



The Writing on the Wall Story

Supplies Needed

You will need the following:

14 Sheets of Cardstock (8.5" x 11")

14 3 mil Laminating Film

Directions

- Print pages 2-29 two-sided on cardstock. Laminate the pages.
- Hold up the pictures while you read the story.

Black Sea

King
Nebuchadnezzar



Mediterranean
Sea

Jerusalem

Babylon



King Belshazzar

BABYLONIAN EMPIRE

606-536 BC

Red
Sea

Before holding up the picture:

What did we learn about in our last lesson? *(God punished King Nebuchadnezzar by making him live like an animal)*

How long did King Nebuchadnezzar live like an animal? *(seven years)*

What lesson was God trying to teach King Nebuchadnezzar? *(To be humble; God controls all things)*

Hold up picture:

Do you remember in our first lesson when King Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem? What were some of the things that he took from Jerusalem back to Babylon? *(young noble men like Daniel and his friends, but also gold and silver vessels from the Temple)* Nebuchadnezzar has now died and his son Belshazzar is the new ruler over the Babylonian empire.



Hold up picture:

One day, King Belshazzar decided to have a great feast, so he invited 1,000 of his noble friends to come.



Hold up picture:

Remember when King Nebuchadnezzar had conquered Jerusalem, he had taken objects from the Temple including gold and silver cups. Well his son, King Belshazzar decided that he wanted to use these Temple cups at his feast for him and his guests to drink from. Do you think God would approve of him using the Temple vessels? *(no, they were only for the priests to use)*



Hold up picture:

So King Belshazzar, his wives, and all his noble friends drank wine from the gold and silver cups which had been taken from God's temple. And what's worse? While they were drinking from these special cups, they were praising their gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone. They did not know the one true God whose vessels they were drinking from.



Hold up picture:

All of a sudden, a hand appeared and began writing on the wall of the king's palace. The king was so frightened that his face turned pale, his legs became weak and his knees knocked together.

MENE MENE TEKEL PARSIN



Hold up picture:

The king called for his magicians, astrologers, and wise men. He said, “Whoever reads this writing and tells me what it means will be dressed in purple robes and will have a gold chain placed around his neck. And I will make him the third highest ruler in the kingdom!”



Hold up picture:

But none of the king's wise men could read the writing or tell him what it meant. King Belshazzar was greatly troubled, and his face turned pale. His noble friends were also scared.



Hold up picture:

The queen mother (this probably would have been Nebuchadnezzar's widow) spoke up and said to King Belshazzar. "Do not be troubled. There is a man in your kingdom who has the Spirit of the Holy God in him. In the days of your father, Nebuchadnezzar, he was found to have understanding and wisdom. In fact, King Nebuchadnezzar made him chief of his wise men because he could interpret dreams and explain riddles. Call for this Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means."



Hold up picture:

So Daniel was brought in before the king. King Belshazzar said, “Are you the Daniel my father took captive from Judah? I have heard that the Spirit of God is in you and that wisdom and understanding are found in you. The wise men were not able to read this writing. If you can read these words and tell me their meaning, you will be clothed in purple robes, you will have a gold chain placed around your neck, and I will make you the third highest ruler in the kingdom.”



Hold up picture:

Daniel replied to King Belshazzar, “You can keep your gifts, but I will still interpret the writing on the wall. The Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar, your father, a kingdom, glory and honor. But when his heart became prideful, he was driven away from man to live like an animal until he knew the Most High God rules in the kingdoms of men.



Hold up picture:

But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart even though you knew all this. You have exalted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You have brought the vessels of His Temple for your wives, lords, and friends to drink wine from. You have praised the gods of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood and stone, but you have not honored the God who holds your breath in His hand. So God has sent this hand to write this message, 'Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin'. This is what these words mean:

EKEL PAR SIN



Hold up picture:

‘Mene’ means ‘numbered’. God has numbered the days of your kingdom and has brought it to an end.

‘Tekel’ means ‘weighed’. You have been weighed on the balances and have not measured up.

‘Parsin’ means ‘divided’. Your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”



Hold up picture:

Belshazzar gave the command and Daniel was dressed in purple robes and a gold chain was hung around his neck. Then Belshazzar proclaimed that Daniel was the third highest ruler in the kingdom. But it didn't matter...



Hold up picture:

...because that night King Belshazzar was killed and Darius the Mede took over the Babylonian kingdom.

Ask & Explain:

Why was God not happy with Belshazzar? *(he was prideful, he was using Temple cups for his feast)*

Sometimes, we should learn from other people's mistakes, so we don't make the same mistakes. Belshazzar knew how God had punished his father, Nebuchadnezzar, for being prideful; but Belshazzar didn't learn anything from his father's experience and was also prideful. We need to make sure we stay humble and remember to thank God for everything He has given us.

We also see that God sometimes uses ungodly people to punish others or to accomplish His plan. There wasn't anything special about Darius...he wasn't a godly person, but God used him to punish Belshazzar and to bring an end to the Babylonian Empire. The fall of the Babylonian Empire into the hands of the Medes and Persians was planned by God. Daniel had told Nebuchadnezzar this in his first dream...remember the gold head represented Nebuchadnezzar and the silver chest represented the kingdom that would come after him, the Persian Empire.