

# Daniel 5:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewst all this;

## Analysis

---

Daniel confronts Belshazzar: 'And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewst all this.' The accusation isn't ignorance but willful pride despite knowledge. The phrase 'though thou knewst all this' refers to Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation (v. 18-21). Belshazzar had example and warning but chose pride anyway. The verb 'humbled' (Aramaic: shephel) means to abase or bring low. His refusal to humble his heart despite knowing God's judgment on his predecessor constitutes willful rebellion. This principle appears throughout Scripture: greater knowledge brings greater accountability (Luke 12:47-48).

## Historical Context

---

As Nebuchadnezzar's successor, Belshazzar would have known the previous king's testimony (Daniel 4). Whether 'son' means direct descendant or successor, the relationship meant Belshazzar understood what happened to prideful rulers. Ancient Near Eastern courts preserved royal records and stories. Belshazzar's sacrilegious use of temple vessels (v. 2-4) while knowing God's power over Nebuchadnezzar demonstrates contemptuous defiance. His feast during siege shows either ignorance of danger or reckless fatalism—both stemming from failure to humble himself before God.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

---

1. How does Belshazzar's example warn that knowing truth about God's judgment without responding in humility brings greater condemnation?
2. What does the accusation 'though thou knewest' teach about the danger of familiarity with spiritual truth producing presumption rather than repentance?

## Interlinear Text

---

כָּל	לְבָב	נִ	פָּשָׁפֶךְ	לֹא	לֹ	אַ	בְּלִשְׁאָצָר	רַ	בְּרָה	וְאַ	נָתָה
<b>And thou</b>	<b>his son</b>	<b>O Belshazzar</b>	<b>hast not</b>	<b>humbled</b>	<b>thine heart</b>	<b>all</b>					
H607	H1247	H1113	H3809	H8214	H3825	H3606					
לְ	כָּל	הַ	לְבָב	לְ	לְ	כָּל	לְ	לְ	לְ	לְ	לְ
<b>though</b>	<b>all</b>	<b>this</b>	<b>thou knewest</b>								
H6903	H3606	H1836	H3046								

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Exodus 10:3** (Parallel theme): And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.

**2 Chronicles 33:23** (Parallel theme): And humbled not himself before the LORD, as Manasseh his father had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more.

**2 Chronicles 36:12** (Parallel theme): And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD.

**James 4:17** (Parallel theme): Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

**James 4:6** (Parallel theme): But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)