

CARING HEART FELLOWSHIP (CHF)

Friday, 15th October 2021

TOPIC: PEOPLE JUST LIKE US – THE LIFE OF DANIEL

THEME: A FINGER AT A FEAST

TEXT: EZEKIEL 14:14; DANIEL 5:1-30

INTRODUCTION

The Book of Daniel which record the life and ministry of the Prophet Daniel is a book in which God clearly demonstrates His sovereignty.

Apart from showing that He is the God who controls history, He also shows that He is the one who enthrones kings and dethrones them.

One such demonstration of God's sovereignty is what we are going to explore in today's study in Daniel chapter five about King Belshazzar.

DISCUSSION

I. BELSHAZZAR ORGANIZED AN IMPIOUS FEAST (Daniel 5:1-4)

1. Organizing a royal banquet was normal for kings in those days. (Vs.1) "King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his highest officials, and he drank wine with them." (see Esther 1:3)

Q: What can you identify that in the natural is a good thing but can also be displeasing to the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:23 AMPC)?

2. But ordering the use of the gold and silver cups taken from the Temple for such a feast was a show of great disrespect for God. (Vs.2) "He got drunk and ordered his servants to bring in the gold and silver cups his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem." (2 Kings 24:13; 25:13-15).

Q: What in effect was wrong with what Belshazzar and his officials did in organising a banquet?

3. Worse still, causing his wives and officials to drink from these cups, and praising their idols of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood and stone was totally outrageous. (Vs.3-4) "When the gold cups were brought in, everyone at the banquet drank from them and praised their idols made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone." (Isaiah 42:8).

Q: Understanding that God doesn't share His Glory how do we ensure that we give Him all of His Glory?

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II. BELSHAZZAR SAW AN OMINOUS FINGER (5:5-9)

1. At the beginning of his judgement, the king saw human hand writing on the wall of the palace without any physical human presence. (Vs.5) "Suddenly, a human hand was seen writing on the plaster of the wall of the palace." (Daniel 4:31)

Q: What does this verse tells us about the judgement of God?

2. This was strange and unheard of, and naturally, it put great fear in the king as something ominous and portentous (feeling of evil). (Vs.6) "He was so frightened that his face turned pale, his knees started shaking, and his legs became weak" (Ezekiel 21:7).

Q: How does the fear experienced by Belshazzar in this text compare to the fear of the Lord which is considered a good fear (Deuteronomy 10:12)?

3. The king wanted an interpretation of the writing but none of his sham advisers could interpret it. This greatly heightened the king's anxiety (Vs.8-9). "All of King Belshazzar's highest officials came in, but not one of them could read the writing or tell what it meant." "Now the king was more afraid than ever before, and his face turned white as a ghost." (Daniel 2:27; 4:7; 5:15).

Q: What does the experience of Belshazzar in the above text teach us about opportunities presented to us to share Christ today and demonstrate His power?

CONCLUSION

Historical records from Babylon show that when the Medo-Persians entered the gates of Babylon, there was no resistance from anywhere; and the inhabitants just opened the gates to admit them in for them to be freed from what they called "the tyranny of Belshazzar."

God, the real ruler of the world had spoken and it had to be fulfilled. Don't force God to raise His finger at you in judgement. You may not be able to stand it! Take advantage of His grace immediately. A wise man once said that if you reject Christ grace while here on earth. You will meet him as judge in the life to come.