WHEN PRIDE MEETS DIVINE JUDGEMENT

(Daniel 5)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The historical setting: (The empire of Babylon under siege)

B. Belshazzar's false security in his arrogance and drowning out reality:

II. THE WRITING ON THE WALL DECLARING JUDGEMENT: *(Daniel 5:1-31)*

A. The shame of worldly pride: *(vs.1-4)*
   1. False security in the face of danger: *(v. 1)*
   2. The desecration of what is Holy: *(vv. 2-3)*
   3. Praising worthless idols made of metals and wood: *(v.4)*
   4. Pride often presents itself in a false sense of invincibility:

B. God intervenes with the reality of who is in charge: *(vv.5-9)*
   1. The divine intervention when suddenly a hand starts writing on the wall: *(v. 5)*
   2. Belshazzar instantly loses confidence and is frightened in fear: *(v. 6)*
   3. Worldly wisdom brings him no answers: *(vv. 7-9)*
   4. The moment God crashes his earthly party:

C. Daniel enters the scene to bring about God's indictment: *(vv.10-24)*
   1. The queen reminds the king of Daniel and his ability to interpret dreams: *(vv. 10-12)*
   2. The rejection of earthly rewards: *(vv. 13-17)*
   3. The history lesson on humility with Nebuchadnezzar: *(vv.18-21)*
   4. Daniel confronts Belshazzar with the core charge of pride: *(vv. 22-24)*

D. The interpretation of the final verdict: *(vv. 25-31)*
   1. MENE (Numbered): God has numbered the days of your reign and brough it to an end.
   2. TEKEL (Weighed): You have been weighed in the balance and found deficient.
   3. PERES (Divided): Your kingdom is divided and given over to the Medes and Persians.
   4. The immediate execution of King Belshazzar that night: *(vv. 29-31)*

II. APPLICATIONS:

A. Do not harden your heart or wait for the handwriting on your own wall, humble yourself before the Lord and surrender your self-rule to Him.

B. Though judgment turned Nebuchadnezzar to God, it can be seen that his grandson faced judgement and refused to repent and so it is important that we learn from the examples of others about the danger of pride so we don't fall into the same trap.