  
 Hint: The letters that make up each word are still in their original order.**

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