

CHAPTER 5

BELSHAZZAR the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

2 Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which *was* in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which *was* at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.

4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

5 ¶ In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

6 Then the king's countenance

was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.

7 The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. *And* the king spake, and said to the wise *men* of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and *have* a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

8 Then came in all the king's wise *men*: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof.

9 Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished.

10 ¶ *Now* the queen, by reason of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banquet house: *and* the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed:

11 There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom *is* the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, *I say*, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, *and* soothsayers;

12 Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.

13 Then was Daniel brought in before the king. *And* the king spake and said unto Daniel, *Art* thou that Daniel, which *art* of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry?

14 I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods *is* in thee, and *that* light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee.

15 And now the wise *men*, the astrologers, have been brought in

before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but they could not shew the interpretation of the thing:

16 And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and *have* a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.

17 ¶ Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

18 O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour:

19 And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down.

20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his

kingly throne, and they took his glory from him:

21 And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling *was* with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and *that* he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.

22 And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this;

23 But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath *is*, and whose *are* all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

24 Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written.

25 ¶ And this *is* the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

26 This *is* the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

27 TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and *put* a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

30 ¶ In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, *being* about threescore and two years old.

CHAPTER 6

IT pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel *was* first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit

was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

4 ¶ Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he *was* faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find *it* against him concerning the law of his God.

6. Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

10 ¶ Now when Daniel knew

that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

11. Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask *a petition* of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing *is* true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which *is* of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

14 Then the king, when he heard *these* words, was sore displeased with himself, and set *his* heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians *is*, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast *him* into the den of lions. *Now* the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

18 ¶ Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: *and* the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

24 ¶ And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast *them* into the den of lions, *them*, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

25 ¶ Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he *is* the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed,

and his dominion *shall be even* unto the end.

27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Some 20 years passed between chapters 4 and 5, and King Nebuchadnezzar moved off the scene. He was succeeded by a son who reigned just a few years and was then assassinated by his own brother-in-law. The brother-in-law, in turn, ruled four years and was killed in battle. The next two rulers occupied a throne a very brief time. The second of these was Nabonidus. He was king of the Babylonian Empire, and his son, Belshazzar, was king of the city of Babylon. This explains why Daniel was named third ruler (chapter 5:7,29).

In chapter 6 Daniel is a man in his eighties. This proves that age is no barrier to serving Christ, nor is it any protection against temptations and testings. Because Daniel started young as a man of faith and prayer, he was faithful to the Lord even in his old age.

In verse 10 we are told that Daniel prayed in a special chamber atop his house, three times a day. "Evening, and morning, and at noon will I pray and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice" (Psalm 55:17). So Daniel began his day with the Lord; mid-way through the day he talked with the Lord again; and then he ended his day with the Lord. Daniel had a special place for prayer; a special time for prayer; and you can be sure that he talked with the Lord, in his own way, all through the day!

The account of Daniel in the lion's den is probably familiar to all our readers. Therefore, we will only mention here that God is faithful to care for His own in time of trouble. Daniel had been a faithful follower of the Lord throughout his life and now we see God rewarding him for that faithfulness. In the time of trial and adversity, God delivers Daniel—even from a den of lions.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight" (Proverbs 12:22).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 28: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 9.

delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

BIRTHDAY TODAY

MARY LEE

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1452

THE BIRTHDAY OF SAVONAROLA.

Savonarola was one of the great preachers of history. Savonarola was from Florence, Italy. It is said that once he went to his pulpit to preach and sat for five hours in a trance waiting for the power of God to fill him and to use him. During this time the people sat anxiously waiting for him to preach.

Savonarola was burned in the public square by the order of Alexander VI. As he gave his life, he said, "The Lord hath suffered so much for me."

1959

THE DAY THAT THE SOVIET ROCKET HIT THE MOON FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Somebody approached Jack Hyles, who then had just begun his pastorate at the First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, and asked, "Pastor, do you think there are people on the moon?" Dr. Hyles' answer: "I doubt it, but if there are people on the moon, let us leave them alone. Let us not infest them with the kind of wicked living we do on the earth! They are probably better off than we are."

1851

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER DIED.

He died on the day before his 62nd birthday.

1901

THEODORE ROOSEVELT BECAME PRESIDENT.

Theodore Roosevelt became the 26th president upon the death of William McKinley.

