

Daniel Finishes Well





Daniel served Nebuchadnezzar for many years. Eventually Nebuchadnezzar grew old and died. For the next several years kings came and went very quickly. Finally a new king came, but he was not interested in ruling, so he entrusted the kingdom to his young son, Belshazzar.

One day, Belshazzar decided he wanted to throw a large banquet for his friends. He invited everyone he knew for this party, and looked among his treasures for appropriate serving dishes.

He pulled out the cups and platters from the temple that Nebuchadnezzar brought from the temple.

As they drank they praised the god of silver, gold, and bronze, and did not praise the one true God.

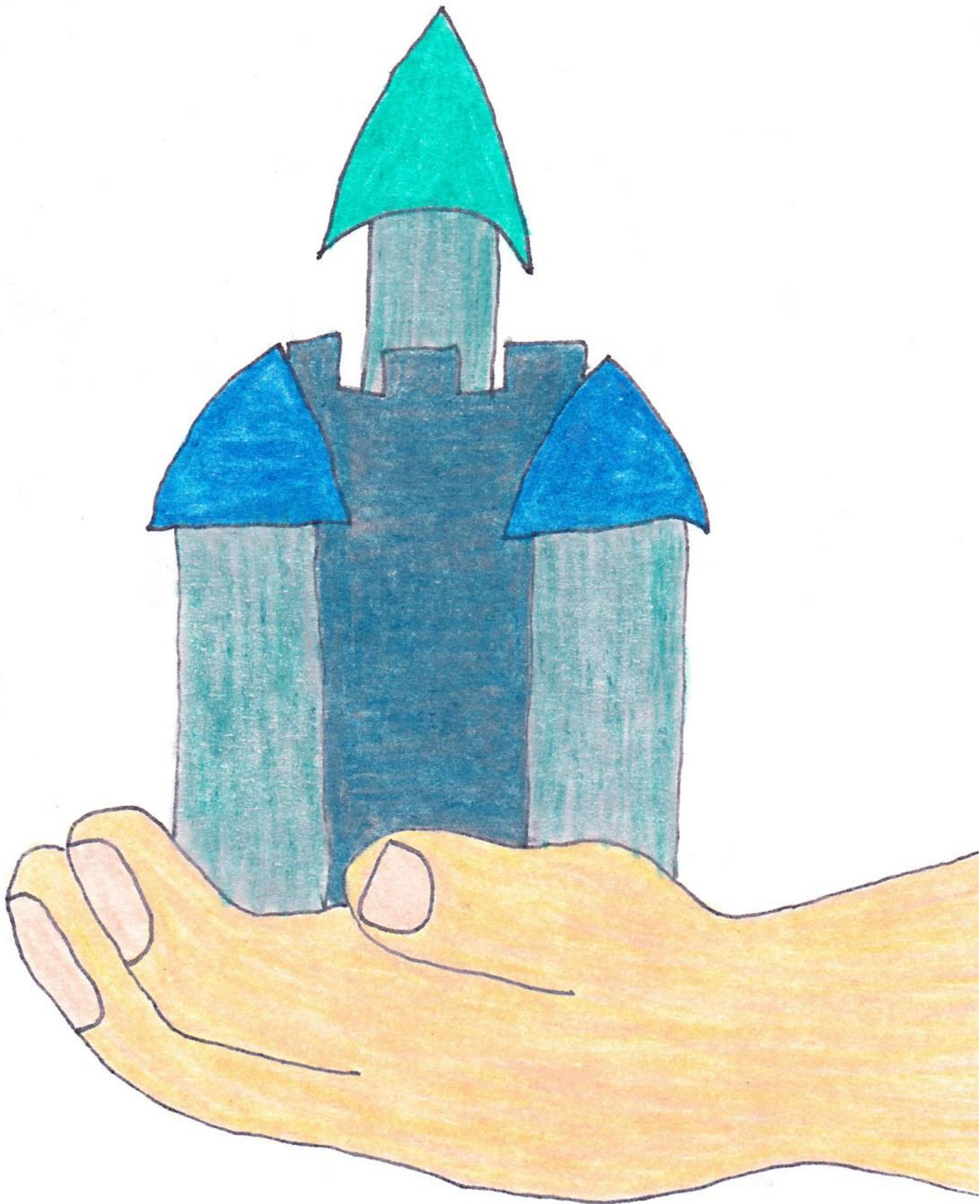


Belshazzar raised his glass over and over in honor of the gods of Babylon.

