

## **What Are the Dangers of Memorial Day Daniel 5:1-31**

**Introduction:** One week after the Pearl Harbor attack President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "Those who long enjoy such privileges that we enjoy forget in time that others have died to win them." Freedom is never free; it is always bought with the blood of patriots. We are in a great battle for the very soul of our nation. What is happening in our culture has happened many times through history. Daniel saw much of what we are seeing today. We read in the fifth chapter of Daniel of the collapse of a culture. Babylon felt smug and secure within the confines of their strong walls. The Bible says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." I pray this day of Memory would be a time of repentance and to acknowledge that "all is vain unless the Spirit of the Lord comes down."

Babylon made four major mistakes. Are we in danger of making the same mistakes:

- I. The Danger of Losing All Sense of Remembrance** Daniel 5:18-23
  - A. Past Lessons Had Been Forgotten
  - B. Pride Precedes Destruction
  - C. Pride Leads to a FallIn some ways we in America alarming similarities with ancient Babylon
  
- II. The Danger of Losing All Sense of Reality** Daniel 5:1
  - A. The Medes and Persians were camped outside the city
  - B. But Belshazzar Threw a Big Party for Thousands
  - C. He Was too Drunk on His Own Success to See What Was Happening
  - D. We Are Often Prone to Think We are Invincible
  
- III. The Danger of Losing All Sense of Restraint** Daniel 5:2
  - A. The Babylonians Were too Blind to See the Link Between Moral Decay and the Destruction of a Nation
  - B. Men Begin to Cease to Lead Their Families in Spiritual and Moral Development
  - C. Men Neglect Their Wives and Children for Pursuit of Material Wealth and Power
  - D. Men Become Involved With Other Women Outside the Home
  - E. Women Begin to Seek Their Own Worth Outside the Home
  - F. Divorce Becomes Easier to Come By
  - G. Children Have No Role Models to Help Them to Develop Their Identity
  - H. Children Become Unwanted and Undisciplined
  
- IV. The Danger of Losing All Sense of Respect** Daniel 5:3-4
  - A. An Amazing Thing Happens
  - B. The King Sobered Up
  - C. Daniel Shows Up and Preached

1. A Word About Power Daniel 5:18-19
2. A Word About Pride Daniel 5:20
3. A Word About Punishment 5:21

**Application:** You have not humbled yourself, although you knew all this Daniel 5:22

Read Daniel 5:30-31

**Conclusion:** America has had some proud moments but none finer than June 6, 1944. Those American boys approached the French coast at low tide. In wave after wave they stormed the beaches of Normandy. Within one month over one million Allied troops had filled Europe and brought an end to the diabolical and murderous grip of Hitler's Germany. That was not the original D-Day. Max Lucado in telling this story put it this way, "God established his own beachhead in Bethlehem. He triumphed over the strongest enemy. He used a woman, a baby, and a Bethlehem feeding trough." Christ is our only hope.

Daniel 4:32; "The most high still rules over the affairs of men."