

The Writing on the Wall – 10-30-2024

Ever heard the expression the writing is on the wall? Comes from **Daniel, ch. 5**.

Meaning: clear sign that something unpleasant/unwelcome is going to happen.

Read verses 1-4.

Display of garish wealth. Gone from festive to feasting. Super – Showing off.

His needs already met, but takes goblets from Temple. Blasphemous banquet.

- Praise everything but God. Idols are what they made, not God.

Read verses 5-9

1000 people see hand illuminated by a lamp writing on the wall. No doubt!

But earthly wisdom – “wise men” – miss spiritual truth. **Book smart, God stupid.**

Never forget, God can make **something out of nothing**. **1**

- And God **gets our attention** one way or another. . . natural or supernatural.
 - o He can make things **appear – or disappear**.
- And do it **Suddenly** – many things will happen sudden. Unexpected.
 - o Suddenly, a multitude of **angels** appeared to the Shepherds...
 - o Suddenly, a **light** from heaven shone down on Paul...
 - o Suddenly, a mighty rushing **wind** came & filled the whole house
 - o Suddenly, Jesus **appeared** to the women at tomb... to the disciples
 - ▶ Suddenly, your **life changes**. Truly know Jesus. Know love, favor.

Read verses 10-12

Daniel had been appointed Chief, not present. But still known. Reputation lasts.

- Maybe new king replaced him . . . or maybe, he just didn't go.
- In **times of trouble, people seek out Christians**. Prayer. Guidance. Be a source of calm, strength, righteousness, love. **2**

Why was Daniel known? He had interpreted 2 prior dreams for Nebuchadnezzar

- 1st – King wouldn't tell the dream, kill wise men.
 - o **Dan. 2:21-23** “He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things . . . I thank & praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom & power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king.”
- 2nd dream – future, end of Nebuchadnezzar.
 - o We forget dreams, ignore 'em. Don't ignore this: God speaks/ dreams
 - Remember **Joseph**. He had a gift for interpreting dreams.
 - **Pilate's wife** had dream about Jesus. Mary/**Joseph's** dreams.

- Pay attention . . . God may be trying to tell you something. ③

Read verses 13-17

- Reminiscent of Joseph; ruler in Egypt, gold chains, ring, royal garments.
- Daniel declines the gifts. Lesson for us: learn to say No. Not led by greed.
 - God gifts us in the first place, then rewards & blesses us. ④
 - **Heb. 11:6** – “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists **and that he rewards those** who earnestly seek him.”

Read verses 18-24

- What we know matters. We’re supposed to learn from watching/observing.
 - We shouldn’t have to make same mistakes... same choices.
 - Belshazzar saw arrogance on display, repeated it.

Be circumspect. Weigh what happens around us, learn from others mistakes. ⑤

- Proves true **Galatians 6:7** – “Do not be deceived: God is not to be mocked”
 - We reap what we sow. Live for self, satisfy self, die to self. . . Live for God, to please Him, harvest everlasting life. ⑥

- 3 charges: 1) did not humble himself; arrogance & pride
- 2) defied God by taking things from the Temple for his use
- 3) praised idols instead of honoring God.

Read verses 25-31

MENE, MENE – God **has numbered** the days of your reign, brought it to an end.

TEKEL – You **have been weighed** on the scales, found deficient... don’t measure up

PARSIN – Your kingdom **has been divided**, given to others.

- 3 part message in response to the 3 charges.

Truth: God numbers all our days... He will weigh us on His scale. ⑦

Seen some writing on the wall in our lives? What needs to change?

Are we arrogant, built ourselves? Living for pleasure, not purpose?

Living with pride, or acknowledging every good thing . . . ? God bless/love us.

- It was a scary story in Bible. . . **doesn’t have to be scary for us.**
- Was too late for Belshazzar to change course, it’s not too late for us.
- If you have a heart filled with pride, turn to the Lord in repentance, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble ([James 4:6](#)).

