

Lesson 5

The Handwriting On the Wall

Daniel 5

Begin today's lesson asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind and to teach you His precepts.

Before you start our questions for this week, read through all of Daniel 5.

The time is 539 B.C. as Daniel 5 opens. Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 B.C. and was followed by a quick succession of close relatives ending in the co-reign of Nabonidus, Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law, and Belshazzar, grandson of Nebuchadnezzar.

all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

1 Peter 5:5

1. Find Nebuchadnezzar's death on the timeline on page 77.

2. How old was Daniel when Nebuchadnezzar died?

When chapter 5 opens, the city of Babylon is under siege by Cyrus, the son of the King of Persia, whose mother was the daughter of the King of the Medes. The Babylonians believed their city to be impregnable. Belshazzar held a huge party in defiance of the siege.

3. Describe the feast.

5. What was Belshazzar's order concerning the vessels from the Temple in Jerusalem?
What was the result?

6. What was Belshazzar's reaction to the writing on the wall?

7. From the context of Daniel 5, do you think Daniel held a prominent position in the government at this time?

8. Describe Daniel from Daniel 5:11-16.

9. Compare and contrast Daniel's response to Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:19-27 with his response to Belshazzar in Daniel 5:17-23.

10. How does Belshazzar's reaction to Daniel in verses 20-22 illustrate I Peter 5:5?

11. According to Daniel, who was responsible for "the hand"?

12. Do you think Belshazzar repented when he received the interpretation of the handwriting on the wall from Daniel?

13. How does this story illustrate Psalm 127:1?

14. As you finish this chapter, find the fall of Babylon on the timeline on page 77 and add the details of the event.
15. As you look back over this lesson about Daniel 5, what do you want to remember?
16. Consider the following scriptures and meditate on them using the prayer exercise that is explained on page 81.
- ❖ Scriptures: **Colossians 1:15-17**
 - ❖ Word or phrase:
 - ❖ Amplification:
 - ❖ Invitation:

Thoughts From Martha: Pride

Pride crowns herself with regal pageantry in the kingdom of the unsuspecting soul. How quickly she erects her protective walls and inhabits the castles made of sand. Quite confidently, she takes up the royal scepter and seats herself upon the heart's throne. Masked in resplendent finery and under the spell of her own seductive pleasures, the lame duck rules for an allotted time in her borrowed kingdom.

Will she abdicate her royal position to its rightful owner? Will she allow the true King to firmly establish His unshakable throne within her castle walls and reign in every region of her far-reaching kingdom? Or will she fall prey to the vigilant enemy encamped outside the city gates because her haughty eyes were unable to read the handwriting on the wall?

*“Come, let us open
wide our gates,
For the King of kings to
enter in!*

*For He will rule with
surpassing greatness
and everlasting
splendor
From our innermost
courtyards to the
outermost regions
In the kingdoms of our
souls.”*

Maranatha!

Lecture Notes: