

God Judges Belshazzar

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[0:00] Daniel 5, the Word of God. King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them.

! While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar, his father, had taken from the temple in Jerusalem. So that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.

So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem. And the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them.

As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone. Suddenly, the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall near the lampstand in the royal palace.

The king watched the hand as it wrote. His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way.

[1:14] The king called out for the enchanters, astrologers and diviners to be brought and said to these wise men of Babylon, Whoever reads this writing and tells me what it means will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around his neck and he will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or tell the king what it meant. So king Belshazzar became even more terrified and his face grew more pale.

His nobles were baffled. The queen, hearing the voices of the king and his nobles, came into the banquet hall. O king, live forever, she said.

Don't be alarmed. Don't look so pale. There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father, he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods.

King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, your father the king, I say, appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners. This man, Daniel, whom the king called Belteshazzar, was found to have a keen mind and knowledge and understanding and also the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems.

[2:43] Call for Daniel and he will tell you what the writing means. So Daniel was brought before the king and the king said to him, Are you Daniel, one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah?

I have heard that the spirits of the gods is in you and that you have insight, intelligence and outstanding wisdom. The wise men and enchanters were brought before me to read this writing and tell me what it means.

But they could not explain it. Now, I have heard that you are able to give interpretations and to solve difficult problems. If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, you will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around your neck and you will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

Then Daniel answered the king, you may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means.

Oh, king, the most high God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor. Because of the high position he gave him, all the peoples and nations and men of every language dreaded and feared him.

[4:00] Those the king wanted to put to death, he put to death. Those he wanted to spare, he spared. Those he wanted to promote, he promoted. And those he wanted to humble, he humbled.

But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, He was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory. He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal. He lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like cattle. And his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he acknowledged that the most high God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and sets over them anyone he wishes.

But you, his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven.

You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand.

[5:13] But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways. Therefore, he sent the hand that wrote the inscription.

This is the inscription that was written. Meany, meany, teakle, parson. This is what these words mean. Meany, God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.

Tico, you have been weighed on the scales and found wanting. Perez, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was clothed in purple. A gold chain was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom. That very night, Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain, and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom at the age of 62.

What do you need to do to be lost forever? The answer is nothing. You don't have to do anything.

[6:27] I saw a sign the other day that said this. If we don't change the direction we are going, we are likely to end up where we are headed. Those are profound words.

One of my favorite things to do is to go to cities where I have never been and then get lost. It is not one of my favorite things to do, but I do it so often that you would think it was.

One time, we were in Charlotte, North Carolina, and we were actually trying to drive out of Charlotte and head home, and somehow we got turned around or something, and we ended up driving on this interstate.

We just kept driving, thinking we were going the right direction, until we had gone completely around the city and ended up right back where we had started. And so the sign is true.

If you don't change directions, you're going to end up where you are headed. And tonight is the story of a man who didn't change directions. He never stopped and paused to think about the direction he was going.

[7:35] He just kept on going. And so what did Belshazzar have to do to be lost? He didn't have to do anything. He just had to keep on going. The story is more than that, though.

The story that we find in Daniel chapter 5 is a picture of what's going to happen to all the kingdoms of this world. They're all going to be lost for the simple reason that they're just going to keep on going the way they've always gone, and they're going to do what they've always done.

So let's look at Belshazzar's fall. That's going to be our first main point. Belshazzar's fall. Daniel chapter 5, verse 1 says King Belshazzar gave a great feast.

Literally, he made a great feast. And what a feast it was. There were 1,000 of his friends were there, and his wives and his concubines were there, and the wine flowed, and the good times rolled.

And Belshazzar was having the time of his life. He was having a great time. And so in the heights of his probably drunkenness, he calls for the goblets that were in the temple at Jerusalem.

[8:44] Those are gold and silver goblets. And he tells the servants to go get those, and let's drink out of those. And so they brought in the gold and silver goblets. We just read this. And they drank out of them.

