



Daniel 5 (NIV Abridged)

King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. While Belshazzar was drinking...he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets Nebuchadnezzar...had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles...might drink from them. So they brought in the gold goblets... As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver...

Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall... The king was so frightened his knees knocked and his legs gave way. The king called out for the...wise men of Babylon...but they could not read the writing...So Belshazzar became even more terrified...

The queen, hearing the voices...came into the banquet hall. "O king... Don't be alarmed!... There is a man in your kingdom who...was found to have...the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means."

So Daniel was brought...and the king said, "...If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, you will be...made the third highest ruler in the kingdom." Daniel answered... "You may keep your gifts... I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means."

"O king, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar...greatness...he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men...But you...have not humbled yourself...Instead you have set yourself up against the Lord...You had the goblets from his temple brought and...drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold... But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways. Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription."

"This is the inscription...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."

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...was slain, and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom...

Life's Most Important Lesson

"Nebuchadnezzar...learned that the Most High God rules over the kingdoms of the world" (5:20 NLT)

God's Warnings Aren't _____

Warning To Babylon: 593 BC

Execution: 539 BC

1. "Babylon will _____ fall and be broken." (Jeremiah 51:8)
2. "The Lord will stir up the...kings of the _____ to destroy Babylon" (Jer 51:11;also 28)
3. "The warriors...have _____. They stay in their fortified cities" (Jer 51:30)
4. "I will prepare a feast for them and make them _____" (Jer 51:39; also 57)
5. "I will dry up the source of Babylonia's water & make its rivers _____" (Jer 51:58)

God's Control Hasn't _____

"Isaiah...received this message concerning the destruction of Babylon:...Listen as the armies march! It is the...shout of _____. The Lord Almighty has brought them here to form an army. They come from countries far away." (Isa. 13:1,4,5 NLT)

"The terror that falls upon the Babylonians will be the work of the Sovereign Lord Almighty. Yes, come against her from distant lands...Crush her walls and houses Into heaps of _____. Her young men will fall in the streets. Her warriors will be killed" (Jer. 50:26 NLT)

God's Expectations Haven't _____

"You have **not honored the God** who gives you the breath of life and controls your destiny!" (23 NLT)

1. Am I humbly _____ God?
"But you...have **not humbled yourself**" (22) "You have been weighed on the balances and failed the test"...That very night Belshazzar...was killed" (27,30 NLT)
(Jesus) "I tell you this: On the Judgment Day everyone will have to give account" (Matt. 12:26)
2. Am I daily _____ false gods?
"You praised the gods of silver & gold...which cannot see or hear or understand"(23)
"You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else." (17)
3. Am I _____ what belongs to God?
"they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles...drank from them." (3)
4. Am I actively _____ God?
"Daniel was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom." (29)