Missionary Henry Morrison once returned from a foreign mission trip on the same boat with Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt had been on a great hunting expedition, and this missionary had been spreading the Gospel with sacrifice, sweat, and tears. They came close to the shore, and the missionary heard the

cheering. He thought to himself, "My, look at the crowd that is welcoming me home from my mission trip." He got closer and found that they were cheering for Theodore Roosevelt and welcoming him home from the hunting expedition. He closed his eyes and thought, "Well, I do not get a welcome here, but someday, I will get a welcome when I cross the Jordan. Then they will stand and cheer me and say, 'Welcome home, faithful missionary of the cross.'"

1927
BOB JONES UNIVERSITY IN GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, WAS OPENED.

The Bob Jones University is the world's largest independent university and is called the "World's Most Unusual University." Truly, it is one of the great schools of our day. Let us thank God today for the life and testimony of Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., evangelist, Christian philosopher, great preacher, educator and man of God.

On September 14, 1927, when Bob Jones University opened, 88 students matriculated, and they sang together:

*"Faith of our fathers living still
In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.*

*Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear thy glorious word.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!"*

**ON THIS DATE IN
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

1874
WHITE DEMOCRATS SEIZED STATEHOUSE IN LOUISIANA COUP D'ETAT. President Grant ordered the revolutionaries to disperse, and the rebellion collapsed. Twenty-seven persons (sixteen whites and eleven blacks) were killed in battles between Democrats and Republicans.

1940
PRESIDENT E.D. ROOSEVELT SIGNED SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT, allowing Blacks to enter all branches of the U.S. Military Service.

1970
ONE BLACK KILLED AND TWO WHITES INJURED in shootout between activists and police officers in a New Orleans housing project.

Hymn of the Week

“RESCUE THE PERISHING”

Fanny Crosby

“I think that life is not too long, and therefore I determine that many people read a song who will not read a sermon.”

The above seemed to be the motto of one of America’s most beloved hymn writers, Mrs. Frances Van Alstyne, known more commonly as Fanny Crosby.

Frances Jane Crosby was born in Putnam County, New York, on March 24, 1820. Her sight was destroyed at the age of six weeks because of the misapplication of a poultice on her eyes. She was blessed with a wonderful disposition and accepted her handicap with an unusual display of courage.

Fanny Crosby was born the second time in 1851. Seven years later she married a blind musician, Mr. Alexander Van Alstyne.

Her cheerfulness and courage coupled with simple, childlike trust in divine watch-care enabled her to write such heartwarming hymns as “Blessed Assurance,” “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross” and “Safe in the Arms of Jesus.”

Fanny Crosby was deeply interested in gospel work among poor men who were down and out. Because of this work she found herself one evening in New York, addressing a large company of working men. Her heart was moved at the close of her address as she heard a young boy, eighteen years of age come forward and say, “I promised my mother to meet her in Heaven, but the way I am now living, that will be impossible.” After prayer was offered for him he arose with a new light in his eyes and exclaimed that since he had found God he could meet his mother in Heaven. As the service continued, her poetic mind began to work, and before she retired at home that evening she had completed the verses to a “battle cry” for the great army of Christian soldiers.

*Rescue the perishing,
Care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from
 sin and the grave;
Weep o’er the erring one,
Lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus the
 mighty to save.*

The Moody and Sankey meetings gave rise to many of her eight thousand hymns and gospel songs in this country and in England.

Saturday morning, February 12, 1915, just prior to her ninety-fifth birthday, Fanny Crosby realized to the fullest the words she had written and recited many times—“and I shall see HIM face to face.”

Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION: CHRIST'S BIOGRAPHY PREWRITTEN

(Assignment 28)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see “The Treasure Path to Soul Winning” link back on the DailyKJV page.)

His Birth (742 B.C.)

() Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Fulfilled—Matthew 1:23)

His Birth Place (710 B.C.)

() Micah 5:2

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. (Fulfilled—Matthew 2:5-6)

Rejected by His own people (712 B.C.)

() Isaiah 53:3

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not. (Fulfilled—John 1:11)

Sold for 30 pieces of silver (487 B.C.)

() Zechariah 11:12

And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price: and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. (Fulfilled—Matthew 26:14-16)

Hands and feet pierced (1000 B.C.)

() Psalms 22:16

For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. (Fulfilled—John 19:37)