

Living in Babylon

LESSONS FROM DANIEL

Sunday, November 5 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

Message Title: Godward Integrity

Message Text: Daniel 5

Living in Babylon as a follower of God was more than challenging and sometimes life-threatening. Daniel and his three friends had purposed to honor God and His Word. They had been unmovable in their convictions, committed to God though ostracized, steadfast in their worship of God alone and thriving as followers of God. Because of their faithfulness, God gave them incredible moments of influence and even key positions of leadership within the government of Babylon under king Nebuchadnezzar. However, after Nebuchadnezzar died in 562BC, it seemed that Daniel was all but forgotten and his public influence faded. For decades the kings and kingdom of Babylon carried on without Him. Yet, Daniel continued to live a life of Godward integrity.

1. A _____ Party (1-4)

***Daniel 5:1-4** Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine **before** the thousand. 2 Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein. 3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them. 4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.*

BELSHAZZAR was the a grandson of Nebuchadnezzar and co-reigning with his father, Nabonidus.

BELSHAZZAR PARTIED THOUGH UNDER SIEGE with arrogance, sacrilege and idolatry.

NOTE— Archeologists have excavated a large hall in Babylon 55 feet wide and 165 feet long that had plastered walls. Such a room would have been sufficient to house a gathering of this size. —Pentecost

NOTE—Belshazzar considered his city secure from assault because of its massive walls. Within the city were supplies that would sustain it for 20 years.

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sermon notes



Psalm 101:5 Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: Him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

Proverbs 15:25 The Lord will destroy the house of the proud: But he will establish the border of the widow.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

2. A Divine _____ (5-9)

Daniel 5:5–7 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. 6 Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another. 7 The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

THE ACT OF GOD sobered the *partying* king.

THE WISE MEN WERE FOUND TO BE FOOLISH *before the hand of God*

Daniel 5:8–9 Then came in all the king's wise men: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof. 9 Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished.

Psalm 9:20 Put them in fear, O Lord: That the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah.

3. A _____ Man (10-16)

INTEGRITY — *honesty, moral uprightness*

Daniel 5:10–12 Now the queen, by reason of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed: 11 There IS a man in thy kingdom, in whom IS the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers; 12 Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, WERE found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he WILL shew the interpretation.

THE QUEEN was likely the queen mother, possibly a daughter of Nebuchadnezzar.

“THERE IS A MAN”

“I HAVE EVEN HEARD OF THEE”

Daniel 5:13-16a Then was Daniel brought in before the king. And the king spake and said unto Daniel, Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry? 14 I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee. 15 And now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but they could not shew the interpretation of the thing: 16 And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts...

QUOTE: When the heart is pure, the vision is clear.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

4. _____ Wrote These Words? (17-24)

Daniel 5:16b-17 ...now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom. Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

DANIEL WAS NOT DAZZLED WITH RICHES AND HONOR

DANIEL RECOUNTED HOW GOD HUMBLING NEBUCHADNEZZAR

Daniel 5:18-21 O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour: 19 And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down. 20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: 21 And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.

DANIEL EXPOSED BELSHAZZAR'S PRIDE AGAINST GOD

Daniel 5:22-23a And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this; 23 But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know:

DANIEL DECLARES THAT THE MESSAGE IS FROM GOD

Daniel 5:23b-24 ...and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified: 24 Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written.

NOTE — Daniel spoke truth to power.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Isaiah 58:1 Cry aloud, spare not, Lift up thy voice like a trumpet, And shew my people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins.

5. What do These Words _____? (25-31)

Daniel 5:25-31 And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

THE INTERPRETATION

MENE — God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

TEKEL — Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

PERES — Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

THE WORD OF GOD FULFILLED

Daniel 5:29-31 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. 30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. 31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: It shall not return unto me void, But it shall accomplish that which I please, And it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Proverbs 27:1 Boast not thyself of to morrow; For thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

Conclusion

Proverbs 11:3 The integrity of the upright shall guide them: But the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.



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