

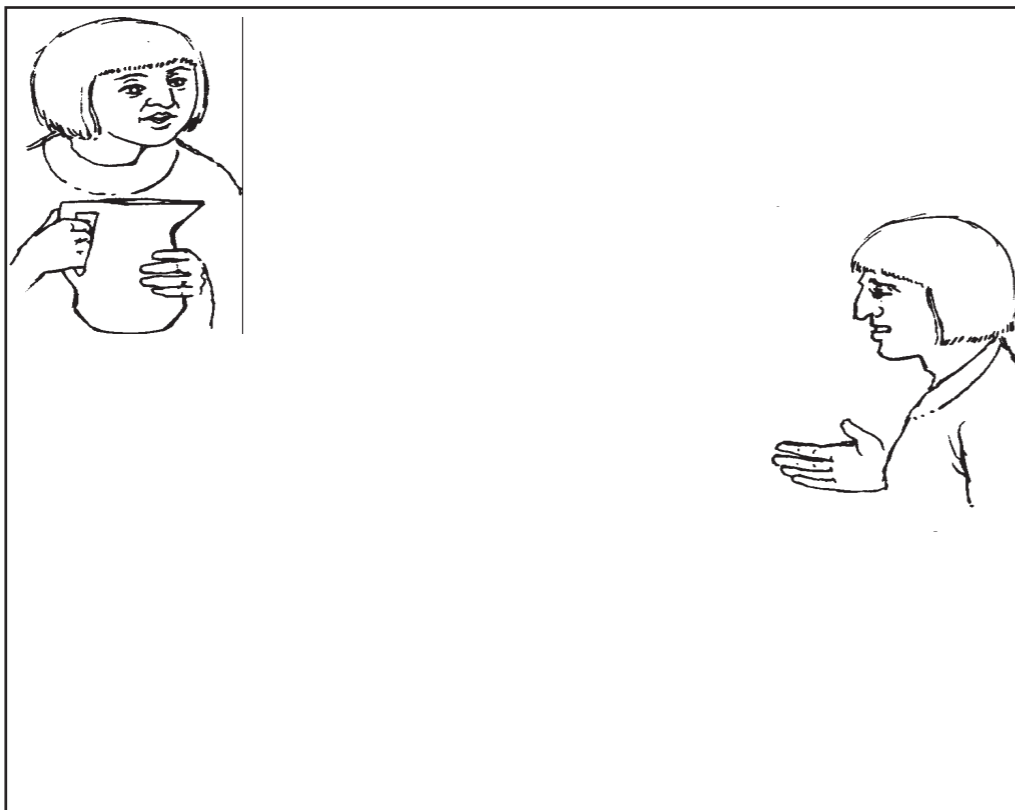
Daniel 5

You did not honour the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways.
Daniel 5:23

Readings this week:

- S Daniel 4: 1-18
- M Daniel 4: 19-27
- T Daniel 4: 28-37
- W Daniel 5: 1-12
- Th Daniel 5: 13-30
- F Proverbs 16: 1-18
- S Psalm 62

Read Daniel 5 together. What do you think onlookers at the banquet would have thought of what happened? Write your own dialogue between two servants, discussing what they saw and heard.



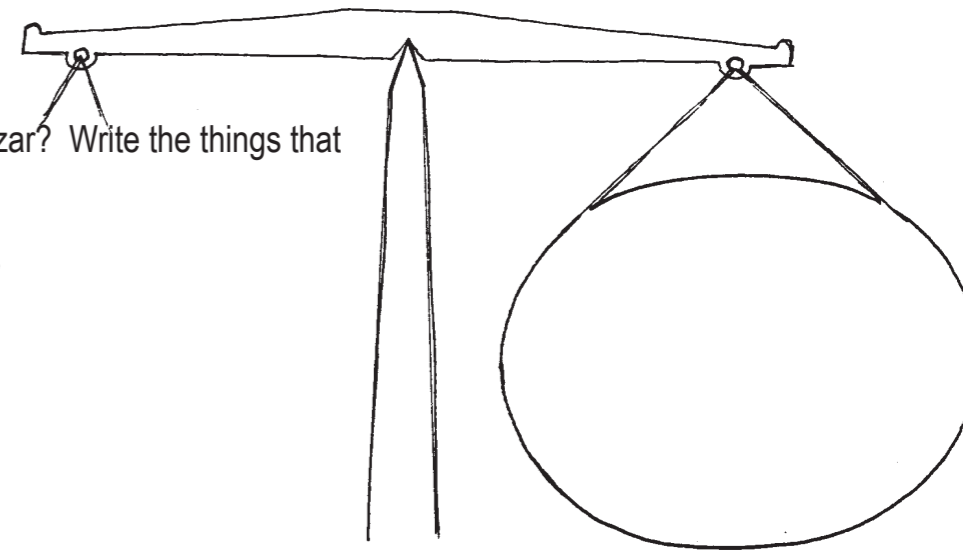
What was so significant about the cups that Belshazzar used?



What was the meaning of the words on the wall?



This clay cylinder has the name of Belshazzar on it. He was the ruler of Babylon at the time of its capture, written about in Daniel 5



What weighed against Belshazzar? Write the things that displeased God in the balance.

What happened to Belshazzar?

Digging Deeper

Babylon was a very great city. You might like to read about what archaeologists have discovered in a Biblical dictionary or the NIV study Bible. Certainly Nebuchadnezzar was very proud of it. Daniel 4:29-30 (Read the whole of chapter 4 if you don't know the story. It tells us what God thought of Nebuchadnezzar's pride.)

But God knew that Babylon as well as Nebuchadnezzar would be brought low and he knew who was going to do it. Isaiah 13:17-19, Jeremiah 51:11-13. Also read Isaiah 45:1-4. Cyrus however was not king of the Medes.

Remember the prophecy of the dream Nebuchadnezzar had (chapter 2). What part of the body did Daniel say represented the kingdom that was to follow the Babylonians? Chapter 8 has another vision given to Daniel of the same event. Verse 3 describes what represents the powers that would defeat the Babylonians and verse 20 tells us about two nations. The part of the body (chapter 2) and the ram (chapter 8) have something in common which supports the fact that there were two nations. What was it? What had happened was that about 10 years before Belshazzar was having his feast, Cyrus, the king of the Persians conquered the Medes and made an alliance with them. Darius was the king of the Medes and took Babylon but Cyrus became the more powerful eventually.

In what ways can we honour God or dishonour him in our lives? What might God weigh against you? How can you take steps to avoid doing things God hates?

Thank God that he is in control of everything in our lives and ask for help to do the right things.