

## The Book of Daniel

### Numbered, Numbered, Weighed and Divided

#### Daniel 5

1. **Belshazzar's Foolish Feast** (Dan. 5:1-4)

Within about 30 years of Nebuchadnezzar's death, the Babylonian empire was in a desperate situation. At the time of this feast, Cyrus the great has already conquered all of the Babylonian empire except for Babylon itself and has recently destroyed the Babylonian army outside of the city.

2. **The Lord's Alarming Message** (Dan. 5:5-9)

The revelry of the feast was suddenly interrupted by the appearance of a disembodied hand writing on the wall where the king would see it. The king responded to this experience with great fear (cf. Ex 20:18-19; Luke 2:9-10), and promised a significant reward to anyone who could provide the understanding of this message. None of the king's advisors are able to provide the interpretation (cf. Dan. 2:4ff).

3. **Daniel's Desperate Summons** (Dan. 5:10-16)

It takes a specific plea from the queen in order for the king to summon Daniel to attempt to interpret the writing on the wall. While he does not seem to be a regular counselor to the king, Belshazzar is familiar with Daniel and his history (Dan 4:9ff).

4. **Daniel's Fearless Sermon** (Dan. 5:17-24)

A. **A Reward Refused** (v.17)

Though Daniel was rewarded for his service to the king, his initial refusal made it plain that his message was not going to be effected by these gifts.

B. **A Reprimand Restated** (vs.18-21)

Belshazzar knew well the humiliation and restoration of Nebuchadnezzar and would have known his own testimony about it (cf. Dan. 4:1ff).

C. **A Response Rejected** (vs.22-24)

As evidenced by his revelry and unique blasphemy, it is very clear that Belshazzar knowingly responded to these lessons with rebellion and wickedness.

5. **God's Message of Judgment** (Dan.5:25-28)

The message from the Lord was simple and straight forward. Daniel did not plead with Belshazzar to repent in order to forestall judgment (cf. Dan. 4:19, 27), but instead simply declared what God was doing (cf. Isa. 13:17ff; 45:1ff; Dan. 2:39; 8:20).

6. **God's Prophetic Faithfulness** (Dan. 5:29-31)

Whether the fulfillment of God's plan is a long time coming (cf. Dan. 2:39ff; 4:22-25, 28-29) or is immediately at hand, we must always remember that God is sovereign and what He has declared will come to pass (cf. Dan. 2:21-22).