

God's Graffiti: Daniel 5:1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 13-17, 23-31
September 21, 2022

I. Introduction

II. The offenses (Dan. 5: 1-23)

- A. "King Belshazzar . . . under the influence of wine" (5:1-2)
- B. Places self above God (5:22-23)
- C. Desecrates the temple vessels (5:3, 23)
- D. Praises false gods (5:4, 23)
- E. Does not honor God (5:23)

III. The writing on the wall (Dan. 5:5-8)

- A. The writing hand (5:5; Ex. 31:18)
- B. Inability to interpret (5:8)

IV. The interpretation (Dan. 5:13-28)

- A. Daniel at 75-85 (5:13)
- B. Interpretation as a gift of God (5:14; Dan. 2:28)
- C. Primary meaning
 - 1. MENE – mina (5:25)
 - 2. TEKEL – shekel (5:25)
 - 3. PARSIN – half-mina (5:25)
- D. Secondary meaning
 - 1. MENE – to number (5:26)
 - 2. TEKEL – to weigh (5:27)
 - 3. PARSIN – to divide (5:28)

V. Change in power (Dan. 5:30)

VI. Observations

- A. Belshazzar as cipher for Antiochus IV
- B. Messages
 - 1. Respect/honor God
 - 2. God is still sovereign in a foreign land
 - 3. Human power is subservient to God's power
 - 4. Hope

VII. Revisit the initial question

VIII. What else is applicable for us?

IX. Questions and comments

X. LET US PRAY!

Schedule

- Oct. 5: Daniel 6:6-14, 16-28
- Oct. 19: Daniel 7:1-10, 15-18, 23-27
- Nov. 2: Daniel 11:36-45
- Nov. 16: Daniel 12:1-12

Daniel 5: 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 13-17, 23-31

King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand. ² Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar commanded that they bring in the vessels of gold and silver that his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. . . . ⁴ They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

⁵ Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the wall of the royal palace, next to the lampstand. The king was watching the hand as it wrote. . . . ⁷ The king cried aloud to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the diviners, and the king said to the wise men of Babylon, "Whoever can read this writing and tell me its interpretation shall be clothed in purple, have a chain of gold around his neck, and rank third in the kingdom." ⁸ Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or tell the king the interpretation.

¹³ Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king said to Daniel, "So you are Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah? ¹⁴ I have heard of you that a spirit of the gods is in you and that enlightenment, understanding, and excellent wisdom are found in you. ¹⁵ Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and tell me its interpretation, but they were not able to reveal the interpretation of the matter. ¹⁶ But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you are able to read the writing and tell me its interpretation, you shall be clothed in purple, have a chain of gold around your neck, and rank third in the kingdom." ¹⁷ Then Daniel answered in the presence of the king, "Let your gifts be for yourself, or give your rewards to someone else! Nevertheless I will read the writing to the king and let him know the interpretation.

²³ You have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven! The vessels of his temple have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have been drinking wine from them. You have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose power is your very breath and to whom belong all your ways, you have not honored.

²⁴ "So from his presence the hand was sent and this writing was inscribed. ²⁵ And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN. ²⁶ This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE: God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; ²⁷ TEKEL: you have been weighed on the scales and found wanting; ²⁸ PERES: your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

²⁹ Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed in purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made concerning him that he should rank third in the kingdom.

³⁰ That very night Belshazzar, the Chaldean king, was killed. ³¹ And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.