As they sat there enjoying themselves, a hand appeared and wrote on the wall. Belshazzar turned pale as he watched the hand slowly write the strange message.

The King called all of his astrologers, magicians and wise men, and asked them what it meant. He even told them they would become the third most important person in the land, but no one could tell him what it means.

Finally the Queen stepped forward and said, “Oh King, do not worry, for there is a man who advised the Great Nebuchadnezzar. He can explain great mysteries. Nebuchadnezzar appointed him over all wise men and magicians. He can tell you what it means.”

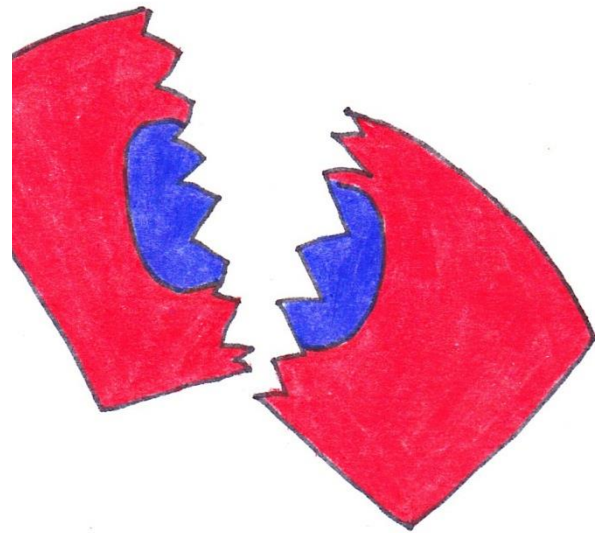
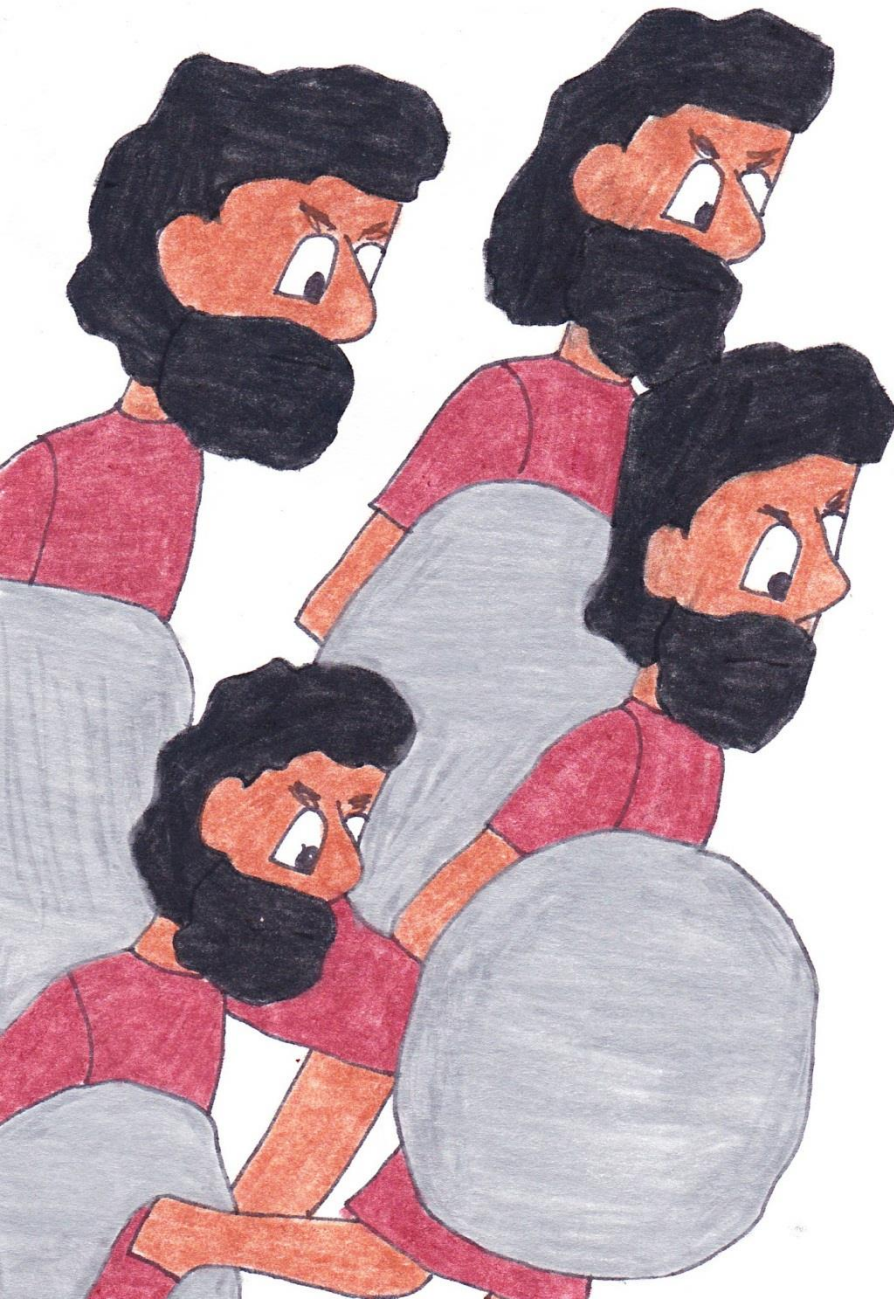
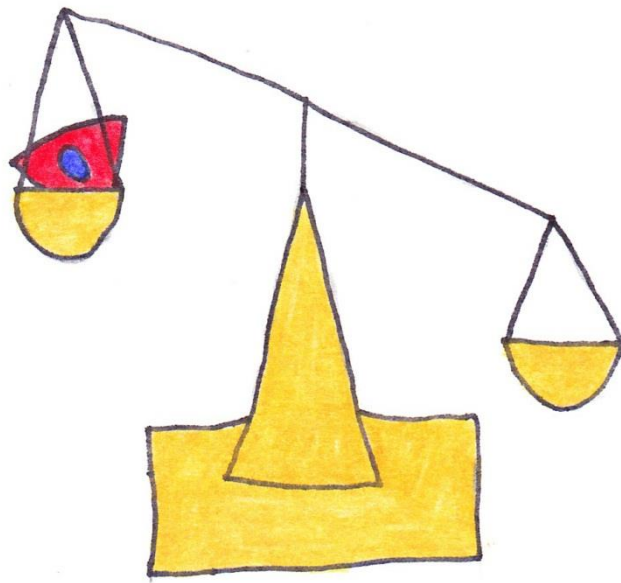


