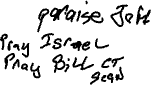
**Lesson 5 Dan 5 1 to 31**

**Daniel 5:1-31 (NASB)**   
1  Belshazzar the king held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.   
2  When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which *was* in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.   
3  Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God which *was* in Jerusalem; and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them.   
4  They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.   
5  Suddenly the fingers of a man's hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing.   
6  Then the king's face grew pale and his thoughts alarmed him, and his hip joints went slack and his knees began knocking together.   
7  The king called aloud to bring in the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners. The king spoke and said to the wise men of Babylon, "Any man who can read this inscription and explain its interpretation to me shall be clothed with purple and *have* a necklace of gold around his neck, and have authority as third *ruler* in the kingdom."   
8  Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the inscription or make known its interpretation to the king.   
9  Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, his face grew *even* paler, and his nobles were perplexed.   
10  The queen entered the banquet hall because of the words of the king and his nobles; the queen spoke and said, "O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts alarm you or your face be pale.   
11  "There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, illumination, insight and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him. And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, your father the king, appointed him chief of the magicians, conjurers, Chaldeans *and* diviners.   
12  "*This was* because an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and insight, interpretation of dreams, explanation of enigmas and solving of difficult problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Let Daniel now be summoned and he will declare the interpretation."   
13  Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Are you that Daniel who is one of the exiles from Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah?   
14  "Now I have heard about you that a spirit of the gods is in you, and that illumination, insight and extraordinary wisdom have been found in you.   
15  "Just now the wise men *and* the conjurers were brought in before me that they might read this inscription and make its interpretation known to me, but they could not declare the interpretation of the message.   
16  "But I personally have heard about you, that you are able to give interpretations and solve difficult problems. Now if you are able to read the inscription and make its interpretation known to me, you will be clothed with purple and *wear* a necklace of gold around your neck, and you will have authority as the third *ruler* in the kingdom."   
17  Then Daniel answered and said before the king, "Keep your gifts for yourself or give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription to the king and make the interpretation known to him.   
18  "O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father.



***Stop here***  
19  "Because of the grandeur which He bestowed on him, all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language feared and trembled before him; whomever he wished he killed and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated and whomever he wished he humbled.   
20  "But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and *his* glory was taken away from him.   
21  "He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like *that of* beasts, and his dwelling place *was* with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and *that* He sets over it whomever He wishes.   
22  "Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this,   
23  but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand. But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and all your ways, you have not glorified.   
24  "Then the hand was sent from Him and this inscription was written out.   
25  "Now this is the inscription that was written out: 'MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.'   
26  "This is the interpretation of the message: 'MENE'—God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.   
27  " 'TEKEL'—you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient.   
28  " 'PERES'—your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians."   
29  Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and *put* a necklace of gold around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he *now* had authority as the third *ruler* in the kingdom.   
30  That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain.   
31  So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.



**D. The feast of Belshazzar (**[**chap. 5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5)**)**

**1. The Revelry of the King (**[**5:1-4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A1-4)**)**

The events recorded in [Daniel 1-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+1-4) pertained to the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, who expanded and united the Babylonian Empire. Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 b.c. after ruling 43 years. The ensuing years of Babylonian history till its overthrow by Cyrus in 539 b.c. were marked by progressive deterioration, intrigue, and murder. Nebuchadnezzar was succeeded by his son Evil-Merodach who ruled for two years (562-560 b.c., [2 Kings 25:27-30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+25%3A27-30); [Jer. 52:31-34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+52%3A31-34)). Evil-Merodach was murdered in August 560 by Neriglissar, Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law and Evil-Merodach's own brother-in-law. Neriglissar then ruled four years (560-556 b.c.). He is the Nergal-Sharezer mentioned in [Jeremiah 39:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+39%3A3), [13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+39%3A13). At his death, he was succeeded by his young son Labashi-Marduk, who ruled only two months (May and June 556) before he was assassinated and succeeded by Nabonidus, who reigned 17 years (556-539 b.c.). See the chart "[Kings of the Neo-Babylonian Empire](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00031498#links163)," in the *Introduction*.

