

Bible Class Notes – Studies in The Old Testament – Lesson 162

Character Studies from Daniel and Nehemiah

This week – God’s willingness to forgive but He will judge if continually and defiantly rejected.

“And thou, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart ... but hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of Heaven” Daniel 5 v22-23

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Daniel 5v1-9 (Belshazzar’s contempt of God is judged)	
Monday	Daniel 5v10-16 (Daniel’s God interprets the words)	
Tuesday	Daniel 5v17-24 (Belshazzar is clearly shown his sin)	
Wednesday	Daniel 5v25-31 (Belshazzar is judged by God)	
Thursday	Psalms 10 (God’s punishment of the evildoer)	
Friday	Hebrews 10v1-18 (Their sins will I remember no more)	
Saturday	Hebrews 10v19-39 (Wilful sin will be judged by God)	

Important Thought for us Today: The behaviour of society is directly related to whether the majority believe in God and adhere to His law and authority. Sadly, the majority today love to boast of their knowledge, their scientific prowess, their power, their wealth – all of which they believe they have achieved without the existence of God, or any help from Him. **BUT** they have no remedy for the sin in society that is rife - such as anger, stabbings, theft, marital breakup, selfishness, greed, gossip, meanness, cheating, ... the list goes on. Sin will abound if God is denied and ignored. God’s judgement is near; yet God’s grace is also near, if we humbly accept His existence, His Lordship of our life, and our need of His Salvation.

Repent and trust Him as your Saviour and Lord today. His grace and joy will abound in your life, and the guilt and love of sin and this world will be removed from you for ever.

Hymn 359 - Encouraging us to seek for, and put first, the best things in life:

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| 1. Seek ye first, not earthly pleasure,
Fading joy and failing treasure;
But the love that knows no measure:
Seek this first. | 2. Seek ye first, not earth’s aspiring,
Ceaseless longings, vain desiring;
But your precious soul’s requiring:
Seek this first. |
| 3. Seek ye first God’s peace and blessing;
You have all if this possessing;
Come, your need and sin confessing:
Seek Him first. | 4. Seek Him first: then, when forgiven,
Pardoned, made an heir of Heaven,
Let your life to Him be given:
Seek this first. |

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

Contempt for God - The Writing on the Wall.

• Belshazzar grew up knowing that it was God Who had:

- **Preserved** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from death in the fiery furnace.
- **Driven** proud King Nebuchadnezzar from men to live as an animal for 7 years.
- **Restored** King Nebuchadnezzar, causing him to believe in God and humbly repent.
- **Warned** Babylon that it would be judged; its world rule would soon end.

Have you been blessed with much teaching and understanding from the word of God?

• Belshazzar treated this knowledge with contempt (disrespect) and was:

- **Naive:** While the enemy was at the door, he held an enormous feast flowing with alcohol. His mind was far away from matters of war and protecting his empire.

What occupies us? The passing pleasure of today or the destiny of our eternal souls?

- **Boastful:** Belshazzar wanted all to admire him, for his wealth and intelligence, (repeating Nebuchadnezzar’s sin of pride), and for his daring drinking feats.

Does admiration for daring sins and pride drive us? or do we humbly live to please God?

- **Insulting God:** He deliberately insulted and ridiculed God by using the cups from the Temple for his drinking feats and to bring praise to himself and his evil gods.

Do we delight in things, or conversations, that insult God? or those that honour Him?

• God intervened and said, “Enough!” “Your time is up”.

- **The writing:** The party was abruptly halted when the fingers of a hand wrote on the wall of the palace for all to see. Belshazzar knew this was from God and shook with fear; no one could decipher the writing until Daniel was called to interpret it.

• Daniel explained God’s meaning - “Your Kingdom is”: -

- **Mene: Numbered and Finished.** Belshazzar, who imagined his life and kingdom were his own to do with as he pleased, was reminded that his days were in the hands of Almighty God; the very One who he had chosen to ignore and insult.
- **Tekel: Weighed and Found Wanting.** The Creator and Judge of all the earth had tested Belshazzar as a person and had found him wanting - worthless and sinful.
- **Peres: Divided, Given to the Medes and Persians.** At the very moment Daniel pronounced God’s sentence, the enemy raided the party. As all his leaders were drunk, within hours Belshazzar was dead; judged by the very One he had mocked. **The great Kingdom of Babylon was destroyed and divided between the Medes and Persians.**

• Mercy had been offered, but, as it was refused sure Judgement had to come.

In mercy God had warned Babylon of its fall; Nebuchadnezzar humbly repented whereas contemptuous Belshazzar was judged. **In mercy God warns that we too will be judged for our sinful acts unless we humbly repent and trust only in Jesus Christ for forgiveness.**

Do not be like Belshazzar; "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But, a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries (the enemies of God)." Hebrews 10:26-27