

Finger on the wall



We jump ahead into the year 540BC. King Belshazzar is giving a big banquet. At an advanced hour, he demands that the vessels taken from the Jewish temple are brought. That’s not just a bit of fun. The heathen king wants to show that he is greater than the God of the nation that has been conquered.

When he also calls on the Chaldean gods, the fingers of a man’s hand appear and write something on the wall. Belshazzar’s knees are literally shaking.

None of his wise men can read or interpret the writing. Then the mother of the king remembers that there was a man at the court of Nebuchadnezzar, who was exceptionally wise and also able to interpret dreams – Daniel.



21. Which vessels do verses 2 and 3 talk about? Read also Exodus 37:16.

22. Can you find the passage near the end of the letter to the Galatians, where it says that God is not mocked?



Nebuchadnezzar’s successor was Nabonid (556-539), the last ruler of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. Archaeological sources say that he made his son Belshazzar chief administrator of the city of Babylon. He himself was often away from the capital and needed a trusted person to deal with the administration in the city. Daniel was after these two the third ruler in the Neo-Babylonian Empire (chapter 5:29).



God is not mocked!



21. Dishes, cups, bowls and pitchers. All were made of gold. There were no vessels of silver in the temple (what Belshazzar thought – v2), that’s why only the gold ones were brought (v3). They were used to bring offerings to God, especially the drink offering. To be a heathen and to drink from them was blasphemous, which God punished. 22. Galatians 6:7 says: “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked”.