

UNCERTAIN TIMES

DISHONORING GOD

DANIEL 5:1-2 NLT Many years later King Belshazzar gave a great feast for 1,000 of his nobles, and he drank wine with them. ⁽²⁾ While Belshazzar was drinking the wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver cups that his predecessor, Nebuchadnezzar, had taken from the Temple in Jerusalem. He wanted to drink from them with his nobles, his wives, and his concubines.

DANIEL 5:3-4 NLT So they brought these gold cups taken from the Temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. ⁽⁴⁾ While they drank from them they praised their idols made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

EPHESIANS 5:18-20 NLT Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁽¹⁹⁾ singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. ⁽²⁰⁾ And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MESSAGE FROM GOD

DANIEL 5:5-6 NLT Suddenly, they saw the fingers of a human hand writing on the plaster wall of the king's palace, near the lampstand. The king himself saw the hand as it wrote, ⁽⁶⁾ and his face turned pale with fright. His knees knocked together in fear and his legs gave way beneath him.

DANIEL 5:23-25 NLT "For you have proudly defied the Lord of heaven and have had these cups from his Temple brought before you. You and your nobles and your wives and concubines have been drinking wine from them while praising gods of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone—gods that neither see nor hear nor know anything at all. But you have not honored the God who gives you the breath of life and controls your destiny! ⁽²⁴⁾ So God has sent this hand to write this message. ⁽²⁵⁾ This is the message that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN."

JUDGEMENT OF GOD

DANIEL 5:26-28 NLT "This is what these words mean: Mene means 'numbered'—God has numbered the days of your reign and has brought it to an end. ⁽²⁷⁾ Tekel means 'weighed'—you have been weighed on the balances and have not measured up. ⁽²⁸⁾ Parsin means 'divided'—your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

DANIEL 5:29-30 NLT Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was dressed in purple robes, a gold chain was hung around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom. ⁽³⁰⁾ That very night Belshazzar, the Babylonian king, was killed.

ROMANS 2:1-2 NLT You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things. ⁽²⁾ And we know that God, in his justice, will punish anyone who does such things.

THINK & DISCUSS:

1. What are the areas of your life that dishonor God?
2. How do you react to others who dishonor God?
3. How should we treat people who will be judged?

MAKE A STAND:

HONOR GOD!