

## "THE BOOK OF DANIEL" Lesson 9 ho - The Hand Writing on the Wall (5:1-31)

### INTRODUCTION - REVIEW

1. So far in our study of the book of Daniel, we have seen...
  - a. The faith of young Daniel, who made the commitment not to defile himself - **Daniel 1**
  - b. The first dream of Nebuchadnezzar, interpreted by Daniel – **Daniel 2**
    - 1) Prophesying the rise and fall of four world empires
    - 2) Foretelling the establishment of the kingdom of Christ
  - c. The faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the face of fire - **Daniel 3**
  - d. The second dream of Nebuchadnezzar and its fulfillment, confirming that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men - **Daniel 4**
2. We now come to the **Daniel 5**, where we find an incident familiar to many...
  - a. The event is often called: "**The Hand Writing On The Wall**"
  - b. As with any Old Testament account, it was written for our admonition - cf. **1Corinthians 10:11**;

### I. BOOZE AND IDOLATRY IN A KING'S COURT (1-4)

#### **A. BELSHAZZAR, THE KING...**

1. The time is now about 539 B.C.
2. Belshazzar throws a big feast – **Daniel 5:1-3**;
  - a. Nebuchadnezzar had taken gold and silver vessels from the temple in Jerusalem - cf. **2Ch 36:10**
  - b. Belshazzar adds insult to injury by using them in the feast

#### **B. THEY PRAISED THE GODS OF GOLD AND SILVER...**

1. The king and guests foolishly praised the creation rather than the Creator
2. Would we ever stoop so low? We do if we succumb to the sin of covetousness! - **Ephesians 5:5**;  
**Colossians 3:5**; **Matthew 6:24**;

### II. PANIC AND HUMILIATION IN A KING'S COURT (5-9)

#### **A. THE HAND WRITING ON THE WALL...**

1. The fingers of a man's hands appear - 2. They write on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace 3. Belshazzar sees the part of the hand that wrote -

#### **B. THE QUAKING KING...**

1. In the case of King Belshazzar...
  - a. One moment his heart is puffed up with pride b. The next moment, his knees are knocking together -  
-- A vivid illustration of: "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall." - **Proverbs 16:18**
2. All he saw was a man's hand...

#### **C. THE HELPLESS ADVISORS...**

1. Once again, a king appeals first to those unable to help - **Daniel 5:7-9**;
2. People often do the same thing today in times of crisis when they need to trust in God first - cf. **Proverbs 3:5-10**; **Matthew 6:33**