

## Daniel 5

One of the things that is interesting in this passage is that it gives us insight into the logic of someone who is completely enslaved by their own pride. This becomes even more apparent when we add in more historical context. It was said that the city the king was living in was one of the greatest, if not the greatest, fortified cities ever developed. There are different accounts of the size of the walls, claiming them to be up to 300 feet high and 80 feet thick. This is most likely exaggerated, but even if the walls were half the size that is claimed, it would still be an unimaginably large and impenetrable wall around the city. Therefore King Belshazzar, whose name means “Lord (Marduk) protect the king,” had become so arrogant in thinking that he was untouchable that even when he was told that his kingdom would be coming to an end, he did not repent but instead tried to give Daniel a promotion for a job that would not be there by morning.

The king soon found out that he was not untouchable. The Medes snuck up on his city and timed their attack with the large party that was taking place. They sent a raiding force while another group stopped up the Euphrates River that supplied water to the city and partially ran under the city walls. This caused the water levels to drop so low that they were able to walk under the walls directly into the city and face confused and ill-prepared forces with little leadership. The king, while in what he might have thought was the safest place on earth, was no safer than if he had been left alone outside of the city walls.

Something that all of our students need to take away from this story is that the safest place they can be is in good standing with God. We can put up walls of protection around our lives such as money, friend groups, good deeds, or a dating relationship that make us feel comfortable because they provide a place for us to receive positive feedback for the sins we are committing. When we continue on with them unrepentantly, we too are only tricking ourselves and will be proven to be foolish just like King Belshazzar.

Another lesson is that God is not a God who will be mocked. We see it spoken very clearly by Paul in Galatians 6:7: “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.” God will, in His own time, deal with those who openly mock Him. Something that we see here is that sometimes it may appear as though a person is getting away with the treacherous acts they have committed. The king seemed to be getting away with all of the wrong he was doing, and it appeared as though nothing would get in the way of him committing these acts. There are many times in our lives when it may seem very similar, where we see people doing things that may be wrong or openly mocking God, yet it seems as though they are living a good and happy life. On top of that, they may even be doing this for a long time, such as living decades in direct opposition to God. But God, in His appointed time, will address these

people with His justice. So we do not want to be tempted to live lives like these people, because it only ends in destruction.