

25 August

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Daniel – week 5

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member what the meaning of the handwriting on the wall was in Daniel chapter 5?
2. What does v.4 tell us about the king? (**They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.**)
3. What happened in v.5? (**Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace.**)
4. Who did the queen recommend to interpret the handwriting in v.12b? (**Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.**)

 Let's go deeper

5. What was the interpretation in v.26? (**Mene; God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end.**)
6. What was the interpretation in v.27 – 28? (**Tekel; you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting. Peres; your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.**)
7. What happened to the king in v.30? (**That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed.**)
8. What does v.31 tell us? (**And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.**)

 Let's apply this

9. **Daniel 5:30 – 31**; That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

God warned Babylon for many years, but they refused to obey or honour God's Word or messengers. We do not know how much time we have on earth.

- Do you believe that God's Word "Holy Bible" is truth?
- Have you surrendered your life to Jesus, and are you born-again?
- The Babylonians trusted their city walls to protect them, but the walls failed them, only Jesus Christ can rescue us and keep us safe forever – did you give yourself to Him?

SUMMARY:

Daniel: Week 5 – The handwriting on the wall

Read: Daniel 5:1 – 31

In Daniel 5, roughly 70 years have passed since the teenager Daniel was captured and enslaved in Daniel 1. King Nebuchadnezzar is gone, his son, Nabonidus was away and so his son Belshazzar (grandson of Nebuchadnezzar) was ruling as king. Commentators estimate that there were upwards of 15,000 people at this party.

vv.1 – 4; God will not be mocked. Two things are happening in this drinking party; drunkenness and dishonour. The king decides to take the golden cups that Nebuchadnezzar took as plunder from Israel's temple that belongs to God, and to drink wine from it. Ezra 1:11, tells us that there were 5400 different items largely of gold that were stolen from the temple. This was the Babylonians way of mocking and rebelling against God openly and publicly.

vv.5 – 12; God has a line that you do not want to cross. v.5; tells us that God had enough of the rebellion and draws the line. Since the revelation on the wall came from God, only someone with the Spirit of God could interpret it. Both king and queen declare that Daniel is Spirit-filled and has God given abilities. Daniel remained faithful to God in his identity and relationship to God all his years in Babylon. The hand and finger of God are human language and imagery to help us understand how powerful God is. It was impossible for any nation to conquer Babylon and God just "flicks His finger" and Babylon is defeated. It was not difficult for God to do.

vv.13 – 20; God is calling the king to repent of his sins and to receive forgiveness, and Daniel is the messenger.

vv.21 – 23; two good lessons from Daniel; do not get caught up in power, praise, possessions, or pleasure. And Daniel does not edit or write the mail, he just delivers it as a faithful mailman. **Two bad lessons from Belshazzar;** if you do not worship the Creator, you will worship the created. Do not misuse God's holy vessels.

vv.24 – 31; We never know how much time we have on earth. God warned Babylon for many years, but they refused to obey or honour God's Word or messengers. 150 years before Daniel, the prophet Isaiah warned Babylon in Isaiah 13:1, 17 – 19. 50 years before Daniel, the prophet Jeremiah warned Babylon in Jeremiah 27:4 – 7 and 51:63 – 64. Daniel being the chief Bible teacher in Babylon was aware of the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah, and would have taught them.

Herodotus, an ancient historian, reports how Babylon was conquered. The joint military forces of the Medo-Persian Empire decided to divert the Euphrates River. The riverbed dried up, and became a walkway underneath the walls, into the city. The military forces walked right in, and conquered Babylon during their party.