And as they did, they praised the gods of gold, silver, bronze, and iron, and wood, and stone. Do you get the picture? All the gods, from the greatest, the gods of gold to the very least, the small gods, the little gods were praised.

And this whole feast, this whole banquet, is a perfect picture of Belshazzar. It's a perfect picture of, really, all the kingdoms of men.

Because what are the pillars that all the kingdoms of men, and what was this kingdom founded on? What are they all about? What do they rest on? Well, they rest on pride.

They rest on pride. Did you see Belshazzar's pride? When he took the goblets of gold and silver that were consecrated to God, in verse 23, it says, instead you have set yourself up against the

Lord of heaven.

[9:50] So he was taking it, and he was putting himself up there right with God. Instead of God being worshipped, this was something that he was doing for his own exaltation. So what are the pillars of the kingdom of men?

And the first one is pride. And the second one is idolatry. Isn't that the most basic sin of all? Men exchange the glory of God for created things.

And Belshazzar worships the gods of gold and silver, and he uses God's things to do it. And that's the way we always do idolatry.

We take God's things and we use them for our idol's use. What's another pillar of the kingdom of men, and this kingdom in particular? Luxury. Luxury.

This feast was all about earthly, sensuous pleasure. It was all about extravagance and fancy clothes and looking good.

[10:48] What did Paul, the apostle Paul, say about the false teachers? He said, their God is their stomach.

That's the way the world is. What's the God of this world? For many, many people, it's Lord Tummy. And everyone bows down to his majesty, the gut.

And so they worship the things that they can feel and experience. It's all about luxury and comfort.

And so the kingdoms of men are built on these three things, pride and idolatry and luxury.

And Belshazzar's little kingdom that he had going for him, that he was working on, it revolved around these three things of pride and idolatry and luxury.

They were on the same pillars. And what is so remarkable about this whole story and about Belshazzar's pride is just how petty it is.

[11:51] How petty it is. We miss something if we don't see really what a joke Belshazzar is. Because implicitly and explicitly throughout this whole passage, there's a comparison, there's a distinction made between Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar.

And it starts at verse 1. What does Belshazzar make? He makes a feast. What did Nebuchadnezzar make? Do you remember?

He made a dazzling gold statue that all of the nations of the world had to come and bow down to. Nebuchadnezzar made a kingdom. He destroyed and sacked cities and brought back captives and plunders.

He built wonders. Do you remember in chapter 4? He was so lifted up with the things that he had made. He said, look at this city, this Babylon that I have built for my own glory.

And Babylon was remarkable. Remember the hanging gardens and the wall that four horses wide, or a chariot with four horses could turn around on. And it was so big.

[12:57] But the only thing Belshazzar made was a feast. Nebuchadnezzar built an empire. Belshazzar planned a party.

And even the highlight of the night, the high point of the party, was the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar had brought and carried off.

So Nebuchadnezzar conducted a symphony in his life. And Belshazzar was turning the crank on the jack-in-the-box. You get it? There's a huge difference between these two men. And so what do you expect will happen?

What do you expect will happen to Belshazzar? Well, we just came out of chapter 4 that just ended with Nebuchadnezzar praising God Most High and saying, those who walk in pride, he is able to humble.

So what do you expect is going to happen to Belshazzar? If God humbled Nebuchadnezzar, who really on a human perspective had something to be proud of, what is he going to do to this man who hasn't really done anything yet?

[14:10] He is exalted. This joke of a man, this joke of an emperor and king. Well, we know he's going down. He's going down. So verse 5.

Suddenly, the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall. So can you imagine fingers scraping the plaster, making these symbols?

And I don't think we're supposed to think that they were actually spelled out words. It was some sort of cryptic pattern that only Daniel could understand after knowing the mystery of it. And he's drawing these deep grooves into the wall.

