

OLD TESTAMENT STORIES FOR  
**PERILOUS<sup>1</sup> TIMES**

2 Timothy 3:1-5

BABYLON: THE WRITING ON THE WALL  
Daniel 5

INTRODUCTION

A great feast took place to honor the Babylonian gods in the court of King Belshazzar, who succeeded King Nebuchadnezzar. Belshazzar, a godless king, determined to blaspheme the God Most High by using the sacred vessels from the Temple of God at this drunken idolatrous feast. A thousand of his lords, his wives and his concubines drank wine from the precious goblets and praised the abominable gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone.

Our days are no different, judgment is about to fall, yet people are in defiance of the holiness of God.

THEME SCRIPTURE

... *the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men and appoints over it whomever He chooses* (Daniel 5:21c).

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<sup>1</sup> PERILOUS - Greek *chalepos* reducing the strength: difficult, dangerous, furious, fierce, savage.

## SECTION I - Belshazzar's Feast

READ Daniel 5:1-4.

1. Who did King Belshazzar<sup>2</sup> make a great feast for (v. 1)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did he do in their presence? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did the king command (v. 2)? \_\_\_\_\_

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Where were the vessels taken from? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who would drink out of the vessels? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What was so blasphemous about the acts done by the king and his lords (v. 3)? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who did they praise as they drank from the vessels of gold and silver that had been taken from the temple of God (v. 4)?

## LOOK DEEPER

What does God say about the worship of any other god?

Exodus 20:4, 5b \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>2</sup> Belshazzar: Aramaic lord of the straightened treasure.

<sup>3</sup> his father Nebuchadnezzar: Archeological records indicate that King Belshazzar's father was King Nabonidus whom he co-regent with. Belshazzar was a successor of King Nebuchadnezzar.

Exodus 34:13, 14 \_\_\_\_\_

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Leviticus 26:1 \_\_\_\_\_

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Deuteronomy 7:25 \_\_\_\_\_

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Psalms 135:15-18 \_\_\_\_\_

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Micah 4:5 \_\_\_\_\_

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Revelation 21:8 \_\_\_\_\_

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### PERSONAL

What idols do you have in your life? What consumes your time? What are you obsessed with?  
Whom do you adore? What is more important to you than your time worshiping and praising God?

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MEDITATE on Psalm 95:1-7.

What did you learn about the worship of our Most High God? \_\_\_\_\_

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## SECTION II - The Handwriting on the Wall

READ Daniel 5:5-12.

1. What happened as they drank and praised their gods (v. 5)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did the king see? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How did the mysterious writing on the wall affect King Belshazzar (v. 6)? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Who did the king cry out for (v. 7)? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>4</sup> hand - Aramaic *yad* power: direction.

<sup>5</sup> Chaldeans - Hebrew *Kasdites* by implication magicians or professional astrologers.

What did he promise them? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Why was the king even more troubled and his lords astonished (vv. 8, 9)? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How did the queen reassure and encourage the king (vv. 10-12)? \_\_\_\_\_

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How did the queen describe this man? \_\_\_\_\_

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How had the previous king, Nebuchadnezzar exalt Daniel? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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What name did Nebuchadnezzar give Daniel? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the queen's final instruction to the king? \_\_\_\_\_

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SECTION III - The Interpretation of the Writing on the Wall

READ Daniel 5:13-31.

1. Daniel<sup>6</sup> was brought before the king. What did King Belshazzar know about Daniel (vv. 13, 14)?

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2. What did he know about the wise men and astrologers (v. 15)? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What did the king acknowledge was different about Daniel from the other wise men and astrologers (v. 16)?

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<sup>7</sup>

What reward did he offer Daniel in exchange for his God-given wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How did Daniel respond to the offer of the king's reward (v. 17)? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What did Daniel declare that the Most High had given to King Nebuchadnezzar (v. 18)? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. How did Daniel describe Nebuchadnezzar's God-given authority (v. 19)? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>6</sup> Daniel - Hebrew *Daniye*/God is my judge.

<sup>7</sup> enigma - Aramaic *qtar* knot: dissolve doubts.

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7. How did this God-given power affect Nebuchadnezzar (v. 20a)? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. How did God humble the king (vv. 20b, 21)? \_\_\_\_\_

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How long did God keep him in this humiliating condition? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Belshazzar knew the history of the humiliation of his predecessor. How did he defy the Most High God anyway (vv. 22, 23)?

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What profoundly obvious fact did he deliberately ignore about the Most High God? \_\_\_\_\_

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### LOOK DEEPER

What instruction do the following Scriptures give regarding pride and humility?

Psalm 147:6 \_\_\_\_\_

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Proverbs 16:5 \_\_\_\_\_

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Proverbs 29:23 \_\_\_\_\_

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Isaiah 57:15 \_\_\_\_\_

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Luke 14:11 \_\_\_\_\_

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James 4:6 \_\_\_\_\_

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James 4:10 \_\_\_\_\_

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I Peter 5:6 \_\_\_\_\_

PERSONAL

How has God humbled you when you have been lifted up in pride? What did you learn? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Who sent the fingers that wrote on the wall in the king's palace (Daniel 5:24)? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. WRITE out the inscription that was written on the wall (vv. 25-28). \_\_\_\_\_

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What do these words mean? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. Despite Daniel's declaration of God's judgment that Belshazzar would be stripped of his kingdom, what did the king proceed to do (v. 29)?

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13. How was the writing on the wall fulfilled (vv. 30, 31)? \_\_\_\_\_

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### THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE out the THEME SCRIPTURE.

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(Daniel 5:22)

*But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart,  
although you knew all this.*

Daniel 5:22

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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