

Review - Lesson Nine Daniel Chapter 5

I. BOOZE AND IDOLATRY IN A KING'S COURT (1-4) (539 B.C)

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

A. THE HAND WRITING ON THE WALL...

B. THE QUAKING KING...

C. THE HELPLESS ADVISORS...

LESSON TEN

III. THE ARRIVAL OF GOD'S MAN (10-16)

Daniel 5:10-16 “The queen, because of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting hall, and the queen declared, “O king, live forever! Let not your thoughts alarm you or your color change. There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In

the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers, because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king

named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.” Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king answered and said to Daniel, “You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah. I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. Now the wise men, the

enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, but they could not show the interpretation of the matter. But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.” (ESV)

A. THE ADVICE OF THE QUEEN...

1. The queen was likely the "queen mother", for the wives were already present - Daniel 5:10-12;

2. Note that the queen was not present at the banquet...

a. Could the one who knew where to turn in time of trouble, have also known the banquet was no place for her to be?

b. Those who like to party and "live it up" are usually those who are lost in despair when trouble strikes!

B. DANIEL BEFORE THE OFFENDER...

1. Twice the king says "I have heard of you" – Daniel 5:13-16;

2. People in the world are not much different...

a. They make very little effort to get to know God or His people.

b. But in times of sickness, trials, and death, where do they turn? To the church, of course - The time to get to know God and His people is before, not after tragedy strikes!

IV. THE INDICTMENT (17-24)

A. DANIEL REJECTS THE KING'S REWARD...

1. At this point the character of Daniel really shines - Daniel 5:17;

Daniel 5:17 “Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation.” (ESV)

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Philippians 2:15 “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;”

2. Unlike many, who teach only if given gifts (or "love offerings")

1 Corinthians 9:16 "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

3. Daniel willingly tells the truth for free.

B. DANIEL RECOUNTS A LESSON FROM HISTORY...

1. The lesson from Nebuchadnezzar's second dream is recounted -

Daniel 5:18-21 “O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty. And because of the greatness that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whom he would, he killed, and whom he would, he kept alive; whom he

would, he raised up, and whom he would, he humbled. But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken from him. He was driven from among the children of mankind, and his mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. He was fed grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will.” (ESV)

2. We would do well to learn from history...

a. Those who ignore history, are doomed to repeat it!!!

b. This is especially true with inspired history!

C. DANIEL REBUKES THE KING...

1. Belshazzar did not learn from his father's experience...

Daniel 5:22-24 “And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do

not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored. “Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed.” (ESV)

a. He exalted himself, when he should have glorified God.

b. This handwriting was sent to pronounce judgment on the Babylonians.

2. When will people learn from history?

a. Should we not learn from the pride of Pharaoh in the book of Exodus?

b. Should we not learn from the murmuring of the Israelites in the wilderness?

-- Indeed, inspired history was written for our learning! - Romans 15:4; 1Corinthians 10:11;

Romans 15:4; “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

1 Corinthians 10:11 “Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.” (ESV)

V. THE SENTENCE AND EXECUTION

A. THE HAND WRITING ON THE WALL EXPLAINED...

1. The meaning of: "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin" -

Daniel 5:25-28 “And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN. This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end;

TEKEL, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; PERES, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.” (ESV)

a. Mene - God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it.

b. Tekel - You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting

c. Peres (Upharsin) - Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

B. A THIRD OF NOTHING...

1. Belshazzar is true to his promise -

Daniel 5:29 “Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.” (**ESV**)

2. But as we will soon see, what he gave Daniel was a "third of nothing"

C. "THIS NIGHT YOUR SOUL WILL BE REQUIRED OF YOU..."

1. How quickly the proud and boastful can fall, despite power and wealth -

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. (ESV)

a. Herodotus indicates that Babylon fell as a consequence of the diverting of the waters of the Euphrates, allowing the enemy to enter under the city walls.

b. Other sources explain it as the result of treason and subterfuge from within, resulting in the opening of the gates to the conquering armies.

CONCLUSION:

1. The announcement of doom in this story was provoked in part because...

a. The king misused and abused some pieces of metal, those pieces of metal were God's pieces of metal - For such disregard of what belonged to God, a kingdom would be buried!

2. Remember that we are the temple of God today -

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 “Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.” **ESV**

Let's not wait for "The Hand Writing On The Wall" to tell us it is too late, that judgment has been passed and the sentence is final.

**Let's instead heed "The
Hand That Wrote On
The Ground" (Jesus),
(John 8:6,8), while there
is still time for mercy
and forgiveness...**

QUESTIONS And/Or OBSERVATIONS

Prayer Time