And the king notices. And the crowd goes silent. Or there's this gasp, you can imagine. And verse 6 says his face turned pale. And he's so frightened that his knees knocked together.

And the NIV says his legs gave way. And that last little bit, his legs gave way, is a euphemism. It means he wet himself. So Nebuchadnezzar, who had something to be proud of, when he heard the dreams that the Lord sent him, he was very disturbed.

[15 : 25] He was deeply troubled. But Belshazzar just loses control. And he calls for the enchanters. And of course, by this time, you should be understanding what their role in the kingdom is.

These poor guys really don't know what is going on. They don't have a clue when it really matters. And so there they are. They don't have an idea. And then a thousand men and women are standing around. And everyone is baffled.

Verse 9 says. They're dumbstruck. And then in comes the queen. And I think it's best for us to know, I think it's best for us to understand that she's the queen mother.

She's probably the queen mother. Because Belshazzar's wives were already there. And his concubines were already there. And she remembers Daniel. She has this history of Babylon in her mind.

And what has gone before where everyone else doesn't seem to have a clue what's going on. And the queen mother says, You've forgotten about Daniel. And he can untie these tricky knots. So Daniel's called.

[16 : 27] And it's amazing. Even in these circumstances that Belshazzar finds himself in. He finds a way to be arrogant. Look at verse 13.

The king said to him, Are you Daniel, one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah? Now, who is Daniel?

How was he described earlier by the queen mother? Well, he was described as one of Nebuchadnezzar's most trusted advisors. One of the most powerful men in Nebuchadnezzar's rule. When Babylon was at its height, he was one of the top officials.

But this young upstart, Belshazzar, wants to put Daniel in his place. And so he reminds him of where you came from. You're just this exile, aren't you?

You're just one of those captives. There's no respect for what Daniel had accomplished. There was no respect for Daniel's age or Daniel's wisdom. He's putting him down. He wants him to realize, I'm really in charge here.

[17 : 31] It reminds you of people who are always overcompensating for their weakness. That's what Belshazzar does. But after that, he does say, Well, if you can tell me what the inscription means, then I'll make you third in charge.

I'll be the number three man in the kingdom, and I'll clothe you in purple, and I'll put a gold chain around your neck. So, you can hear Daniel's brother and his response.

Keep your gifts. Give them to someone else. But I'll tell you what you want to know. What's the point of taking gifts from a king who is about ready to be destroyed, who isn't going to last out the night? What's the point of taking a reward from and being honored by a windbag when you know God is going to take his breath away that night?

So, what are the world's honors worth? They're worthless. They're nothing. Let him who boasts boast about this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord.

[18 : 48] And so, this world's pomp and show, it promises so much, but its honors are worthless.

They're worthless. It gives out trophies to the worthless people. Look at the covers of the magazines. Look at the front page of yahoo.com.

It's like this parade of people who the world honors, and they're wicked. They're fools. They're worthless. And we need to say to the world what Daniel said to Belshazzar.

Keep your gifts. Give them to someone else. Give your rewards to anyone else but me. And so, Daniel says, keep your rewards, but I'll tell you what the inscription means, what the writing means. Look at verse 18. O king, the most high God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor because of the high position he gave him.

[19 : 54] All the peoples and nations and men of every language dreaded and feared him. And it goes on. Nebuchadnezzar held men's lives in his hands. And he killed who he wanted to kill.

And he humbled who he wanted to humble. Men dreaded Nebuchadnezzar because God had exalted him. And God brought him low for his pride.

You knew this, Belshazzar. You knew it. You should have remembered. But you still paraded around in your pride and your arrogance.

You haven't humbled yourself. You haven't changed your direction. You're just going the way that you've been born. And you're going that way. So you brought in the goblets of the temple. You praised the other gods.

But you did not honor the God who holds your life and your breath in his hand. Belshazzar, you should have known. If God brought Nebuchadnezzar low when he was exalted and proud, what is he going to do to you?

