

Lesson 4: Judgment

Today's Bible Story

Once, a Babylonian king named Belshazzar hosted a huge feast. He ordered that several gold and silver cups be brought to him, so he and his guests could drink wine. The king's father had stolen these cups from God's temple in Jerusalem. But Belshazzar didn't seem to care. Pouring wine into the vessels of God's temple, the king and his guests drank and praised the false gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Suddenly, a human hand appeared and wrote several words on the palace wall. The words read *Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin*. Turning pale and shaking in fear, the king called for his magicians. He promised to reward anyone who could read the writing and tell him its meaning, but no one could.

"Don't fear, my king," the queen said. "There is a wise man in your kingdom named Daniel. He'll be able to read the message. He is led by the Spirit of God." So the king called for Daniel at once.

When Daniel arrived, he reminded them of the ways that God had showed his power to King Belshazzar's father. "You saw all this," Daniel said. "Yet you, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart before God. Instead, you've used the vessels from God's house at a party. You've worshiped idols of gold and silver and stone, which don't see or know anything. You have failed to honor the one true God, who gave you breath.

"So God has given you a message: The word *Mene* means that God has numbered the days of your rule; *Tekel* means that you've been weighed and found wanting; and *Parsin* means that your kingdom will be divided, and the kingdom will be given to the Medes and Persians." That very night, King Belshazzar died. Everything happened just as God said.



From Daniel 5:1-30

Bible Rhyme

King Belshazzar of Babylon
said to his servant, with a yawn,
"Fill all the vessels from God's house
with wine to serve my guests and spouse!"

But then, a hand wrote on the wall
a phrase he did not know at all.
In fear, he called for someone who
could tell him what to say or do.

Wise Daniel read the words and said,
"God is not pleased with how you've led.
And since you pray to gold and wood,
You'll lose your kingdom soon, for good!"

The cups and vessels from which King Belshazzar served his guests at the feast were stolen from the great Temple of God in Jerusalem.

*How do you think
God felt about that?*

Mirror Reflection:

The King
worshiped idols
made from:

GOLD

SILVER

BRONZE

WOOD

STONE

*Mene Mene
Tekel
Parsin*



Color the statues to match these materials >

Which words on the wall were connected to these messages from God?

_____ = "You have been weighed in the balance and found wanting."

_____ = "Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

_____ = "God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end."

What empire did Belshazzar rule over? _____

Who was the king that replaced Belshazzar? _____ the _____