

DANIEL 5

1. Based on what you have learned about ancient kings and their gods, what makes the behavior of Belshazzar's call for the temple vessels extra-brash and offensive? What statement was Belshazzar making to his guests, to his gods, and to the God of Israel?
2. What are some observations/warnings you would make for yourself and others about God's future confrontation of the arrogant based on this account?
3. In verses 11-12 the queen states several things that were found in Daniel because the "spirit of the holy gods" was in him. Who wouldn't want all of these! What do you think goes wrong in many of our lives that keeps these from developing?
4. In verse 23, Daniel makes a powerful statement about Belshazzar's worship, particularly in the last phrase of the verse. What are some ways you feel moved to give greater honor to the One in "whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways . . ."?
5. Daniel was greatly honored by Belshazzar. According to the next verse, how long did the reward last? We love special awards and honors. What should every child learn as they win such awards and honors?

HIGH-YIELDING FOLLOW-UP

There is a New Testament parallel to the story of Belshazzar's life. It is a parable told by Jesus. He told it when someone interrupted him and asked him to command his brother to divide the inheritance with him. You'll find it in Luke 12:13-21.

It's a short story with a powerful, concluding statement in verse 21. I know that verse by heart and try to re-visit it regularly in order to squelch my tendency to give God the leftovers. Remember Belshazzar, and remember the unnamed person in Luke 12. Let these stories properly humble you, regularly.