[21:02] So this is what the writing is. What the writing means. Mini, Mini, Tico, Parson. And they're fairly self-explanatory.

Mini means you've been numbered. It's a numbering. It's a piece of money. So God has counted you out. The checkbook is empty. Your rule is over. Time's done.

You've been numbered. And the numbering is over. Tico. Tico means it's a weight. Or it's a shekel. It's another piece of money. And so you've been weighed and you've been found wanting.

You haven't been true to the standard. You haven't measured up. Perez. Perez means divided or a half a piece of money.

So we have quarters, right? And quarters are a dollar bill. They're worth a quarter of a dollar bill.

Well, Perez is a shekel or a mina split in half.

[22:05] And your kingdom is divided. Your kingdom is being split in half. And so what do the words mean? Belshazzar, God is taking you up.

He has weighed you. He has numbered you. He's looked over your kingdom. He's counted you out. And it's over. Your kingdom is over.

Your little kingdom is done and Babylon is over. And what happened? How long did it take for God to answer and fulfill this prophecy?

Well, verse 30 says, that very night. How much time did Belshazzar have? No time. It was over. No time. Belshazzar was slain and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom.

And the thing we should recognize right here is that the head of gold has now given way to the chest and arms of silver. The kingdoms of men are falling. Those who walk in pride, God is able to humble.

[23:15] Now, what should we learn from this lesson? We have three things that I want to look at as what we should learn from this lesson. First, we should learn the future of every kingdom of man.

Every kingdom of man. Every human kingdom. Daniel 5 tells us of the fall of Belshazzar, but it also tells us about the fall of Babylon, the head of gold giving way to the chest of silver.

And so that very night, Babylon fell. The head of gold was done. And the sins that brought Belshazzar down and low and humbled him were the sins that brought Babylon down.

So do you remember what they are? They're pride and idolatry and luxury. Those were the sins that classified and characterized Babylon.

And they characterize all the kingdoms of man and God is going to act consistently towards them and he's going to judge them. So haven't we been seeing this in Isaiah?

[24:17] What was Judah condemned for? What was Judah punished for? They were lifted up. They were proud. They worshipped other gods and those women walked around in all their finery.

They lived for luxury and Judah fell. And Babylon and every other kingdom is no different. Now the Bible does something very interesting.

It takes the picture of Babylon the city of Babylon and it turns it into a symbol for all of the nations of the world.

All the kingdoms of this world that have rebelled against God. So turn in your Bibles to Revelation chapter 18. Revelation chapter 18 and we here at the very end of all things we have a picture of Babylon again.

So let's read Revelation 18 the first three verses. After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven.

[25:31] He had great authority and the earth was illuminated by his splendor and with a mighty voice he shouted fallen fallen as Babylon the great she has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird for all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries the kings of the earth committed adultery with her and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.

Now in Revelation Babylon is clearly a picture of Rome but it becomes more than that it is more than that it's a picture of all the kingdoms of men as they persecute God's people as they rebel against God and did you see the similarities between Revelation 18 and Daniel chapter 5 the same sins characterized both the nations are drunk they're committing adultery this is spiritual adultery they've taken up Babylon as an idol and Babylon itself is full of idols and the nations love her for her luxury and what does God do?

He destroys Babylon every Babylon will be destroyed every kingdom that opposes God that lives for pride and idolatry and luxury will be destroyed sooner or later and this connects to where we are this connects right into our lives because we live in a Babylon we are in a nation that is in love with itself and we are full of idols and we love our luxury and unless our nation repents we will be thrown down because God's going to treat every Babylon this way so look at verse 21 then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea and said with such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down and never to be found again so brothers and sisters the kingdoms of men all have a date with destruction they are all going there the handwriting is on the wall they've all been weighed they've all been numbered they've all been measured and they've been found wanting

