

Daniel 5

"The Handwriting on the Wall"

Part 3

Introduction: Last week in our study of Daniel we looked at the feast that Belshazzar had arrange and how he took the vessels from the Temple in Jerusalem and he used them to drink wine and to praise the gods of Babylon. It was then that God stepped in and the hand appeared and wrote a message upon the wall by the candlestick. This terrified the king and so he called for the wise men to interpret the writing.

Notice Daniel 5:5-9

The wise men had nothing to offer. They could not understand the writing so just as in the days of Nebuchadnezzar the wise men proved to be bankrupt. This frightened the king even more and it was then that the queen entered the banquet hall with a suggestion.

Notice Daniel 5:10-12

Her suggestion was to call Daniel. She knew all about Daniel and she knew how he had interpreted dreams in the days of Nebuchadnezzar. But above all else she knew there was a different Spirit in Daniel.

Now when we stopped last week, we considered how Daniel was not in the banquet and it may very well have been that he was not wanted because of his stand for the Lord. In all of this there is a reminder to us that there will be times when we are not included in certain gatherings because of our faith in the Lord. People feel uncomfortable when they are around us because our lifestyle convicts them. But there may come a time when they will turn to you for answers because their friends and family are bankrupt spiritually.

➤ **The Influence of Godly Life**

Notice Daniel 5:13-16

The king knew ABOUT Daniel, but he did not know him personally. He should have known Daniel because Daniel served in the king's palace.

Daniel 8:1, 27

In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first.

²⁷ And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.

The king knew much about Daniel as we shall see but he was not interested in knowing Daniel because Daniel was different. Daniel had a different Spirit within him and the people around Daniel knew this. Daniel would not partake of the pleasures of Babylon but instead Daniel lived a life separated from the sins of the Babylonians.

Applications:

As we have considered several times before, this book is a book of Wisdom. It teaches us how to live a Godly life in the midst of a pagan society. There is also something else in this book that we must not miss. We see in the life of Daniel what God can do when His people are willing to walk by faith and trust Him with the difficult situations in life. God desires to work in and through us to have an impact upon the people around us. But in order for this to happen we must be a vessel that our Lord can use.

2 Timothy 2:19-21

¹⁹ Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

²⁰ But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

²¹ If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

Daniel was a vessel fit for the Master's use, and he was used to touch the lives of many people.

I want to also point out from Daniel that we can expect that people will look to us for answers when the storms of life begin to come upon them. Notice the words of an unnamed writer.

"We never know our influence until a crisis comes. What an encouragement this is. You may be stuck in an office or a classroom or a factory or a neighborhood or a club or a family gathering where you are the only Christian. And you may feel overlooked and taken for granted, or possibly ridiculed and misunderstood. Bide your time, my Christian friend, and do not despair. Soon enough life will come tumbling in and the people who have no time for

you will turn to you for answers. You may not be invited to every party, but you will get the call when trouble comes. When it happens, be bold to speak the truth in love. Never underestimate the power of a godly life."

I want to point out one more thought before we move on. Daniel was different because of the Holy Spirit who was with Him. It is the Spirit that sets us apart from the rest of the world as believers. We have the Holy Spirit living within us. The world does not know that it is the Spirit that sets us apart from all others. The Spirit of God is what allows us to be able to see the world from a different perspective. It is the Spirit of God that enlightens us to understand spiritual Truth.

1 Corinthians 2:12-16

¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

¹⁵ But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

¹⁶ For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.

Notice Daniel 5:16-17

Daniel was offered scarlet clothing, a gold chain, and to be made the third ruler in the kingdom. But Daniel turned the gifts down. He would interpret the writing, but he was not interested in the gifts. Why would Daniel reject the gifts? Because of the handwriting on the wall. Daniel knew what was coming. He knew that the gifts and the position would mean nothing because Babylon was about to be overthrown by the Medes and the Persians.

Application:

Now I know that we need finances to live in this world. But we must also understand that to live for the wealth of this world is a waste of a life.

2 Peter 3:10-13

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

¹¹ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

¹² Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

¹³ Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

We know this Truth, but it is good to be reminded that everything here will one day be burned up. So, to live for the stuff here is such a waste of life.

1 Timothy 6:5-11

⁵ Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain.

⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

¹¹ But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Notice Daniel 5:18-22

In these verses Daniel reminds the king of what had happened to his grandfather and the king knew all of this but had made the choice to ignore it.

Application:

When we read these verses, we can see what happens when history is ignored. History is there for us to learn from.

1 Corinthians 10:1-6

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

² And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

³ And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

⁴ And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

⁵ But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

When history is forgotten we can be sure there are going to be many problems that arise.

Exodus 16-8

⁶ And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.

⁷ And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.

⁸ Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

When the new Pharoah came to power, he chose to ignore history and therefore he did not know how God had used Joseph to bless Egypt. Therefore, he turned upon the people of Israel and allowed himself to be used by Satan in an attempt to stop the coming of the promised Redeemer.

Notice Daniel 5:22-23

The king knew what his grandfather had gone through and he knew that it was God who ruled in the Kingdom of Heaven. He knew that God placed people in positions of power. But the king did not humble himself. Instead, he lifted up himself in pride just as

Nebuchadnezzar had done. This man would be held accountable for what he knew, and his judgment would be severe because of what he knew.

Luke 12:43-48

⁴³ *Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.*

⁴⁴ *Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.*

⁴⁵ *But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;*

⁴⁶ *The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.*

⁴⁷ *And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.*

⁴⁸ *But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.*

Conclusion/application:

Notice the words of Campbell.

*"Belshazzar knew all about his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar's experience, but he did not learn from it. He did not profit in any way, did not heed the warning, did not learn from history and humble himself before God. As a sad result, judgment would fall very soon on this king and his kingdom. **God expects men to respond to the light He gives. When they do not, judgment is the only alternative... God holds men responsible for the truth He reveals to them.** To Belshazzar, only a comparatively small amount of truth was revealed, and he was held responsible. How much greater the responsibility and accountability of men today who are exposed to the Word of God by radio, television, the printed page, in churches, camps, conferences, and seminars—and yet do not believe!"*

Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.