Nabonidus did much to restore the glory that had belonged to Babylon under the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. Nabonidus' mother was the high priestess of the moon god at Haran. Perhaps because of her influence, he had great interest in restoring and expanding the Babylonian religion and did much to restore abandoned temples. He was absent from Babylon for 10 of his 17 years, from 554 through 545. In Haran he restored the temple of the moon god Sin, and then he attacked Edom and conquered parts of Arabia where he then lived for some time.

Belshazzar was Nabonidus' eldest son and was appointed by his father as his coregent. (Nebuchadnezzar is referred to as Belshazzar's father [[Dan. 5:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A2), [11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A11), [13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A13), [18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A18); cf. [v. 22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A22)] in the sense that he was his ancestor or predecessor.) This coregency explains why Belshazzar was called king ([v. 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A1)) and why he exercised kingly authority even though Nabonidus actually held the throne.

[5:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A1). Babylon was being besieged by the Persian army, led by Ugbaru, governor of Gutium, while **Belshazzar,** inside the city, was giving a **great banquet for 1,000 of his nobles.** Belshazzar's name means "Bel (another name for the god Marduk) has protected the king." Perhaps the banquet was given to show Belshazzar's contempt for the Persians and to allay his people's fears. Archeologists have excavated a large hall in Babylon 55 feet wide and 165 feet long that had plastered walls. Such a room would have been sufficient to house a gathering of this size. Belshazzar considered his city secure from assault because of its massive walls. Within the city were supplies that would sustain it for 20 years. Therefore the **king** felt he had little cause for concern.

[5:2-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A2-4). The banquet itself showed Belshazzar's contempt for the power of men. Then, to show his contempt for the power of the true **God**, he ordered that **the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar... had taken from the temple in Jerusalem** (cf. [1:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+1%3A1-2)) be brought to the banquet hall so the assembled revelers **might drink from them**. In drinking, the people honored **the gods** of Babylon—idols **made of gold... silver... bronze, iron, wood, and stone.** Nabonidus, Belshazzar's father, had attempted to strengthen the Babylonian religion. In keeping with that, this act by his son may have been an attempt to undo the influence of Nebuchadnezzar's honoring the God of Israel ([4:34-35](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A34-35)). The polygamous king's **wives** and **concubines** were there too.

##### **2. The Revelation to the King (**[**5:5-12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A5-12)**)**

[5:5-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A5-7). **Suddenly** the hilarity of the revelry gave way to hushed fear. **Near** one of the lampstands that illuminated the banquet hall, **fingers of a human hand** were seen writing **on the** plastered **wall**. **The** terrified **king** (cf. [4:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A5)) **watched** as **the hand... wrote** a message. The king had evidently arisen from the chair in which he had been seated to lead the festivities and stood to watch. **He** **became so frightened that... his legs gave way** and he fell to the floor. As was the custom (cf. [2:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+2%3A2); [4:6-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A6-7)) Belshazzar summoned **the** wise men, **enchanters, astrologers, and diviners** (cf. [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00031636#links2163) on [1:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+1%3A17)) and promised to reward **whoever** would interpret the meaning of this strange phenomenon.

The reward was great. The interpreter **would be clothed in purple** (cf. Mordecai's purple robe, Es. [8:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+8%3A15)), that is, he would be given royal authority. Also he would receive **a gold chain** (cf. [Gen. 41:42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+41%3A42)), which no doubt had great monetary value. And he would **be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.** Since Nabonidus was king and Belshazzar his coregent, the highest office to be conferred was that of the third highest ruler. The king's offer shows the extremity of his fear.

[5:8-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A8-12). The **wise** **men** were unable to read or interpret **the** **writing** on the wall. This fact produced even greater fear in **the** **king**. Their inability to interpret the message made it even more ominous. Then all the guests who like the king had seen the writing on the wall were thrown into utter confusion (**his nobles were baffled**). The sound of confusion in the banquet hall came to the ears of **the queen**. Evidently she was not a wife of Belshazzar for his wives were with him in the hall ([vv. 2-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A2-3)). She was the king's mother, or perhaps even his grandmother. Her familiarity with both **Nebuchadnezzar** and **Daniel** seems to suggest that she was the king's grandmother. She evidently had previous contact with Daniel, **a man... who**, she said, **has the spirit of the holy gods** (cf. [4:8-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A8-9), [18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A18); [5:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A14)). She knew of his **insight... intelligence... wisdom** ([v. 11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A11)), **knowledge... understanding and... ability to interpret dreams** ([v. 12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A12)). (On Daniel's position as "chief of the magicians" and others, see [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00031843#links2173) on [4:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A9).) So she counseled Belshazzar to summon **Daniel** and let him interpret **the writing** on the plaster.

##### **3. The Request of the King (**[**5:13-16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A13-16)**)**

[5:13-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A13-16). Following the queen's suggestion, Belshazzar had **Daniel... brought** in **before** him. **The king** seemingly belittled Daniel, referring to him as **one of the exiles... from Judah**. He was from the same land whose God Belshazzar was holding in contempt! ([vv. 2-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A2-3)) The king told Daniel what he had **heard** from the queen ([vv. 11-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A11-12)) about Daniel's ability to do what **the wise men and enchanters** were unable to do. He promised Daniel the same rich rewards he had promised the wise men ([v. 16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A16); cf. [v. 7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A7)) if Daniel could **read** the **writing** on the wall and interpret it. Though written in Aramaic, it was difficult to read, perhaps because it was in an unusual script.

**4. The Reply by Daniel (**[**5:17-28**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A17-28)**)**

**a. The humbling of Nebuchadnezzar (**[**5:17-21**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A17-21)**)**

[5:17-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A17-19). In his reply **Daniel** summarized God's dealing with Belshazzar's predecessor Nebuchadnezzar. He related lessons that Nebuchadnezzar had learned from God's dealings with him. God is sovereign and rules over nations and appoints kings according to His own will; Nebuchadnezzar was brought to his position of power in the Babylonian Empire by divine appointment. (**The Most High God**; cf. [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00031808#links2169) on [3:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A26), **gave... Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty**.) His authority was widely recognized (by **peoples and nations and men of every language**; cf. [3:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A4), [7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A7); [4:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A1); [6:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+6%3A25); [7:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A14)), and his decrees were unchangeable ([5:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A19)).

***Stop here***

[5:20-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A20-21). When Nebuchadnezzar failed to recognize that the power was God's and not his own, he **became arrogant** and proud (cf. [4:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A30)). God then humbled him and **stripped** him of **his... throne** while he lived like **an animal... with the wild donkeys**. Through this discipline Nebuchadnezzar came to recognize the greatness of God's authority ([4:34-35](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A34-35)). Though the facts of Nebuchadnezzar's seven-year insanity may have been hidden from the populace, they were known by the royal family (cf. [5:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A22)).



###### **b. The pride of Belshazzar (**[**5:22-24**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A22-24)**)**

[5:22-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A22-24). **Belshazzar... knew** what his predecessor had experienced, and should have learned from it. However, Belshazzar had not done so; in fact he had openly challenged **the Lord of heaven** (cf. "the King of heaven," [4:37](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A37)) by drinking from **the goblets** taken **from** the **temple** in Jerusalem ([5:2-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A2-3)) and by praising man-made **gods** ([v. 4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A4)). They have no life, but by contrast the true God not only *has* **life**, but held *Belshazzar's* life in His hand. Perhaps Daniel intended an interesting wordplay by adding that God, who held Belshazzar's life in His *hand,* **sent** a ***hand*** to write him a message. Belshazzar, knowing about God, failed to **honor** Him.



**c. The judgment by God (**[**5:25-28**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A25-28)**)**

[5:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A25). As God had judged Nebuchadnezzar's pride by removing him from the throne, so He would judge Belshazzar's pride by taking the kingdom from him and giving it to another people. **This** judgment **was** **written** in the words that appeared on the plaster. First Daniel read **the inscription** which the wise men were unable to read. It was brief, containing only three words with the first word repeated. *MENE*men¢° is an Aramaic noun referring to a weight of 50 shekels (a mina, equal to 1¼ pounds). It is from the verb menâh, "to number, to reckon."**Tekel** (teq¢l, is a noun referring to a shekel (2/5 of an ounce). It is from the verb teq¹l, "to weigh." **Parsin** (parþn) is a noun meaning a half-mina (25 shekels, or about 2/3 of a pound). It is from the verb peras, "to break in two, to divide." The word on the wall was actually Uparþn which means "and Parsin" (niv marg.).



