

Dan07 - **When God Says ENOUGH - Dan 5:1-31**

There's a **saying** - still **used today**
that **comes** right out of **Dan Ch 5**

It's **used** when you **see someone**
heading down a path that you **know ENDS BAD**

& **sometimes** - if you **try** to **talk** to that person you **might say**
"Bro, the Writing is on the WALL"

"You & I both KNOW where this is gonna End"
"We both KNOW where this Road leads -
Bro, the WRITING is on the WALL"

It **means** the **Game is UP** -
& if you don't **JUMP Ship** - you're going **DOWN** with **the Ship**

"The WRITING is on the WALL"

Maybe that's **YOU today** - Or **maybe** it's **someone** in **YOUR Life**

You think you're **getting by** - **you think** you've got it **figured out**
You think you've **beat the system** - & you're **pretty proud** !

BUT - ***"The WRITING - Might Be - on the WALL"***

This Msg is for **every one** of us . . .

But **there** are **SOME here today** - that need to **HEAR the Truth**
There is a time - **When God Says ENOUGH!**

Let's Pray

MANY years have **passed** - between **Ch 4 & Ch 5**
& so we **need** to **fill in** a few **Historical Blanks** - to "**Catch UP**"

Nebuchadnezzar had **died** about **20 Yrs** before these **events**
Having **Ruled** for **about 45 yrs**

Nebuchadnezzar was **succeeded** by his son - **EVIL-MERODACH** -
Literally, **THAT** was his name - Check **2Kin 25:27**

He was **Murdered** by his **BOTHER-in-Law** - **NERGILESSAR** -
who **took over** the **throne**

But He **died 4 yrs later** - & **left** the **kingdom** to his **Infant son**
who was **removed** by a **Revolution led** by the **Babylonian Priests**

So far - it sounds like some power struggles
I've heard of in some Church movements

Anyway - A **priest** takes **the throne** named **NABONIDUS**

But he **doesn't** really **like RULING**
so he **makes** his **SON CO-REGENT (Co-RULER)** of **Babylon**

His **son's name** is **BELSHAZZAR**
who is the **main character** in **Dan Ch 5**

BELSHAZZAR is actually the **GRAND-SON** of **Nebuchadnezzar**

So - it's **been 20 yrs & 4 Kings** - since **Nebuchadnezzar died**

& **Daniel** has been **faithfully Serving** the **God of Israel** - **Right** in the
Midst of all this **Worldly Crainess** - the **ENTIRE time**

Now - Today - The World-Ruling Empire of Babylon is going to FALL - right here in Dan Ch 5

It seems FAST - But it's been at least 65+ Yrs - since Nebuchadnezzar Carried Daniel & the Jews off to Babylon - after destroying Jerusalem

But - before we see it FALL - let's try to grasp the Magnificence of the FIRST of the Great World-Ruling Empire

The city of Babylon - Capital of the Empire - Was Incredible

Built by King Nebuchadnezzar - who never seemed to get over the BIGGER & BETTER Game

The City may've been close to 60 Miles around (Perimeter) - Surrounded by a Wall 300ft High & 50 feet THICK

The wall was so thick (wide) that 2 Chariots could PASS going opposite directions

Which they DID - as they rode in constant guard around the Perimeter of the city - on top of this great wall

Outside the wall - was a 30ft Moat surrounding the entire city Which no Army could CROSS - before climbing a 300 Ft Wall

The city was (as they say) INVINCIBLE

Over 1 MILLION people lived INSIDE the walls - feeling so safe - that even when there were Enemies outside the wall

the inhabitants smugly went about their business knowing that no enemy could ever break thru

& of course - 1 of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World -
The HANGING Gardens of Babylon were built inside the city

Which was a Pyramid Garden built for Nebuchadnezzar's wife -
the "Wonder" part was how it was watered

The water came from the River Euphrates -
that LITERALLY Flowed right THRU the City

With the Water from the river - 20 yrs of Food Supplies
& the Impenetrable Wall

The people of Babylon lived a SMUG - We're ALL THAT - lifestyle

Even the Nebuchadnezzar & 3 other Kings had all Fallen before him
Belshazzar thought HE was UNTOUCHABLE

He was like:

*I know HOW the Road ended for all them - But NOT for me -
I know how to Play with Fire & Not get Burned -
I know HOW to Live this Life & NOT get taken OUT
I am Untouchable !!*

& Daniel is about to Say . . . "Bro, the Writing is On The Wall . . ."