Daniel came before King Belshazzar. Belshazzar demanded, “What does this writing mean? Answer me and I will make you the third most important man in the country.”

Daniel answered, “King Belshazzar, you may keep your riches. I do not want them. For this is what I have to tell you.

“Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar was a wise man. He believed himself to be powerful and raised himself up above many. But God humbled him and caused him to be like an animal. Then your father, the king, looked up to heaven and praised God. He recognized that God is in control of all things.

“But you, his son, have not humbled yourself. You act as if you are above all things. You take the holy cups and plates from the temple of the Most High God and use them in your parties.”



“Here is what the inscription means:

Mene- God has numbered your days.

Tekel- You have been weighed on the scale and found wanting.

Parsin- Your kingdom will be divided between the Medes and the Persians.”

Belshazzar heard and believe what Daniel said, so he commanded Daniel to be promoted to the third highest person in the land.

That very night, however, the Medes and the Persians invaded the kingdom and Darius the Mede became king.

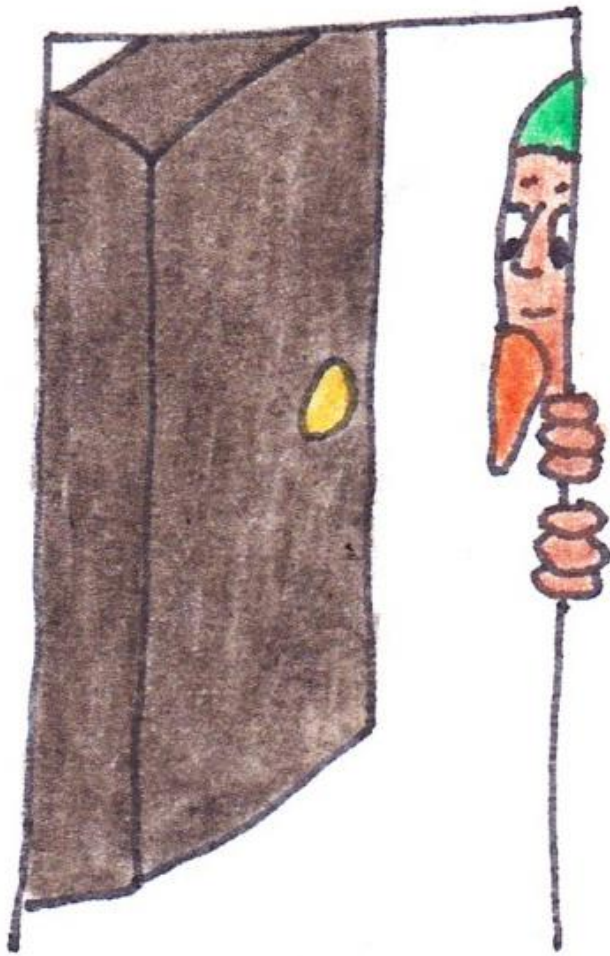


After Darius conquered the Babylonians he appointed 120 people in charge of the kingdom. Daniel was appointed one of those rulers because everyone spoke well of him.

Daniel did so well that he outdid all of the others. They plotted together to get Daniel in trouble.

They went to Darius and said, “O King, may it please you to say that no one may pray to any god or person but you for 90 days, and if they do they will be thrown to the lions.”

This sounded good to the king, he liked the idea of everyone praying to him, so he passed the law.



Daniel heard the law, and knew what it meant, but it was his habit to pray 3 times a day without fail. So, Daniel went to his room and prayed.

The evil men who wanted to trick Daniel saw what he was doing and told the king.



When the king heard Daniel was to be thrown in the lions' den, he tried to change the law, but was not able to.

“Daniel may your God, who you serve, keep you safe,” cried King Darius as Daniel was thrown into the lions' den.

“If it pleases my God, He will keep me safe,” answered Daniel.

King Darius worried the whole night. “What was happening to Daniel?” he wondered. He ate no food, and had no fun. Instead he paced the floor and worried.



The next morning King Darius sprang up early in the morning and ran to the lions' den. He called down to Daniel, "Daniel, did your God protect you?"

Daniel answered back, "O King may you live forever. My God sent an angel to shut up the mouth of the lions, and I have been safe all night long."

Then King Darius had it ordered that all of the officials who had plotted against Daniel be thrown in the lions' den.

Questions

Younger Kids

1. What did Belshazzar do that made God angry?
How can you not use God's things right?
2. Who tells the king to talk to Daniel? Who do you trust for advice?
3. What did Daniel do when he heard it was illegal to pray?
4. What do you think Daniel was doing while he was down in the lion's den?

Middle Kids

1. Read Daniel 5:3-4. Why is God angry Belshazzar used the goblets?
2. Read Daniel 6:4. When people check on Daniel are they able to find anything against him? If people were to look into you, would they find a place you'd broken a rule or not been completely honest?
3. Read Daniel 6:10. Did Daniel change his behavior because the law changed?

4. In Daniel chapter 6 it becomes illegal to pray. If it was illegal to be a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict you?

Older Guys

1. Read Daniel 5:17. Do you think Daniel respects Belshazzar? Why not? Compare that with how Daniel speaks about Nebuchadnezzar (read Daniel 5:18-19).
2. Read Daniel 6:3-4. Daniel distinguished himself at work. How can you be distinguished at work? Read Ephesians 6:5-6. Today we call ourselves “wage slaves,” so how does God think we should act at work?
3. Read Daniel 6:12-15. Did Darius make a wise law? How do we know it was not wise?

Activities

1. Make a cork lion: brown and yellow yarn, cork, small pins, paint (optional), glue



- A. Cut yarn into 1-2 inch pieces
- B. Glue around top of cork, leave a space on the front for the face.
- C. Cut a longer piece of yarn and tie a tassel at the bottom for the tail.
- D. Pin the tail on the back of the bottom.
- E. Add two more pins on the front for eyes.



alternate version using wide craft sticks and sharpie

2. Play lions and Christians (sharks and minnows).

Online

1. Daniel and the lion den craft-

<http://bibleclasscreations.blogspot.com/2014/06/spoon-lion.html>

2. Daniel tag-

http://www.ehow.com/way_5390570_activities-daniel-lions-den.html

3. If Loving God was a Crime-

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykqVbuweF00>

4.Lion handprint craft-

<http://histreasureseekers.wordpress.com/2011/10/21/daniel-in-the-lions-den/>