



Elgin Evangelical Free Church - October 22, 2023

## I. Who is Belshazzar and how did we get here?

*"Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death." James 1:15*

A. The worship of power

B. The worship of idols

C. The worship of self-glory

## II. Sin makes you Stupid—5:1-4

*"For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools," Romans 1:21-22*

A. Sin blinds you to reality

B. Sin inflames your sensuality

C. Sin feeds your arrogance

III. God can make you Sober—5:5-9

*“for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.” Daniel 4:37b*

A. God can write on your wall

B. God can expose your empty

IV. Your Sin can reach a Threshold—5:10-29

*“A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.” Proverbs 29:1*

A. Daniel (God is Judge) is direct

-You have not learned the lesson of your predecessor! 5:18-21

-You have messed with God, who holds your life in His hands! 5:22-23

-You have been weighed and found wanting! 5:25-27

## B. Belshazzar is unrepentant

## V. God's Judgement of sin is Final—5:30-31

*“Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a necklace of gold around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he now had authority as the third ruler in the kingdom. That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.” 5:30-31*

## A. The sadness of remaining in charge

## B. The certainty of destruction

*Life Group Study Notes*  
*The Handwriting on the Wall*  
*Daniel 5*

1. What similarities can you see in the demise of the Babylonian Empire and the present course of our culture?
2. Belshazzar throws a party while under siege. How does this reveal his blindness to reality? Why are we all so prone to view ourselves as indestructible?
3. How do Belshazzar's actions mock God and His glory? Presently, what are other ways we implicitly mock God's glory?
4. How does God "write on our wall" and wake us up from the deception of sin?
5. What is the core lesson that Belshazzar failed to learn from his predecessor, Nebuchadnezzar?
6. Daniel is not impressed with Belshazzar's rewards. He knows they are truly temporal in every sense. How does temporal reward get in the way of our witness?
7. The finality of God's judgment of sin should cause us to repent. How do we slip into thinking that God's patience with our continuing sin won't be dealt with?
8. Pray for the right application for this week's study!