God will judge them and so the word of revelation the word of the angel to us the word of God to us is come out of her brothers and sisters come out of her so that you don't share in her sins so that you won't be judged should you run after the same things that this world runs after should you love houses and money and luxury and power and prestige the things of Babylon but what are they well they're the empty rewards of Belshazzar and this world's sins are piled up piled up to heaven and God's word has come out of her come out don't share in their sins for God will remember her crimes so what should we learn from

Daniel chapter five we should learn the future of all the nations all the kingdoms of men what is their future it is destruction what should we learn from Daniel chapter five secondly the future of every little kingdom the future of every little kingdom Belshazzar thought a lot about himself didn't he he thought a lot of himself he was living for that little kingdom that we're all born living for and it's that little kingdom of one and did it survive none of our little kingdoms will survive God's judgment none of your little kingdoms will survive God's judgment and judgment is coming the Lord just doesn't weigh didn't just weigh Belshazzar's heart he weighs every single one of our hearts he measures every single one of us and will our little kingdom stand no every mountain and every high hill will be brought low brought down and the arrogance of men will be brought low and the pride of men humbled our little kingdoms have a date with destruction in one way or the other they're going to be destroyed sooner or later because you see our little kingdoms are teetering on those same pillars that

[30 : 40] Babylon was teetering on our little kingdoms are built on those three same things we want they live on pride and idolatry and luxury and we show it when we're envious when I see something that I want that someone else has we see that person with a nice car job or house or family or they have the honor at work and they're getting the promotion and we're envious our envy shows us what we really worship it shows us what we really crave and it shows us what we really think about ourselves that I really deserve these things and my kingdom shows itself when I idolize the famous and the accomplished the rich and it shows itself when I boast of my small successes and in my petty assets and in my fine house and in my reasonable physique you're no different and what does that say about us well we're no different from

Belshazzar we're puffed up puffed up in our own little tiny achievements that really don't add up much even on the human scale let alone on God's scale and God's judgment is severe God has weighed our deeds he's weighed our accomplishments and we have been found wanting we haven't measured up we have fallen short of the glory of God and the Lord will destroy our little kingdom sooner or later and it's in light of judgment and it's in light of what is going to happen in the light of what has happened that grace becomes so beautiful because my heart has a magnetic attraction to my own little kingdom my own self and I want it and we need saved we need rescued from our sin and we don't measure up but praise

God Jesus does and he's our righteousness Jesus passed the test he was weighed and he was measured and he was perfect he was exactly what he was supposed to be and Jesus is everything that you need for your righteousness Jesus is everything that you need to measure up on God's scale and he is God's gift to sinners and brothers and sisters that is your righteousness so you can

rejoice when you come to this passage and when you realize that you are going to be weighed and measured and found wanting in and of yourself but in Christ you're perfect you're complete you have everything that you need and so do we need to try to add our works or sorrow or something that we think is good to the scale and if you've seen your idolatry and pride should you try to make up for it somehow should you try to add up some of your things some of your goodness to the scale no you just you go to Jesus Jesus is perfect

Jesus has it all he's all that we need we will be judged but Christ is our righteousness and so we have nothing to fear when that day comes and we are weighed because Jesus will be the standard by which we're judged and he's the standard or he's everything that we need when we are judged wrath to fear now the third lesson from this chapter is we should learn the sovereign mercy of God the sovereign mercy of God tonight we saw a lot of differences between Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar they were very different people Nebuchadnezzar was great and Belshazzar was not great he had inherited a position and he wasn't a great man Nebuchadnezzar built an empire and Belshazzar planned a party they were very different but the greatest difference of all is not what they accomplished it was

God's mercy God had mercy on Nebuchadnezzar he did not have mercy on Belshazzar Nebuchadnezzar's humbling! ended in life Belshazzar's humbling ended in death God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy and he hardens those he wants to harden and we should learn a couple of things from that first it should teach us that there's hope for everyone there is hope for everyone God has mercy on sinners and it doesn't have anything to do with what they have done what they have deserved Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar were both sinners they were both arrogant they both loved luxury they both were idolaters but God had mercy on Nebuchadnezzar there was no difference in their sin but

