

3-D HISTORY

DEFIANCE, DEFEAT, DOWNFALL

Defying God means more than not believing in God. It means challenging God or thinking you're stronger or smarter than God. But defiance always means defeat and downfall, because God is always stronger and smarter than people. Trace this pattern through history by finding the following verses in your Bible. Then fill in the missing information in the boxes below.

WHO ...

DEFIED GOD BY ...

DANIEL 5:2-4, 30

1 KINGS 11:4-12

2 KINGS 17:1-7

DANIEL 4:28-33

THE RESULT WAS ...

Choose one of the Bible characters from this study. What advice do you think he would give to the leaders of our country today?

THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

¹Pronounced bel-SHAZ-ur. The son or grandson of King Nebuchadnezzar.

After Nebuchadnezzar's son, Belshazzar¹, became king, he hosted a banquet for all his nobles.

Read Daniel 5:2-4. Where did the king get the goblets²? Who did they praise while using them?

²The goblets were made while Solomon reigned in Jerusalem about 400 years before this period.



960 B.C.

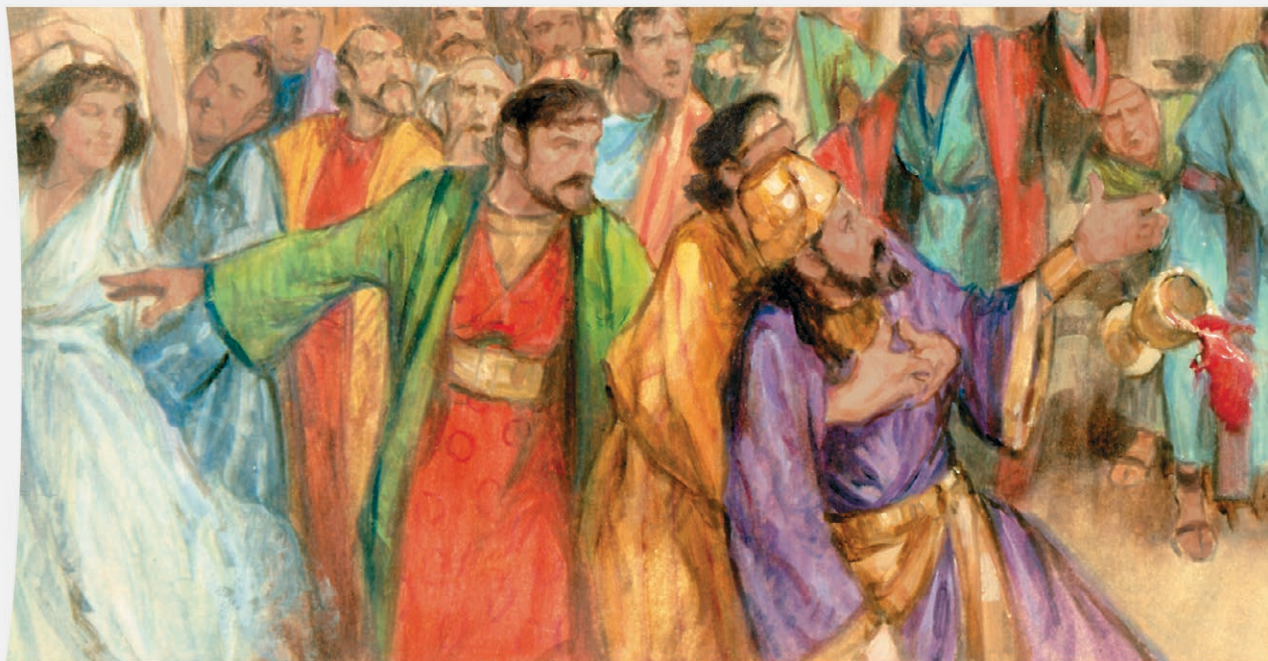
While Belshazzar drank, a hand appeared and wrote a

539 B.C.

mysterious message on the wall. The king called in his astrologers and wise men³ and promised to honor the man who could interpret the message. When none could, the queen told Belshazzar about Daniel's ability.



³The "wise men" of the kingdom studied pagan religions and ancient star charts.



Read Daniel 5:13-17. What did the king offer Daniel if he could explain the writing? How did Daniel reply to this offer?



SCRIPTURE SPOTLIGHT

Daniel 5:22-28

“But you, Belshazzar, his son, have

not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways. Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription.

“This is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN

“Here is what these words mean:

Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.

Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

Circle the reasons God gave for punishing King Belshazzar. How could the king have honored God?

After hearing his interpretation, Belshazzar promoted Daniel to be the third highest ruler in the kingdom. Later that night Belshazzar was killed and Babylon was overthrown by the Persians and Darius the Mede was made ruler.

Now THAT'S REALLY seeing the handwriting on the wall!



KEY VERSE

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority.

1 Timothy 2:1-2



France

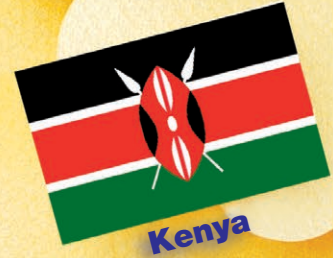


Canada

A Prayer for Our Country



Barbados



Kenya



U.S.A.



Israel

Dear heavenly Father,

*Notre Père du Ciel,
Mi querido Padre Celestial,*

I praise You for the blessings of

*Je te loue pur ces bénédictions pais.
Te alabo por los bendiciones de*

_____ that we enjoy. Lord, I ask
*dont nous jouissons. Seigneur, je te
en los cuales nos gozamos. Señor, Te*

You to guide our leaders. Give them_____.

*demande de guider ceux qui nous dirigent. Donne-leur
pido que guías nuestros Líderes. Dalos*

Help them_____. I also ask for Your

*Aide-les . . . Veuille aussi répondre
Ayudalos a . . . También pido Tu*

help in these special areas of need:

*à ces besoins particuliers:
ayuda en estas necesidades especiales:*

Thank You for hearing and answering our prayers.

*Merci car tu nous entends et réponds à nos prières.
Te doy las gracias porque Tú nos oyes y respondes a nuestras oraciones.*

In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Au nom de Jésus. Amen.
En el nombre de Jesús. Amén.*



Virgin Islands



South Africa



Brazil



Japan



4 Ethiopia



Democratic
Republic of
Congo