Announcements: Time change Sun, Nov. 3. Vote Tues, Nov. 5

Daniel 5 - New Living Translation - The Writing on the Wall

5 - Many years later King Belshazzar gave a great feast for 1,000 of his nobles, and he drank wine with them. ² While Belshazzar was drinking the wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver cups that his predecessor,^[a] Nebuchadnezzar, had taken from the Temple in Jerusalem. He wanted to drink from them with his nobles, his wives, and his concubines. ³ So they brought these gold cups taken from the Temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. ⁴ While they drank from them they praised their idols made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

⁵ Suddenly, they saw the fingers of a human hand writing on the plaster wall of the king's palace, near the lampstand. The king himself saw the hand as it wrote, ⁶ and his face turned pale with fright. His knees knocked together in fear and his legs gave way beneath him.

⁷ The king shouted for the enchanters, astrologers, and fortune-tellers to be brought before him. He said to these wise men of Babylon, "Whoever can read this writing and tell me what it means will be dressed in purple robes of royal honor and will have a gold chain placed around his neck. He will become the third highest ruler in the kingdom!"

⁸ But when all the king's wise men had come in, none of them could read the writing or tell him what it meant. ⁹ So the king grew even more alarmed, and his face turned pale. His nobles, too, were shaken.

¹⁰ But when the queen mother heard what was happening, she hurried to the banquet hall. She said to Belshazzar, "Long live the king! Don't be so pale and frightened. ¹¹ There is a man in your kingdom who has within him the spirit of the holy gods. During Nebuchadnezzar's reign, this man was found to have insight, understanding, and wisdom like that of the gods. Your predecessor, the king—your predecessor King Nebuchadnezzar—made him chief over all the magicians, enchanters, astrologers, and fortune-tellers of Babylon. ¹² This man Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar, has exceptional ability and is filled with divine knowledge and understanding. He can interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means."

Daniel Explains the Writing

¹³ So Daniel was brought in before the king. The king asked him, “Are you Daniel, one of the exiles brought from Judah by my predecessor, King Nebuchadnezzar?” ¹⁴ I have heard that you have the spirit of the gods within you and that you are filled with insight, understanding, and wisdom. ¹⁵ My wise men and enchanters have tried to read the words on the wall and tell me their meaning, but they cannot do it. ¹⁶ I am told that you can give interpretations and solve difficult problems. If you can read these words and tell me their meaning, you will be clothed in purple robes of royal honor, and you will have a gold chain placed around your neck. You will become the third highest ruler in the kingdom.” ¹⁷ Daniel answered the king, “Keep your gifts or give them to someone else, but I will tell you what the writing means.

¹⁸ Your Majesty, the Most High God gave sovereignty, majesty, glory, and honor to your predecessor, Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ He made him so great that people of all races and nations and languages trembled before him in fear. He killed those he wanted to kill and spared those he wanted to spare. He honored those he wanted to honor and disgraced those he wanted to disgrace. ²⁰ But when his heart and mind were puffed up with arrogance, he was brought down from his royal throne and stripped of his glory. ²¹ He was driven from human society. He was given the mind of a wild animal, and he lived among the wild donkeys. He ate grass like a cow, and he was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he learned that the Most High God rules over the kingdoms of the world and appoints anyone he desires to rule over them.

²² “You are his successor, O Belshazzar, and you knew all this, yet you have not humbled yourself. ²³ For you have proudly defied the Lord of heaven and have had these cups from his Temple brought before you. You and your nobles and your wives and concubines have been drinking wine from them while praising gods of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone—gods that neither see nor hear nor know anything at all. But you have not honored the God who gives you the breath of life and controls your destiny! ²⁴ So God has sent this hand to write this message.

²⁵ “This is the message that was written: Mene, mene, tekel, and Parsin.

²⁶ This is what these words mean:

Mene means ‘numbered’—God has numbered the days of your reign and has brought it to an end.

²⁷ *Tekel* means ‘weighed’—you have been weighed on the balances and have not measured up.

²⁸ *Parsin* means ‘divided’—your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

²⁹ Then at Belshazzar’s command, Daniel was dressed in purple robes, a gold chain was hung around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

³⁰ That very night Belshazzar, the Babylonian king, was killed.

³¹ And Darius the Mede took over the kingdom at the age of sixty-two.