



DANIEL

**HOW TO THRIVE
IN BABYLON**

I. THE PARTY

King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. ² While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. ⁴ As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone. ⁵ Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. ⁶ His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way.

Daniel 5:1-6

1. THIS IS A WILD PARTY

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Just bringing his wives, would've been one thing. To bring in your concubines too with your nobles was not protocol.

**2. BELSHAZZAR CALLS FOR THE GOLD AND SILVER GOBLETS
THAT WERE THE PLUNDER FROM THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM.**

2. BELSHAZZAR CALLS FOR THE GOLD AND SILVER GOBLETS THAT WERE THE PLUNDER FROM THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM.

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? Daniel 5:13

**3. THEY DRINK FROM THE SACRED GOBLETS
AND TOAST THEIR GODS.**

II. THE GREAT PARTY CRASHER

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"I will clothe you in purple, I will put a gold chain on your neck, and I will make you the third highest ruler in the kingdom if you can interpret the words." Daniel 5:7

II. THE GREAT PARTY CRASHER

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. 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?"

Daniel 5:11-13

DANIEL CONTRASTS BELSHAZZAR WITH A REPENTANT NEBUCHADNEZZAR

I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means.

¹⁸ O king, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor.¹⁹ Because of the high position he gave him, all the peoples and nations and men of every language dreaded and feared him. Those the king wanted to put to death, he put to death; those he wanted to spare, he spared; those he wanted to promote, he promoted; and those he wanted to humble, he humbled. Daniel 5:17-19

DANIEL CONTRASTS BELSHAZZAR WITH A REPENTANT NEBUCHADNEZZAR

²⁰But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory.²¹ He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal; he lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like cattle; and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and sets over them anyone he wishes. Daniel 5:20,21

DANIEL INDICTS BELSHAZZAR

But you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this.²³ Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways.

Daniel 5:22,23

1. TRUST IN GOD NOT PEOPLE

“Then Daniel answered the king, ‘You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else.

Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king ...’ ” vs.17

1. TRUST IN GOD NOT PEOPLE

Historians for centuries only recognized three kings that succeeded Nebuchadnezzar's reign.

The last one, Nabonidus is recorded as the last king of Babylon, not Belshazzar.

1. TRUST IN GOD NOT PEOPLE



In the late 19th century the "*Nabonidus Chronicle*" was discovered. An ancient Babylonian clay text which chronicled the reign of Belshazzar's father, Nabonidus, who lived in a self-imposed exile for ten years and let his son rule Babylon as its regent king.

1. TRUST IN GOD NOT PEOPLE



That's the reason when Belshazzar says to Daniel, "I'll make you third highest ruler in the country," That's all the higher he could make somebody.

2. YOU HAVE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH PRIDE

“Nebuchadnezzar was driven away ... until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and sets over them anyone he wishes. ²² But you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this.”

Daniel 5:21,22

2. YOU HAVE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH PRIDE

Pride is missing the reality that absolutely everything you have and everything you are is a gift from God to you.

III. THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

Therefore (God) sent the hand that wrote the inscription. This is the inscription that was written: mene, mene, tekel, parsin. This is what these words mean: *Mene*: 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.' *Tekel*: 'You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.' *Peres*: 'Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.'

Daniel 5:24-28

III. THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom. That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain, and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two.

Daniel 5:29-31

How are Christians to speak to the world?

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But you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this.

Daniel 5:22

How are Christians to speak to the world?

But God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.' ... 'You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.' ... 'Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.' "

How are Christians to speak to the world?

But the people of the village did not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, *"Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?"*

Luke 9:53,54

JESUS REINTERPRETS DANIEL 5

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Jesus called together his twelve disciples and gave them power and authority to cast out all demons and to heal all diseases.² Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Luke 9:1,2

JESUS REINTERPRETS DANIEL 5

Jesus had just cast out a demon,
yet his critics laid this charge against Him:

*"No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power
from Satan, the prince of demons." Luke 11:15*

JESUS REINTERPRETS DANIEL 5

If I use his power to force out demons, whose power do your own followers use to force them out? They are the ones who will judge you. "But if I drive out demons **by the finger of God**, *then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*" Luke 11:19, 20



Earle Ellis

“The lordship of Satan and of death yields to the inbreaking powers of the new age, yet just as King Belshazzar’s guests continued to feast unaware that his kingdom had fallen and his doom had been sealed, so the present age is unaware that Satan’s reign is broken. It cannot read what has been written.”



Earle Ellis

“Luke tells us the mission of the church, to make the kingdom visible through feeding the hungry, through changed lives, through the preaching of grace, is the new writing on the wall. It’s only a minute foretaste of the universal revelation of the kingdom at the glorious coming of Jesus, but we Christians must explain that writing on the wall, that the kingdom of God is impending.



'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' ³⁷ "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you (like this)? ...'"⁴⁰ And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' Matthew 25:34-36;37,40





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