Some things don't change much - From the Hanging Gardens
of Babylon - to the Grain Fields of Nuevo

There is a Time - WHEN GOD SAYS - ENOUGH
& that time - for this King of Babylon - is in Dan Ch 5

Daniel 5:1 (NLT)

1 Many years later King Belshazzar gave a great feast for 1,000 of his nobles, and he drank wine with them.

**20+ Yrs & 3 Kings after Nebuchadnezzar -
King Belshazzar was in charge**

History paints him as a young, insecure, ego-maniac

Who **covered up** his **IN-ABILITIES**
with an **EXAGGERATED ABILITY** to **PARTY**

**He was PROUD - & Full of Himself - Fat Dumb & Happy
in Charge in the most Opulent city in the World**

& **Here's** how **COCKY** this **little Party-King** was . . .

At the time of the **events** here in **Dan Ch 5**

The **Medes & Persians** - we're **actually OUTSIDE the Walls**
(*at this very time*) - **Trying to Break** in to **the City**

THAT is **Smugness** - & **Pride** - & (*if you were around in 1990*)
This is An **M.C. Hammer ATTITUDE** - **You Can't Touch This**

GOD Knew Exactly **HOW things** were **about** to **PLAY OUT** -
But Belshazzar - **He thought** he was . . . "**Untouchable**"

Daniel 5:2 (nlt)

2 While Belshazzar was drinking the wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver cups that his predecessor, Nebuchadnezzar, had taken from the Temple in Jerusalem . . .

Notice the word **PREDECESSOR** - **your version** may say **FATHER**

if it DOES - it should have a **FOOTNOTE attached** - to **explain** the **reference** here is to **ANCESTOR** or **FOREFATHER**

in **ARAMAIC** - , there is **no word** for **Ancestor** or **Fore-Father** - so - **“Father”** is used - **Referring** to **Fore-Father** or **Predecessor**

So - Daniel 5:2 (nlt) - AGAIN

2 While Belshazzar was drinking the wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver cups that his predecessor, Nebuchadnezzar, had taken from the Temple in Jerusalem. He wanted to drink from them with his nobles, his wives, and his concubines.

Belshazzar wanted to **‘Strut His Stuff’**
in front of His **Nobles**, **Wives**, & **Concubines**

& **what better way** to **show** that **“You’re the MAN”** - **than** to **Desecrate** - that which **BELONGS** to the **God of the Jews**

This was **typical** **“My gods are better than your God”** thing - the **Babylonians did** - But **Belshazzar** was about to **Cross a LINE**

IN Defiance - He was **about** to **TAUNT** the **God of Heaven**
with **God’s Own Holy Vessels**

Daniel 5:3-4 (nlt)

3 So they brought these gold cups taken from the Temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives, and his concubines drank from them.

4 While they drank from them they praised their idols made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

What's being described here is Belshazzar using the Holy Vessels
from the Temple of God - to TOAST the Idol gods of Babylon

& in his Drunken Stupidity - Everyone KNEW what he was saying

Belshazzar was making it clear . . .

*WHO is this so-called God of the Hebrews -
HE'S nothing to me - I'M in Charge Here -
I call the Shots - & I'm greater than this so-called GOD*

& - as the Wine Flowed & the Erotic Dancing Continued
Everyone shouted - *YEAH - You're the MAN -
You're the Party Animal . . .*

You're an IDIOT - That's what you ARE
& God's about to say . . . ENOUGH!!!

But - wait a minute - Don't get TOO FAR away from this story
Because this story is about YOU & ME

& OUR ability to DEFY GOD - & RIDICULE Him
By our OWN Actions - & our OWN Pride

We think we're ALL THAT - When we're calling the SHOTS
& we're Riding High at the Party

But there is NEVER a MOMENT - When God is Not in Charge
& THERE IS a TIME - When God says - ENOUGH!!

Daniel 5:5-6 (nlt)

*5 Suddenly, they saw the fingers of a human hand writing on the
plaster wall of the king's palace, near the lampstand. The king
himself saw the hand as it wrote,*

6 and his face turned pale with fright. His knees knocked together in fear and his legs gave way beneath him.

Now THAT'S what I call - IMMEDIATE DETOX

This JOKER Got SOBER - QUICK, FAST, & In a HURRY !!

I love how God would say - *Hey, I know, let's have a human hand appear, & write on the wall - that outta get their attention"*

**& IT WORKED - this KING - who WANTED EVERYONE to THINK
He was THE MAN - was probably wettin himself about now**

**His face turned PALE with Fright - His Knees were shaking
& his legs gave way**

From King of the World - to a Terrified Baby in the Fetal Position

WHEN are we gonna learn - to NOT MESS with GOD

& so - Belshazzar does the only thing he knows to do

Daniel 5:7-8 (nlt)

7 The king shouted for the enchanters, astrologers, and fortune-tellers to be brought before him. He said to these wise men of Babylon, "Whoever can read this writing and tell me what it means will be dressed in purple robes of royal honor and will have a gold chain placed around his neck. He will become the third highest ruler in the kingdom!"

