

"The Writing was on the Wall"

Daniel 5

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Main Point: "God will judge those who defy Him."

1. The Offense: Vs. 1-4

Vs. 3-4: Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Galatians 6:7: Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

2. The Message: Vs. 5-29

A. God Sends a Message: Vs. 5

Vs. 5: Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand...

B. The King Panics: Vs. 6-9

Vs. 6: Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together.

C. The Queen Remembers: Vs. 10-12

Vs. 11a: There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him...

D. Daniel Preaches: Vs. 13-23

Vs. 22-23: And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, but **you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven**. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you...have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, **but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.**"

Exodus 20:7: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."

E. Daniel's Interprets the Message: Vs. 24-28

Vs. 24-28: "...This is the interpretation of the matter: Mene, God has **numbered** the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; Tekel, you have been **weighed** in the balances and found wanting; Peres, your kingdom is **divided** and given to the Medes and Persians."

F. Daniel is Rewarded: Vs. 29

Vs. 29: Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

3. The Judgement: Vs. 30-31

Vs. 30-31: That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

Psalms 46:10: "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

Luke 4:18a: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor..."

Discussion Questions:

1. What are ways that we are tempted to take God's name in vain?
2. Has God ever sent you a "message" (interruption!) that got your attention?
3. Consider this thought: "God orders lesser afflictions that we may escape greater." Have these led you to repentance?
4. How does Daniel 5 point to Jesus?
5. How do you think God has used world history over the last century to further His kingdom? Discuss examples. How about in your lifetime?