

The Writing on the Wall

Daniel 5:1–31

I. The Frailty of the Throne—Introduction

A. The Kings

1. Nebuchadnezzar died in 561 B.C. after _____ years of reigning as king of Babylon.
2. Nebuchadnezzar's son Evil Merodach reigned for two years until he was assassinated in a revolt led by his brother-in-law in 559 B.C. He treated the Jews with _____ (2 Ki. 25:27–30)
3. Nabonidus, a son-in-law to Nebuchadnezzar, the father of Belshazzar usurped the throne in 555 B.C. (Da. 5:18)
4. Nabonidus was in Temus, Arabia to build a commercial empire while leaving his son Belshazzar as vice-regent over Babylon.

B. The Siege

1. Jeremiah prophesied of the Medes and Persians besieging to Babylon (Jer. 25:8–13).
 - a. Babylon would be attacked (Jer. 1:3, 9; 51:11, 28).
 - b. The city would be well provisioned (Jer. 51:26).
 - c. The city would trust in its enormous walls and towers and high gates for protection (Jer. 51:53, 58).
 - d. The city would be taken by a clever strategy (Jer. 50:24).
 - e. The successful strategy would be linked to the water supply (Jer. 51:36).
 - f. The scheme would be connected to the Euphrates River (Jer. 51:32).
 - g. The drunkenness of the people would lead to their slaughter (Jer. 51:57).

2. In October of 539 BC, the Mede/Persian army peacefully took Babylon while Belshazzar and his lords were drunk (Da. 5:30–31).

II. The Feast and the Vessels (Daniel 5:1-4)

- A. Belshazzar in his overconfidence invited _____ of his lords to a feast while Babylon was under siege (Da. 5:1).
- B. Belshazzar drank _____ with his lords (Prov. 31:4–5)
- C. Belshazzar commanded that the vessels of the _____ be brought to the feast to be used to drink wine (Da. 5:2).
 1. _____ prophesied the vessels of the temple would be taken to Babylon and returned to Israel (Jer. 27:21–22).
 2. Cyrus the king of Persia sent the vessels back to Israel with _____ (Ezra 1:7–9).
 3. The vessels were made according to God's design with _____ (Ex. 25:39–40; 27:3; 1 Ki. 7:45).
- D. Belshazzar _____ the vessels (Daniel 5:4).
 1. The vessels were _____ for the Lord's service (Lev. 8:10–11; 1 Sam. 21:5; 1 Ki. 8:4).
 2. _____ are God's vessels sanctified for the Lord's use (2 Tim. 2:20–21; 1 Cor. 3:16–17; 6:19–20; 2 Cor. 4:7).

III. The Fingers of God (Da. 5:5)

- A. God wrote the message on the wall _____ after the vessels of God were defiled.
- B. God made sure the king could _____ it.
- C. God made sure the king saw the _____ that wrote it (Josh. 4:24).

III. The Fear of the King (Da. 5:6-7)

- A. He changed _____ "...countenance was changed..." (c.f. Psa. 10:4)

Daniel's Window to The Future

- B. He was _____ “...his thoughts troubled him...”(“c.f. Ge. 41:8)
- C. He was _____.
1. “...the joints of his loins were loosed.”
 2. “...his knees to smote one against another”
- D. He acted _____ (Da. 5:7)
1. He cried _____.
 2. He _____ a lot.

IV. The Forsaken Testimony (Da. 5:8–23)

- A. Daniel was reintroduced to the king by the _____ Mother (Da. 5:10–15).
- B. Daniel refused the king's _____ because of past prophecy (Da. 5:16–17).
- C. Daniel _____ the king of past pride (Da. 5:18–23).

V. The Foreboding Conclusion (Da. 5:24–31)

- Daniel reveals the meaning of the writing.
- A. Babylon's _____ is concluded (Da. 5:26; Jer. 25:11–12).
- Mene—God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it.*
- B. Belshazzar's Poor _____ exposed (Da. 5:27; Lev. 19:36; Prov. 11:1).
- Tekel—Thou are weighed in the balances and art found wanting*
- C. The Medes and Persians _____ the kingdom (Da. 5:28, 30–31).
- Peres—Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians*
- D. Belshazzar's punishment is _____ (Da. 5:30,31).