**3rd Highest - because HE was CO-Ruler with his Daddy
so the next highest position was #3**

8 But when all the king's wise men had come in, none of them could read the writing or tell him what it meant.

Do you think God is trying to Make a POINT with the World's "Wise Men"??

EVERY time these guys are brought into the picture - they are CLUELESS

Because - 1 Corinthians 1:20 (nlt)

20 . . . God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish.

So - the World's Wisdom FAILS! (Again) - for the 3rd Time in Dan

Daniel 5:9 (nlt)

9 So the king grew even more alarmed, and his face turned pale. His nobles, too, were shaken. (now everybody's scared to death)

But - On God's behalf - in comes the Queen Mother

Daniel 5:10-12 (nlt)

10 But when the queen mother heard what was happening, she hurried to the banquet hall. She said to Belshazzar, "Long live the king! Don't be so pale and frightened.

11 There is a man in your kingdom who has within him the spirit of the holy gods. During Nebuchadnezzar's reign, this man was found to have insight, understanding, and wisdom like that of the gods. Your predecessor, the king—your predecessor King Nebuchadnezzar—made him chief over all the magicians, enchanters, astrologers, and fortune-tellers of Babylon.

12 This man Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar, has exceptional ability and is filled with divine knowledge and understanding. He can interpret dreams, explain riddles, and

solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means.”

This Current King - Did NOT even know Daniel

Because the standard procedure for every New King was to REMOVE all of the Previous King’s Men - & bring in his own

So Daniel was away doing something else

Until the Queen Mother (Prob Nebuchadnezzar’s Daughter) Came in to speak on God’s Behalf

Daniel 5:13-16 (nlt)

13 So Daniel was brought in before the king. The king asked him, “Are you Daniel, one of the exiles brought from Judah by my predecessor, King Nebuchadnezzar?

14 I have heard that you have the spirit of the gods within you and that you are filled with insight, understanding, and wisdom.

15 My wise men and enchanters have tried to read the words on the wall and tell me their meaning, but they cannot do it.

16 I am told that you can give interpretations and solve difficult problems. If you can read these words and tell me their meaning, you will be clothed in purple robes of royal honor, and you will have a gold chain placed around your neck. You will become the third highest ruler in the kingdom.”

This is the Same Offer The King made to the World’s Wisemen - but Notice Carefully Daniel’s Response

Daniel 5:17-21 (nlt)

17 Daniel answered the king, “Keep your gifts or give them to someone else, but I will tell you what the writing means.

I'll tell you in a Sec - **WHY** I think **Daniel Said** this

18 Your Majesty, the Most High God gave sovereignty, majesty, glory, and honor to your predecessor, Nebuchadnezzar.

19 He made him so great that people of all races and nations and languages trembled before him in fear. He killed those he wanted to kill and spared those he wanted to spare. He honored those he wanted to honor and disgraced those he wanted to disgrace.

(meaning - he WAS The Man)

20 But when his heart and mind were puffed up with arrogance, he was brought down from his royal throne and stripped of his glory.

21 He was driven from human society. He was given the mind of a wild animal, and he lived among the wild donkeys. He ate grass like a cow, and he was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he learned that the Most High God rules over the kingdoms of the world and appoints anyone he desires to rule over them.

Different KING - SAME Lesson;

The Most High God rules over the kingdoms of the world

Daniel 5:22-23 (nlt)

22 "You are his successor, O Belshazzar, and you knew all this, yet you have not humbled yourself.

23 For you have proudly defied the Lord of heaven and have had these cups from his Temple brought before you. You and your nobles and your wives and concubines have been drinking wine from them while praising gods of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone—gods that neither see nor hear nor know anything at all. But you have not honored the God who gives you the breath of life and controls your destiny!

THAT - is Daniel Bringing the HEAT !!

I know the church wants to hear "feel good sermons" & I know even a church in Nuevo could grow with those kind of Sermons

But ALONG with the GOOD NEWS of God's FREE Gift of Salvation - Comes the BAD NEWS - for those who REJECT the Good News

& That BAD NEWS is - Eventually GOD SAYS ENOUGH -
& When He does - The Handwriting is ON the WALL

But - Wait a minute
is Daniel Talking about Life in BABYLON - or Life in NUEVO?

Daniel says - IN your PRIDE you have DEFIED the LORD of Heaven
You've Taken what belongs to The Lord - & you've used it
to worship the IDOLS of your world
& you have Refused to Honor the God who gives you
the breath of life & Controls your Destiny

Is it POSSIBLE - for US - IN our PRIDE -
To DEFY the Lord of Heaven ?

Is it POSSIBLE - for US - To Take what belongs to GOD
& use it to worship the IDOLS of our Own World ?

