

Handwriting on the Wall

Daniel 5:1 – 31

The Laurel Center

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**Main Idea:** God will judge those who profane his name and his holy things.

Introduction

As I continue to tell you about my time in the land of Babylon, it seems that pride and arrogance are taught from generation to generation. After the time of King Nebuchadnezzar's reign his son, Belshazzar, took over the throne. In the night of drunken partying this King took the holy vessels from the Lord's Temple that his father had taken and used them. The Lord showed his judgment by writing on the wall. He left the interpretation to the wise men of Babylon who could not interpret it. Once again they turned to me and the Lord gave me the interpretation. As it seems to always be with the kings of Babylon the Lord was going to judge Belshazzar for his arrogance.

**Text – Daniel 5:23**

**23** 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.

- I.** God judges the profane for their wickedness (vv. 1 – 12).
  - A** They stand against him in defiance.
  - B** They abuse of the name and things of a holy God.
- II.** God interprets his judgment through his servant (vv. 13 – 23).
  - A** God makes their profanity known.
    - 1** Taking the golden vessels from the house of the Lord and using them in a party to drink commonly from was an act of profanity. These things maintained a special place in God's house in Jerusalem.
    - 2** Any time that we use the things of God in a profane way we are asking for God's judgment. God ordains things for certain uses and to be a the health care bill is a government job at the at the prison Well is that it is an estate is going to quit next year to equip every 2066 and is anything to do is 67 said that extra year they really pile on the must not be violated. Not everything has a holy use but those that God specifically ordains must not be violated.
  - B** God uses his servants in key positions and times.

- 1 Language most likely used in these verbs and nouns is Aramaic. This would mean that Daniel might've been the only one familiar with the text on the wall. It was a dialect of his own Hebrew tongue.
- 2 These verbs and nouns were all used for weights and weighing. God's judgment came in the form of an evaluation. God weighed the actions and heart of the king and found him wanting in all areas.
- 3 God's judgment would fall upon the man and his kingdom. Because he had violated God's holiness and ignored the goodness of God toward him and his kingdom he would face the ultimate judgment of death and destruction. His glorious kingdom would be split in two.

**III.** God brings his judgment swiftly (vv. 24 – 31).

- A God proclaims the punishment for profanity
- B God carries out his judgment.

**Conclusion**

As we have seen from this event we must learn to listen to the Lord and not use his holy things in a profane way. It is most important that we honor and respect the Lord and things that the Lord has. As his followers, we must never use our temples of the Holy Spirit in a profane way. We must not speak of the Lord and profane ways or use his name in vain. The Lord takes very seriously the things that belong to him. This also includes other human beings that are made in his image. We must learn to respect and honor the Lord and to properly use the things that he has given us.