

The Writing On The Wall!

Daniel 5:1-31

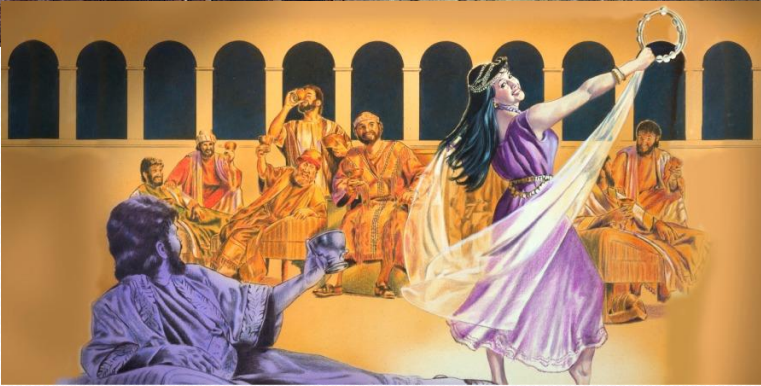
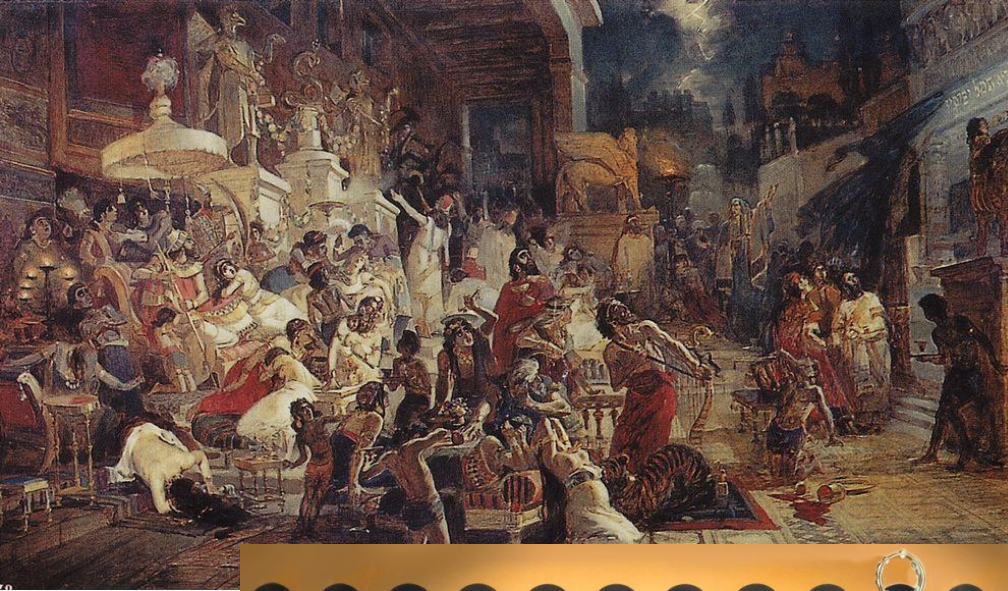




- Babylon was the Greatest City in the “Known World” at this time
- Herodotus, says the walls of the city were 56 miles long, 80 feet thick , and 320 feet high
- There were inner walls-not as thick but just as strong
- No foreign country was thought to be able to conquer or penetrate it. It lasted for over 100 years

Observations

- Babylon was ruled by King Belshazzar at the time. He was the son of King Nebuchadnezzar (the king who had thrown Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the fiery furnace to execute them)
- King Belshazzar (set up by his father), was proud and arrogant and thought he was unconquerable
- He threw a feast one day for over 1,000 of his ranked officials and other attendants, complete with wine, women and mistresses (their feast might last for weeks)



- Historians tell us that these feasts were wild and unrestrained
- Serious decisions and matters of the kingdom were put aside when they partied (remember, they were the greatest city of all time)

- As if the sin at the feast wasn't bad enough, the King asked that the gold and silver cups, taken from the temple in Jerusalem, his predecessor had captured, be brought in so that they could drink out of them while socializing and partying with each other (Mocking God by taking things reserved for him—like we do His time for our worship)
- The Bible says that while they drank beverages from the sacred cups, they complimented their own gods for their status (the god of self)
- They did not know or care that God was observing them
- They didn't live life with some preparation for the unexpected (The Medo-Persian army was just outside their walls)

Why Did King Belshazzar Do This?

- Maybe his friends were in his thoughts: “Let me show them how disrespectful I can be”
- Maybe he thought he was powerful enough or young enough to insult God and get away with it,
- Maybe he thought his situation in life was an exception to the rule (a special case, “God knows my heart”)

Daniel 5:5-6

“In the same hour the fingers of a man’s hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king’s countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other.”

***#1 WHEN GOD WRITES
ANYTHING ON THE WALLS OF
YOUR LIFE, YOU BETTER READ
IT AS IT IS!***

- 1. Get fired for your own wrongdoing (drugs, cheating, laziness, etc.) Galatians 6:7,8**
- 2. Can't visit your kids due to your own infidelity, Romans 13:1,2**
- 3. Miss out own good relationships by being selfish**
- 4. Lose our favor with God because of our own iniquities (Isaiah 59:1-2)**

#2 Learn From the Mistakes of Others

- All of the king's wise men were asked to interpret the meaning of the words written on the wall
- The Queen mother suggested that the king bring in Daniel to interpret the handwriting
- Daniel was brought in to explain the writings for King Belshazzar as he did for his predecessor King Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel Tells Belshazzar His History! (God Knows Our History)

Verse 18... “God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom and majesty, glory and honor.

And because of the majesty He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him.....”

Verse 20..... “But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him.....”

Verse 21... “Then he was driven from the sons of men, his heart was made like beasts, and his dwelling was with wild donkeys. 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 rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses.”

Verse 22... “But you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, ALTHOUGH YOU KNEW THIS.

- **You knew the sins of your father, and that knowledge should have helped you obey God**
- **The Law of Exposure And Accountability:
*If You Are Exposed To More, You Are Accountable For More!***

Matthew 11:20-24 (Christ rebuked cities where He taught that wouldn't repent; Sodom He says would still be standing)

What Does Belshazzar Do About Daniel's Explanation?

- Nothing, he goes back to his party mode
- He dresses Daniel up with some nice clothes, puts a gold chain around his neck and gives him a promotion
- *His thinking is "If I show His God I'm a nice guy, I don't have to change, just pay the bill, leave the tip and move on with my life!"*
- Why do many reject God?

Answer: Because they don't want God to be in charge of their lives, they don't want to change their lives that much. Matthew 12:30, *"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."*

The Results

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN

MENE- God has numbered your kingdom

TEKEL- You have been weighed in the balance and
found wanting

PERES-Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the
Medes and Persians

Verses 30,31

*“That night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was
slain. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom,
being about sixty-two years old.”*



WHAT IS GOD'S
WRITING ON YOUR
WALL SAYING TO
YOU?

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38