

Driving Under the Influence

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Objectives

- Provide a sermon to pastors that would be helpful as part of a sobriety campaign.

Key Text

- Daniel 5:1-12

Who was Daniel?

- Part of the Nobility Class of Israel
- Survives a Siege
- Experiences Massive loss
 - Family and friends
 - Destruction of Nation
 - Death of Kings Sons
 - Mutilation and Imprisonment of King

Who was Daniel?

- Castration
 - Isaiah 39:7
- Name Change
 - Daniel
 - Judge of God
 - Belteshazzar
 - Prince of Bel

Who was Daniel?

- I will not defile myself
- Rigid concerning his diet/consumption
 - What physical and spiritual gains might we achieve if we were more discerning regarding the food and media we consume that may be intoxicating us Babylon?

Consider how young Daniel must have been as he is undergoing the above (roughly

If Daniel was anything you would assume he had been defiled but he purposes in his heart not to defile himself.

Daniel Chapter 5:1-12

Daniel 5 Verse 1

- Belshazzar has a party of drunkenness for Babylon's elite
- It's the type of setting you had to have to have connections to get invited to in the first place

Daniel 5 Verse 1

- But hold on a second, what is the condition of Babylon while Belshazzar is throwing this party?
- Babylon is being besieged by Medo-Persia under the leadership of Cyrus

Daniel 5 Verse 1

- Who in their right mind would throw a party while their country is in the middle of a siege?
- Recall Babylon's siege of Israel that was so severe women were eating each other's babies!

Daniel 5 Verse 1

- Clearly Belshazzar knows something that we don't know?

What Belshazzar Knows:

- Belshazzar is a Co-Regent meaning he is sharing the throne with his dad Nabonidus
- His dad is outside the gates fighting the Medo-Persians
- The very night of the feast is a full moon and Belshazzar likely believes that the moon god is likely to help his father be victorious

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Belshazzar Knew?

- Belshazzar is behind 85ft of Brick
- Division of the Babylonian Army inside with him
- 40 year food supply due to the strategic nature of the way Babylon is built....

Aren't we like Belshazzar?

- We think it is safe to party!
- Confident that we have all the time in the world to sober up
- We think we are rich with truth and wisdom
- Like Belshazzar our knowledge is limited!

Belshazzar likely does not know:

- Nabonidus has been defeated 2 days prior to Belshazzar's feast and has fled in exile
- Tigris Euphrates River diverted and Gates breached by the Medo - Persians
- General at his gates wants Belshazzar dead because Belshazzars dad had killed his son
- It is the season of Yom Kippur: Day of Reckoning...

Verse 2 & 3

- While intoxicated Belshazzar goes too far...
- He decides to defile God's holy vessels...

Verse 2 & 3

- The whole danger of intoxication is intoxication leads us to do things we otherwise would not dream to do if we were sober.
- Consider that our body is the temple or vessel of God...
 - What are defilements people are prone to under the influence

Verse 2 & 3

- This brings us back to Daniel his sobriety and the role it plays in his decision to not to defile himself

Verse 4

- The intoxication leads them to have false worship.
- The worship false gods

Verse 4

- The problem with worshipping false gods is that when crisis hits we cringe in fear because we have a warped picture false image of the true God.
- Real worship would help us to appreciate how much bigger God is than our situation.

Verse 5 & 6

- Case in point:
 - On seeing the hand Belshazzar is so terrified his knees literally violently knock against one another and he literally soils himself:
 - “joints of his bowels were loosed.”

Verse 7-9

- Where do we turn in the midst of crisis?
 - We turn to the world when in fact Jesus is the answer
 - Before we get carried away Jesus inspired hospitals and clinicians
 - True science complements does not attack the Bible

Verse 10-12

- The Queen reminds the King that in his realm is one within whom the Spirit of God dwells. (I could not help but take some artistic license)

Verse 10-12

- The answer to the sin problem has not changed.
- "Jesus is still the answer for the world today. Above Him there is no other... Jesus is the way!"

Peter's Vital Warning...

- We fail to heed Peter's warning that we be sober and vigilant because our adversary like a roaring lion walks about seeking whom he may devour.

In this next image this guy doesn't see till the next day the image his camera has captured.



In life we often think we are the hunter, not realizing that when we are not being vigilant we become the prey.

In life, too often we think we are the predator, when in fact we are the prey. God be with you...

- ### References
- Prophets and Kings
 - Chapters 36-40, *43 regarding Belshazzar
 - Daniel and the Revelations
 - Chapter II and p. 44 explains the complicated co-regency of Belshazzar and his dad Nabonidus

References:
Prophets and Kings
Chapter 36-40, *43
regarding Belshazzar
Daniel and the
Revelations by Uriah
Smith
chapter II, and p.44
explains the

**For questions or comments
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