

# LIVING for ANOTHER WORLD in THIS WORLD

SEPT 2007  
DANIEL

## Reading the Handwriting on the Wall?

DANIEL 5:1-6, 22-28, 30-31  
SEPT 30, 2007

If you have been a Christian for less than a year, let me ask you a question, have you ever heard of the phrase I can see the handwriting on the wall? Do you know where that comes from? It is in the chapter we are studying today.

Has society become more or less secularized during your lifetime? In what ways does our society make light of God and the things of God?

REVIEW:

Assyria had defeated the Northern Kingdom of Israel and threatened the Southern Kingdom. But in 605 BC the Babylonian army under King Nebuchadnezzar easily defeated Assyria, and then he took Judah when God gave King Jehoiakim into his hand Dan 1:2.

Prophecies see Jer. 36:23 King Jehoiakim cuts up the word of God and throws them into the fire.

Theme: Universal Sovereignty of God rules in the kingdoms of men.

Chap 1-6 history

Chap 7-12 prophecy

Daniel lived through 4 kingdoms until the 70 years of exile were accomplished

King Neb was prideful

King Belshazzar was presumptuous that he was god.

King Belshazzar was probably Neb's grandson, the son of Neb's daughter. He co-reigned with his father Nabonidus and was the last of four kings to reign after Neb's death in 539 BC. Neb's son Evil-Merodach assassinated King Neirglissar per David Jeremiah. Babylonian kingdom started in 605 BC and ended in 539; 66 years. The beast of Chap 2 was 60 cubits x 6 cubits x 6 cubits in size. Rev 13:18; 17:4-5. Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 B.C. after a reign of 43 years. His son, Evil-Merodach, ruled from 562-560 B.C.; his brother-in-law Neriglissar reigned four years from 560-556 B.C. After a two-month reign by Labashi-Marduk in 556 B.C., the Babylonian empire continued from 553-539 B.C. under the command of Nabonidus. Belshazzar was the son of Nabonidus. He co-reigned with his father. Nebuchadnezzar is called Belshazzar's "father." —Life Application Bible Notes See 2 Kings 25:27

See Jer. 50: 1-3,9, 24 Babylon taken by some type of trick or snare; 51:11,28,36-39, drying up of some water 53,58,62 prophecy written 100 years earlier. Not in the Bible but historian, Herodotus says that King Cyrus diverted the Euphrates and ½ army went

into the city under the walls at the inlet ½ at the discharge. We learn from the Greek historian Xenophon that they killed the Babylonian king.

Key question is **do we take the things of God to casually?**

## I. SECULARIZING THE SACRED

Dan. 5:1-4

What does sacred mean? Set apart The Greek word is *hagios*, Hebrew is *qadosh*.

### QUESTIONS:

1. **What role** did alcohol play? Does being under the influence of alcohol cause people to disregard the sacred?
2. **What was wrong** with drinking from the gold and silver vessels?
3. **What sacred things** have you seen treated with disrespect in the media, politics at work and in the community?

## II. READ GOD'S HANDWRITING

Dan. 5:5-6

At the moment they drank wine and praised the gods of gold, silver etc. God's hand appears. How many of us have said that we would do such and such if God would just write it on the walls.

Queen Mother was not his wife but probably his mother and daughter of King Neb.

**READ Vs. 11,13,17,20,21**

### QUESTIONS:

1. **Why doesn't God write it on the walls anymore?** If Belshazzar didn't repent why do you think we would? God's revelation is complete in His son with millions of witnesses with testimonies, what do you want?  
**2 Tim 3:16.**
2. To what extent have people lost a healthy respect or fear for God today?

### III. WEIGHED AND FOUND WANTING

Dan. 5:22–28, 30-31

Vs. 23 You have not glorified the God who holds your life-breath in His hands.

Vs 28 answers Tom Jenkins question from last week how do we know what kingdoms the vision of chapter 2 represented? Belshazzar failed to learn the lesson from his grandfather. He knew that pride was his grandfather's downfall.

The words written were understandable in their base meaning they just did not know how they applied and what significance they were until Daniel came on the scene. Literal meaning: numbered, numbered, weighed and divided.

See 2 Tim 3:1,2 Rev 17:5; Amos 7:10; Job 12:10, 34:14-15; 31:4

#### QUESTIONS:

1. **How** do you honor these Sacred Things?: The Bible, Lord's Day, God's Name, Lord's Supper?
2. What standard did God use to measure King Belshazzar? Job 31:6; Ps. 62:9; Prov 24:12. How was he found deficient? How does God judge people today? Rom 3:23 Heb 12:5-6
3. How did Belshazzar respond to Daniel after he interpreted the Handwriting on the Wall? Try to worship and reward with earthly rewards.