Is it POSSIBLE - for US - To refuse to honor the God who
gives us the very Breath Of Life & Controls our Destiny??

YES - It is Possible !!

I'm not saying you HAVE -
I'm saying - Be AWARE - Because it is POSSIBLE

& at some point - God says - ENOUGH !!

& if we continue in that DEFIANCE of God - Long Enough
Refusing to REPENT & Ask God for Forgiveness . . .

What is the END of THAT ROAD ?

What is the WRITING ON THAT WALL - for our OWN lives ??

WELL - Here is the Message to King Belshazzar

It's The WRITING on the WALL - for the END of HIS ROAD

God has had ENOUGH
of this Prideful King & his Party-Animal ANTICS

So Daniel Continues God's Message to the King

Daniel 5:24-28 (nlt)

24 So God has sent this hand to write this message.

25 "This is the message that was written: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin.

26 This is what these words mean: Mene means 'numbered'—God has numbered the days of your reign and has brought it to an end.

27 Tekel means 'weighed'—you have been weighed on the balances and have not measured up.

28 Parsin means 'divided'—your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin

God has NUMBERED your Days

You have been WEIGHED - & Found WANTING

& Your WORLD is coming to an END

The End of the Line was HERE for King Belshazzar -
AND for the Babylonian EMPIRE

But Still Belshazzar still tried to GIVE Daniel what He'd Promised

Daniel 5:29 (nlt)

29 Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was dressed in purple robes, a gold chain was hung around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

The only problem with all these rewards
is they all HINGED on Belshazzar still being King

Which is WHY Daniel knew they were WORTHLESS
Because THAT wasn't gonna BE - for Very Long

Daniel 5:30-31 (nlt)

*30 That very night Belshazzar, the Babylonian king, was killed.
31 And Darius the Mede took over the kingdom at the age of sixty-two.*

BAAM - God says ENOUGH !!

& the Writing on the Wall SIGNALS the END of the ROAD -
For another Prideful - Self-Centered - Know-it-all King

There's a famous poem that says - "*The Mills of God Grind Slow -
But they Grind Exceedingly FINE*"

God is SO Patient - SO Merciful - SO FULL of GRACE

But - in the End - God is HOLY - & GOD is JUST -

& When God said - Enough !!

The WRITING WAS ON THE WALL

& Belshazzar's End Came - Immediately !!

Now - there are some WONDERFUL - Prophetic Truths -
about this Transition of Kingdoms

that I'm going to wait till NEXT Week to get in to

Because there's something MORE IMPORTANT
we need to deal with - TODAY

This Story - is HEAVY Enough - when we're talking about
a Self-Centered Party-King in 500BC

But HOW can I have the AUDACITY to apply this to US?

HOW can I IMPLY that we could Suffer
the SAME FATE as King Belshazzar?

PLs listen very carefully to me

The CONSEQUENCES of REJECTING God
are JUST AS Guaranteed

AS God's PROMISE of SALVATION thru FAITH in Jesus Christ

God's FREE GIFT of Eternal Life thru Faith in Jesus -
is a GUARANTEED Promise from GOD

If You will come to Christ - in Repentance & Faith

He will Forgive Your Sins

Cleanse You of UNRighteousness

& Give You NEW LIFE in Jesus Christ

& THAT is what I'm going to ASK you to do - in just a Minute

But - 1st Know - JUST AS God's Salvation

is SURE & GUARANTEED thru Faith in Jesus Christ . . .

SO IS the eventual END OF THE LINE for those

who continually REJECT the God who Gives them

Breath of Life - & Controls their Destiny

BOTH these Promises are JUST AS Guaranteed

The Good News is - YOU DECIDE !!

You can CHOOSE to continue in your REJECTION of GOD

Continue DEFYING Him

& TAUNTING Him to His FACE by your Lifestyle

OR - You can Recognize the Writing on the Wall

BEFORE it's TOO LATE

You can REPENT - TODAY

& God will ACCEPT you - God will RECEIVE you -

& He will Totally & Completely FORGIVE You

By you REPENTING - Turning from your PRIDE & your SIN

& SURRENDERING your life to Jesus Christ - as your LORD

Would you do that - NOW ?

The **Writing is ON the WALL**
The END of the ROAD will Eventually come

& when **God says, ENOUGH** - & **your DAYS** are **UP**
there will be **NO MORE chances** - for **Repentance**

So - the **Worship team** is **going to play**

& **I'm going** to **ASK YOU** - To **COME** to **the CROSS**
To **SURRENDER your Life** to **Jesus Christ**

You **just come** to **the Cross** - & **PRAY**
& **when** you're **all here** - We'll **all pray together**

God **LOVES you** - & He **wants** to **SAVE YOU**
BEFORE the **END** of **your ROAD** - **COMES**

Let's Pray