

# CARING HEART FELLOWSHIP (CHF)

Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**TOPIC: PEOPLE JUST LIKE US – THE LIFE OF DANIEL**

**THEME: A FINGER AT A FEAST (PART 3)**

**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. We conclude our study from a couple of weeks now on "A Finger at a feast" and the lessons to learn from the life of Daniel, a man of like passion.

## DISCUSSION

### IV. BELSHAZZAR GOT AN INTERPRETATION WHICH WAS FATAL (5:17-24)

1. Belshazzar did not learn from the history of his great ancestor that it is the sovereign God who rules all the kingdoms of the world, and that pride goes before a fall. (Vs. 19b-20) "Your father had the power of life and death over everyone ... But when he became proud and stubborn, his glorious kingdom was taken from him." (See Romans 15:4 NLT).

**Q: What does the above text teach us about our attitude to the Word according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17?**

2. Belshazzar did not learn anything from the humiliation of his ancestor King Nebuchadnezzar (Vs.21b) "Your father ate grass like an ox, and he slept out-side...until he learned that the Most High God rules all kingdoms on earth and chooses their kings." (Daniel 4:28-37).

**Q: What is the difference between been sorry and repentance?**

3. Belshazzar therefore fell into the same trap of pride and arrogance that caused the downfall of Nebuchadnezzar. (Vs.22-23a) "King Belshazzar, you knew all of this, but you still refused to honour the Lord who rules from heaven. In-stead you turned against him and ordered the cups from His temple to be brought here, so that you and your wives and officials could drink wine from them."

**Q: How do we avoid the error of knowing the truth and doing the very opposite like Belshazzar? (see John 8:32)**

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4. He even gave more honour, praise and worship to the idols of Babylon than the sovereign God who made him king. (Vs.23b) "You praised idols made of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood and stone, even though they cannot see or hear or think... You refused to worship the God who gives you breath and controls everything you do." (see Daniel 5:3-4)

**Q: Why will God not give His glory to another? (see Isaiah 42:8)**

### V. BELSHAZZAR THEN MET HIS UNTIMELY FATE (5:25-30)

1. "Mene, mene, tekel Uparsin" meant he had been numbered, tested and weighed in the scales of heaven and found seriously defective to continue as king. The kingdom was therefore divided by the sovereign God and given to the Medes and Persians. (Vs.26-28)

**Q: Given the summation of Gods assessment of Belshazzar, what could he have done to avoid a fatal end?**

2. That very night, the kingdom came to an end after the divine pronouncement. (Vs.30) "That very night, Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians was slain."

**Q: What is the significance of a divine pronouncement?**

3. The sovereign God had spoken. It had to happen! The word was fulfilled just as Daniel said. God's Word is always reliable and true.

**Q: What do you do when God has spoken concerning a matter in your life based on His word?**

## CONCLUSION

Belshazzar should have known even more through God's dealings with and through Daniel. We are all responsible to honour God according to what revelation we have.

"If God held Belshazzar responsible, for the ray of light which shone across *his* pathway, what will He say to men living in the blaze of light which illuminates the world today?"

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's grace while here on earth. You will meet him as judge in the life to come.