

"GOD'S MESSAGE TO BELSHAZZAR"**Introduction**

1. One of the most vivid chapters in the Bible
2. Background: Babylon – the Jews – Belshazzar
3. This message from God to Belshazzar

1. GOD MAY SPEAK TO MEN WHEN LEAST EXPECTED

- 1) It was a very lavish banquet
- 2) The dangerous behaviour of this king:
 - (i) the effect of wine
 - (ii) the command to bring in the vessels
 - (iii) what these vessels were
 - (iv) the persons to drink from them
 - (v) praise to the "gods"
- 3) The sudden alteration in the king's mood:
 - (i) the amazing message from God
 - (ii) v.6: a complete change of feelings
 - (iii) the additional fear (v.8-9): no interpreter

APPLICATION: Has God ever spoken to you?

2. IT IS STUPIDITY TO LIVE IN FORGETFULNESS OF GOD

- 1) This Belshazzar is typical of so many:
 - (i) No thought of God – no prayer – no Bible reading – no church-attendance – no Sabbath
 - (ii) But then, suddenly some unlooked-for event: illness – accident – death.
- 2) Why do people forget God?
 - (i) they do not realize God sees all they do
 - (ii) or that their life is in God's hands
 - (iii) or that "after death is the judgement"

- 3) This King Belshazzar sent for the prophet Daniel:
 - (i) Daniel faithfully exposed his pride
 - (ii) showed him his "breath" was in God's hands
 - (iii) interpreted the mystical writing
- 4) This is the state of every man without Christ:
 - (i) "weighed in the balances – wanting"
 - (ii) what God's scales reveal about us all:
 - we are guilty
 - have not glorified God

ILLUSTRATION: the scales of judgement (Explain)

APPLICATION: God is saying this to show us our need of repentance and faith in Christ.

3. THE END OF A WICKED LIFE WILL BE FEARFUL

- 1) People should not resent hearing this:

ILLUSTRATION: a blind man at a cliff-edge.

Q. Who is his friend, the one who is silent or the man who shouts a warning?
- 2) So with this Belshazzar so full of pride and contempt of God, as we see here:
 - (i) "MENE, MENE...": what a sentence!
 - (ii) v.30-31: "in that night..."
 - (iii) a change of power – totally
- 3) It was a judgement on him from God for his profane + proud way of life.

APPLICATION: "Pride comes before a fall"

CONCLUSION

1. The fall of Babylon was amazing.
2. God's message to you all is to repent + believe in Christ.

PSALM**138: 4 – 8****137: 1 – 7****11: 3 – 7**