[36:08] God had mercy and God's mercy is free and so if you're wondering could God have mercy on a person like me the answer is yes because it has nothing to do with what we've merited it has nothing to do with our accomplishments it's all tied to his own heart the sovereignty of God's mercy should teach us how utterly we sinners need mercy need him if you understand that God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy then you see how desperately you need him because you can't do anything to save yourself and some people hear that and that makes them do nothing if I can't do anything I might as well do nothing but that's to totally misread it that's to totally interpret it all wrong that's devil's logic if it's all of

God's mercy then who should you go to if you need mercy you should go to God he has mercy he will freely pardon all those who believe in him now as we Revelation do you know what happens after Babylon is destroyed in Revelation the saints praise God there's a whole there's almost a whole chapter of the saints worshiping God for what he's done to Babylon and then there is a feast we started out with Belshazzar's feast and we're going to end with God's feast what is Daniel all about God is setting up his kingdom in this world the kingdom of his son and his son the king is going to make his own feast and there's not just going to be a thousand people there there's going to be ten thousand times ten thousand people there all of

God's saints are going to be there and that includes many of you you are going to be there God set his love on you when you were living for your own little kingdom when you were going your own way God sent his son in order to take all of your idolatry sin all of your idolatry to take all of your luxury loving ways to take all of your pride upon himself and he took it all and he took it to the cross and he was punished for our sins and he was punished so that we could be welcomed to this feast and the day is coming when you will be welcomed!

in to that heavenly everlasting feast with king Jesus and that should change the way that you live brother and sister you should have that on your mind so how are you going to resist the world's feast because it is tempting the world's rewards they're tempting how are we going to resist them because we've been invited to a better one we can say no to this party because I have a much better party do you ever do that around Christmas time I can't go there I have something you don't tell them that but I have something better planned better things wait for us you were sinful! and yet God loved you and he's welcoming you he's invited you to this feast isn't that enough to say no to this world's temptation who needs it we have something better and that should change the way that you look at really sinful people in your family in your job in your life the people that you don't think have a chance well that just shows you if you're!

[40:14] how really good of yourself God invited you you were welcome to the feast and you're a sinner and God and the Lord Jesus dressed you in his robes of righteousness do you remember that parable the man the king threw a party and there was one man who wasn't ready he wasn't dressed and he was thrown out but we've been dressed in Christ righteousness and isn't that good news let's not be discouraged with those really sinful people in our families in our lives God welcomed us when we were just as dead as they were and so let's be telling people how good God is how good he's been to us and how good he could be to them to sinners now to lost the invitation for this feast is still going out it's still going out and

King Jesus doesn't invite the lords and the ladies of the land he's inviting the poor and the needy the naked the people who need dressed and he says come to me and I'll dress you I'll clothe you I'll make you beautiful we saw that this morning I'll give you my righteousness I'll freely forgive all of your sins and so if you're outside of Christ if you don't have this righteousness if you're not sure that you're going to be welcome to that feast then here's the invitation come come to the feast come to Jesus Jesus is ready he's ready to receive you but you have to humble yourself you must humble yourself you have to admit what you are you have to admit and confess to him what you've done and if you do he will freely pardon you every high thing will be brought low and so humble yourself before him and take him and take life but what do you have to do to be lost just keep going the way you're going you don't have to do anything let's pray our heavenly father

I pray that you would send your spirit now to break into sinners hearts in this room and save them we believe in immediate conversion it is within your power it is within your character and so we pray Lord that you would do that tonight that you would call sinners to yourself and save them honor the glory of your grace in this hour in our hearts Lord Jesus will you please lift up yourself in front of all of our eyes so that as we drink you in and we take you and we enjoy you and what you have done for us that you would please transform us so that we would not walk in the ways of this world we would not walk in this world but we would really come out that we live differently!

because we