Even if the wise men could have read the words (which they couldn't), they could not have interpreted them for they had no point of reference as to what had been numbered, weighed, and divided.



[5:26-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A26-27). Then Daniel proceeded to interpret the meaning of **these words**. He explained that ***Mene*** meant that **God** had **numbered** (menâh) the duration of **the days of** Belshazzar's kingdom and was about to bring **it to an end**. ***Tekel*** meant that Belshazzar had **been** evaluated by God, **weighed** (teqltâh from teq¹l) in a balance and had been **found wanting**, that is, he was too light. A balance was the normal device used in weighing payments. A payment was to meet a certain standard so if it did not meet that standard, it was rejected as unacceptable. Belshazzar's moral and spiritual character did not measure up to the standard of God's righteousness so he was rejected. "By Him [God] deeds are weighed ([1 Sam. 2:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+2%3A3)).



[5:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A28). In interpreting the third word Daniel changed the pluralparþn ([v. 25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A25)) to the singular **Peres** (per¢s). Belshazzar's **kingdom** was to be broken up (**divided**, persa¾) **and given to the Medes and Persians.** Apparently Daniel intended a play on words. for a change in the vowels inper¢s gives the word "Persian" (P¹ras).

Thus the message was that because of the moral and spiritual degradation of the king and his kingdom, God would terminate the Babylonian Empire and give it to the Medes and Persians.



##### **5. The Revelation Fulfilled (**[**5:29-31**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A29-31)**)**

[5:29-31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A29-31). One might have expected **Belshazzar's** wrath to fall on **Daniel** because of the message he brought. But instead the king, faithful to his word (cf. [v. 16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A16)), rewarded Daniel. However, Daniel's enjoyment of those honors and the position to which he had been promoted was short-lived for **that very night Belshazzar was** killed **and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom.** (On the identity of Darius the Mede see [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00031953#links2136) on [6:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+6%3A1).)



The city had been under assault by Cyrus. In anticipation of a long siege the city had stored supplies to last for 20 years. The Euphrates River ran through the city from north to south, so the residents had an ample water supply. Belshazzar had a false sense of security, because the Persian army, led by Ugbaru, was outside Babylon's city walls. Their army was divided; part was stationed where the river entered the city at the north and the other part was positioned where the river exited from the city at the south. The army diverted the water north of the city by digging a canal from the river to a nearby lake.

With the water diverted, its level receded and the soldiers were able to enter the city by going under the sluice gate. Since the walls were unguarded the Persians, once inside the city, were able to conquer it without a fight. Significantly the defeat of Babylon fulfilled not only the prophecy Daniel made earlier that same night ([5:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A28)) but also a prophecy by Isaiah ([Isa. 47:1-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+47%3A1-5)). The overthrow of Babylon took place the night of the 16th of Tishri (October 12, 539 b.c.).

The rule of the Medes and Persians was the second phase of the times of the Gentiles (the silver chest and arms of the image in [Dan. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+2)). The events in [chapter 5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5) illustrate that God is sovereign and moves according to His predetermined plans. Those events also anticipate the final overthrow of all Gentile world powers that rebel against God and are characterized by moral and spiritual corruption. Such a judgment, anticipated in [Psalm 2:4-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+2%3A4-6) and [Revelation 19:15-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A15-16), will be fulfilled at the Second Advent of Jesus Christ to this earth.



