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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1574 ~ Belshazzar's Feast.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

After King Nebuchadnezzar recovered from seven years of madness, he acknowledged and praised the God of Heaven as the everlasting King who lives for ever and ever. He could finally see that only God Almighty gave truth and justice, and had the ability to bring down proud human hearts.

Nebuchadnezzar's throne was restored to him. When he died, there were several kings in very quick succession who took on the throne of Babylon. These men did not follow Nebuchadnezzar's example of worshipping the living God. Instead, there was a power struggle between the supporters of the different Babylonian gods. One king fled the throne over his unpopular promotion of a particular god and his son reigned for many years before this king returned to Babylon.

In the Bible book of Daniel, Chapter 5, we're told the son's name was Belshazzar. While King Nebuchadnezzar was known as a great builder, Belshazzar was known as a partying man. He held many drunken feasts and encouraged his high officials to live in a debased, unrighteous manner. Although Nebuchadnezzar had built Babylon's walls very tall and wide, so wide that chariot races could be held on top of the walls, Belshazzar put his trust in these walls to keep out the armies of the Medes and Persians.

In field battles between two armies, the goal was usually to capture the other's king or flag. But in ancient times, army generals tried to capture the idol statues that represented the gods of the people that they were at war with. This capturing of the other's idols was symbolic of the strength leaving the conquered people to now reside with the victors. Some of these statues were now in Babylon and King Cyrus of Persia wanted them back. He attacked Babylon and lay siege around the outside of its walls. Belshazzar, however, had no desire to take his army out to meet the besieging troops of Persia. Instead, he felt content and secure while behind the walls of Babylon.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

Belshazzar brought God's wrath down on his own head. He had acted with contempt by ordering the sacred vessels of gold from the Temple in Jerusalem to be used at his shameful banquet feast. People who challenge God often find a display of His awesome power very quickly and to their own hurt. While God gave Nebuchadnezzar a year to repent, He judged Belshazzar this particular night.

Respect for God is so important. In the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 10, it says: "What does the Lord your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the Lord your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul." The words of Psalm 147 remind us: "The Lord takes pleasure in those who reverently and worshipfully fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy and loving-kindness."

Daniel no longer had a position of influence in the court of the king. Belshazzar did not consult him about any matters of state or religion. When King Belshazzar could find no one to interpret the words written on the wall of his banquet room, the Queen Mother reminded him that Daniel was the one who would be able to help. How sad it is for a nation when God's people are only consulted in a major crisis.

A couple of centuries ago, a man went duck shooting during the duck hunting season. He took his Christian slave with him to help carry home any they caught. The man himself lived in a society in a way that showed that his position in life gave him importance and he took no interest in spiritual things.

His slave told his master how the devil troubled him frequently. The master responded by saying that the devil didn't bother him at all. At that moment, a flock of ducks flew over and the hunter opened fire on them. Some fell to the ground dead while others fell only wounded. "Go for the live ones!" he shouted to his slave. "The dead ones we'll pick up later." The slave wondered if the devil didn't bother his master because he was already dead and belonged to Satan. The devil always takes the most interest in active Christians to cause them trouble.

It's true, whether we like it or not, that genuine Christians are in a continual spiritual battle. This battle isn't against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, and against the rulers and authorities of this Dark Age. This fight goes on until we leave this earth. So how can we protect ourselves from the devil's attacks?

In the New Testament book of Ephesians, Chapter 6, we are told to put on the whole armour of God. This letter to the church in Ephesus was thought to be written by the Apostle Paul during his two-year imprisonment in Rome. He was guarded day and night by Roman soldiers and had many opportunities to study their full uniform. He wrote to the Christians that they were to put on God's whole armour so that they may successfully stand up against the strategies and the deceits of the devil.

If Christians are to be victorious in this life, we have to wear the belt of truth. Roman soldiers wore a loose tunic held in place by a strong belt. When it came time to sleep, they simply took off their belt and their tunic became comfortable sleepwear. The Gospel is the truth of God's Word and all who have believed in and relied on the Lord Jesus are sealed by God's Holy Spirit. The evidence of this consists in every form of kindly goodness, uprightness of heart and trueness of life.

Paul next speaks about the breastplate of righteousness. Soldiers wore a leather vest to protect their bodies from attack from enemy sword thrusts. In Isaiah, Chapter 64, it says: "You (Lord) welcome those who find joy in doing what is right, those who remember how you want them to live." This attitude of integrity comes from being in right standing with God.

The soldier needs to put on footwear to give stability on rough ground. When we Christians know peace with God, we'll be ready to battle Satan. If God is for us, who can be against us? In Romans, Chapter 8, it says: "Who, then, can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble do it, or hardship or persecution or hunger or poverty or danger or death?" "No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us!"

Out in front of the soldier is his shield of protection. The Christian's shield is saving faith which can quench all the flaming arrows shot by the devil. We need to carry our shield of faith at all times. In Proverbs, Chapter 30, it says: "God is like a shield for all who seek his protection."

A soldier's head was covered by a metal helmet, which for Christians represents salvation. Satan will try to destroy our thinking about the Lord Jesus but the Christian must bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. We must guard what we put into our minds. In Philippians, Chapter 4, it says: "Fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honourable." Much of modern entertainment is the devil's tool to place his thoughts into our heads.

And lastly, the soldier takes his trusty sword in his hand to use it against the enemy. For Christians, the sword of the Spirit is God's Word. We must know what the Bible says, so that when we come to a situation, we can find the Holy Spirit's guidance from God's Word on what we should do.

Paul finishes the soldier's protection by urging the Christian to pray continually.

Although King Belshazzar knew of his grandfather's faith in the living God, he turned aside to please himself. The invading armies saw that Babylon's walls were too hard to conquer. They looked around for some other way to get inside the city. Satan too, looks for any weakness in our lives that he can exploit. Just as a soldier's commitment to his commanding officer is total obedience, so must our obedience to the Lord Jesus be if we desire the victory over temptation.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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