

Daniel Lesson 10 (Chapter 5) continued...

### III. THE ARRIVAL OF GOD'S MAN (10-16)

#### A. THE ADVICE OF THE QUEEN...

1. The queen was likely the "queen mother", for the wives were already present - Daniel 5:10-12;
2. Note that the queen was not present at the banquet...
  - a. Could the one who knew where to turn in time of trouble, have also known the banquet was no place for her to be?
  - b. Those who like to party and "live it up" are usually those who are lost in despair when trouble strikes!

#### B. DANIEL BEFORE THE OFFENDER...

1. Twice the king says "I have heard of you" - Daniel 5:13-16
2. People in the world are not much different
  - a. They make little effort to get to know God or His people.
    - b. But in times of sickness, trials, and death, where do they turn? To the church, of course - The time to get to know God's people is before, not after!

### IV. THE INDICTMENT (17-24)

#### A. DANIEL REJECTS THE KING'S REWARD...

1. At this point the character of Daniel really shines - Daniel 5:17
2. Unlike many, who teach only if given gifts (or "love offerings")
3. Daniel willingly tells the truth for free

#### B. DANIEL RECOUNTS A LESSON FROM HISTORY...

1. The lesson from Nebuchadnezzar's second dream is recounted - Daniel 5:18-21
2. We would do well to learn from history
  - a. Those who ignore history, are doomed to repeat it
  - b. This is especially true with inspired history!

#### C. DANIEL REBUKES THE KING...

1. Belshazzar did not learn from his father's experience - Daniel 5:22-24
  - a. He exalted himself, when he should have glorified God.
    - b. This handwriting was sent to pronounce judgment on the Babylonians.
2. When will people learn from history?
  - a. Should we not learn from the pride of Pharaoh in the book of Exodus?
    - b. Should we not learn from the murmuring of the Israelites in the wilderness?  
-- Indeed, inspired history was written for our learning! - Romans 15:4; 1Corinthians 10:11

## V. THE SENTENCE AND EXECUTION (25-31)

### A. THE HAND WRITING ON THE WALL EXPLAINED...

1. The meaning of: "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin" - Daniel 5:25-28
  - a. Mene - God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it
  - b. Tekel - You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting
  - c. Peres (Upharsin) - Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

### B. A THIRD OF NOTHING...

1. Belshazzar is true to his promise - Daniel 5:29
2. But as we will soon see, what he gave Daniel was a "third of nothing"

### C. "THIS NIGHT YOUR SOUL WILL BE REQUIRED OF YOU..."

1. How quickly the proud and boastful can fall, despite power and wealth - Daniel 5:30-31
  - a. Herodotus indicates that Babylon fell as a consequence of the diverting of the waters of the Euphrates, allowing the enemy to enter under the city walls.
  - b. Other sources explain it as the result of treason and subterfuge from within, resulting in the opening of the gates to the conquering armies.

## CONCLUSION

1. The announcement of doom in this story was provoked in part because...
  - a. The king misused and abused some pieces of metal, these pieces of metal were God's pieces of metal - For such disregard of what belonged to God, a kingdom would be buried!
2. Remember that we are the temple of God today - 1Corinthians 3:16-17

Let's not wait for "The Hand Writing On The Wall" to tell us it is too late, that judgment has been passed and the sentence is final.

Let's instead heed "The Hand That Wrote On The Ground" (i.e., Jesus, John 8:6,8), while there is still time for mercy and forgiveness...