The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

**Open it**

1. What would constitute a perfect party for you?   
 **Lots of good friend, food, drinks and love**

2. What are three of your best qualities?   
 **On time, prepared, Friend for life**  
  
**Explore it**

3. What did King Belshazzar do? ([5:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A1))   
 **Belshazzar the king held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.**

4. While drinking wine, what orders did Belshazzar give? ([5:2-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A2-3))   
 **When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which *was* in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.**

5. To whom did the king and his court give praise? ([5:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A4))   
 **They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.**

6. What happened while the people were feasting? ([5:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A5))   
 **Suddenly the fingers of a man's hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing.**

7. How did the king react to the handwriting on the wall? ([5:6-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A6-7))   
 **Then the king's face grew pale and his thoughts alarmed him, and his hip joints went slack and his knees began knocking together. The king called aloud to bring in the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners. The king spoke and said to the wise men of Babylon, "Any man who can read this inscription and explain its interpretation to me shall be clothed with purple and *have* a necklace of gold around his neck, and have authority as third *ruler* in the kingdom."**

8. What happened when the wise men came to the king? ([5:8-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A8-9))   
 **Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the inscription or make known its interpretation to the king. Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, his face grew *even* paler, and his nobles were perplexed.**

9. What was the queen’s counsel to Belshazzar? ([5:10-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A10-12))   
 **The queen entered the banquet hall because of the words of the king and his nobles; the queen spoke and said, "O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts alarm you or your face be pale. "There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, illumination, insight and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him. And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, your father the king, appointed him chief of the magicians, conjurers, Chaldeans *and* diviners. *This was* because an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and insight, interpretation of dreams, explanation of enigmas and solving of difficult problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Let Daniel now be summoned and he will declare the interpretation."**

10. When Daniel was brought before the king, what did Belshazzar say to him? ([5:13-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A13-16))   
 **Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Are you that Daniel who is one of the exiles from Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah? "Now I have heard about you that a spirit of the gods is in you, and that illumination, insight and extraordinary wisdom have been found in you.  "Just now the wise men *and* the conjurers were brought in before me that they might read this inscription and make its interpretation known to me, but they could not declare the interpretation of the message.   
"But I personally have heard about you, that you are able to give interpretations and solve difficult problems. Now if you are able to read the inscription and make its interpretation known to me, you will be clothed with purple and *wear* a necklace of gold around your neck, and you will have authority as the third *ruler* in the kingdom."**

11. How did Daniel respond to the king’s words? ([5:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A17))   
 **Then Daniel answered and said before the king, "Keep your gifts for yourself or give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription to the king and make the interpretation known to him.**

***Stop here***

12. In his reply to the king, what did Daniel say about God and His dealings with Nebuchadnezzar? ([5:18-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A18-21))   
 "**O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father. Because of the grandeur which He bestowed on him, all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language feared and trembled before him; whomever he wished he killed and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated and whomever he wished he humbled. "But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and *his* glory was taken away from him. "He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like *that of* beasts, and his dwelling place *was* with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and *that* He sets over it whomever He wishes.**



13. How did Daniel confront Belshazzar’s pride? ([5:22-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A22-24))   
 "**Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this,  but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand. But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and all your ways, you have not glorified. Then the hand was sent from Him and this inscription was written out.**



14. What did Daniel say about the judgment of God? ([5:25-28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A25-28))   
 "Now this is the inscription that was written out: 'MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.'   
"This is the interpretation of the message: 'MENE'—God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it. " 'TEKEL'—you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient.  " 'PERES'—your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians."



15. How did the king reward Daniel for his words? ([5:29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A29))   
 **Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and *put* a necklace of gold around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he *now* had authority as the third *ruler* in the kingdom.**

16. How was Daniel’s revelation fulfilled? ([5:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A30))   
 **That same night the King was slain**

17. Who became the new ruler of Babylon? ([5:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A31))   
 **So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.**  
  
**Get it**

18. Why was Belshazzar proud?   
 **His dad had set him up and he thought nothing was wrong with what he did**

19. If you were struggling with a difficult personal problem, whose counsel would you seek? Why?   
 **God’s, nothing better.**

20. When a leader in the church confronts us about sin in our life, how should we respond?   
 **Before raising our voices in protest, think how it may be true, if it is, remove the temptation of sin and repent**  
  
**Apply it**

21. How can you begin this week to act on a piece of good advice you have recently been given?   
 **Work on following the advice, if appropriate.**

22. What do you want to remember the next time you are rebuked or criticized?   
 **See #20! Follow it.**