

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

KAPONO: Amen and amen! Would you join me and bow your heads as we pray? Lord, we thank You so much, Lord. I can't thank You enough. But thank You, Lord, for allowing us to gather in this place this evening to receive from Your word. How important that is for our lives, Lord. So would You help us, Lord, this evening as we sit down, Lord, and we open up our Bibles and get into Your word, Lord.

And as Pastor JD delivers the message this evening, Lord, would we receive it? Would we hear it? Would You speak to us in and through it, Lord? Thank You again for this time. We ask all of these things in the only name, the mighty name, Jesus. We say, Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen. Good evening. You can be seated. If you haven't got the communion elements yet, you might want to do that at this time because at the conclusion of the Bible study, we're going to partake together of the Lord's table. The elements are in the back there, in the back there. They're not up here. They were last time. I'm just saying. I see what happens when I take some time off. It's all right.

All right. Well, welcome. So glad you're here tonight. Looking forward to our study, *Daniel Chapter 5*. It's been a couple of weeks, but no, it's been longer than a couple of weeks. Sorry. But *Daniel 5* tonight, Lord willing, and we'll get through the — this is a — I know I say this about every chapter. It's an amazing chapter. And about 23 years have passed since *Chapter 4* and *Chapter 5*.

And Daniel is in — get this — he's in his mid-to-late 80s now at this time. And Nebuchadnezzar the king, his 43-year-reign as king of Babylon had ended. And he's long gone at this point. And we're going to be introduced to a guy by the name of Belshazzar, who was actually Nebuchadnezzar's grandson.

So for those who read ahead to stay ahead, you already know what's ahead. This is a well-known chapter, relatively speaking because in it is the account of how God uses a hand, comes out of nowhere to write on the wall concerning the end of the Babylonian kingdom, like, right then.

And by the way, this is where we get that saying, “the handwriting is on the wall.” You know, they steal stuff from the Bible, and people don't even know that came from the Bible.

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

Get your own material. That's where that saying comes from, "the handwriting is on the wall."

Now, this week and Lord willing, next week in *Chapter 6*, we are going to, and are still in what you could say are the historic chapters in Daniel. And when we get to *Chapter 7*, we turn a corner, and we get into the prophetic part of the Book of Daniel. So what we're going to see tonight is more historic, but I want for us to personalize it in terms of our own lives. And let me explain.

By personalizing, I mean asking ourselves the question of what the handwriting of God on the wall of my life is saying to me about my life. Because, you see, God will do everything and stop at nothing to get my attention if He's having a hard time getting my attention and having a hand appear out of nowhere and start writing on the wall. Well, that would get my attention.

Well, what is it that God wants to say to me? If the hand of God were to write on the wall of my life, what is it that He would say to me about my life? I want us — and that's my hope — that all of us, myself included, won't sacrifice the personal application on the altar of the historic situation.

Because tonight, Babylon falls in just a matter of hours, exactly as Isaiah the prophet had prophesied some 150 years prior, even mentioning Cyrus by name, and even the prophet Jeremiah, who, by the way, Daniel knew. It's going to be really interesting when they call upon Daniel. It's almost going to be like, oh, it's time. Because see, he knew Bible prophecy in his time. Jeremiah the prophet wrote exactly prophetically what was going to happen with Babylon, and it's going to happen tonight.

Isn't that cool? The night that you decided to come to Bible study Babylon is going to fall, tonight. And you're going to get to be there for it.

So I want us to focus on what God wants us to see, the personal application. Yes, there's prophetic implication, historic situation, and all of that. But I don't want us to get lost in that. There's a lot here tonight. I'll do my best to expound on those parts, but I want our focus to be on the personal application of the handwriting of God on the wall of my life. So with that, why don't we pray? And before we jump in, would you join with me?

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

Father in heaven, thank You. Will You settle our hearts and focus our attention? Because I know — I even pray and speak for myself when I do — we can come to a Thursday night Bible study and come out of a really rough day, or a busy week, and this time together, that we have in Your word, in worship and fellowship, it's a sanctuary for us in so many ways. It's that time, our time together with You in Your word, where we could just put everything aside and just listen to what it is that the Holy Spirit has to say in and through Your word as You speak into our lives.

You have so much here for us tonight, very, very specifically because I know that many, maybe even some watching online, are really struggling. And tonight You're going to minister in and through this chapter, as we see just Your hand, literally, Your handprint on every situation. Lord, thank You that You overrule all and rule over all and will always have the final word no matter what. So Lord, we submit and commit this Bible study to You and look forward to celebrating communion as well. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen and amen.

All right, let's jump in. *Verse 1.* **“Belshazzar, the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, [These are princes] and drank wine in the presence of the thousand. While [Verse 2] he tasted the wine, [In other words, he started feeling the effects] [Started to get intoxicated, inebriated] Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father...”** *[His grandfather]*

Actually his grandfather was Nebuchadnezzar. But his dad was still alive at the time. He just wasn't in Babylon. He liked to travel a lot, so he wasn't there. And so Belshazzar, his son, was actually in command as king.

[So his grandfather] **“...Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple [Remember when they took Judah, destroyed the temple] [took all of the vessels, used in the temple?] which had been in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them.”**

Big boo-boo. Big mistake.

Verse 3, **“Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which had been in Jerusalem. And the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them.**

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

[And if that weren't bad enough, verse 4] **They drank wine, and praised the gods ["Little g"] of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone**" as they're drinking from the holy, set apart, sanctified vessels that were used only, exclusively for the Temple in Jerusalem.

And so they're drinking almost out of defiance and mockery. They're drinking out of these vessels sanctified by God for God, and they're praising their false gods. This is why we're going to read what we're going to read in *verse 5*. **"In the same hour..."**

I mean, can you just — can we do the whole God-given imagination thing again tonight? I know I ask you to do this every week, but we really need to do that tonight. We need to take a quick trip to Babylon, and we need to place ourselves there.

We need to imagine thousands of people in a huge banquet hall, which, by the way, archeologists have found in digging the actual site where *Daniel 5* took place, down to the walls, actually the wall that the handwriting of God was on.

They found parts of it where they have the indents where — there were the recesses to put the lamps to light the hall. They found the exact spot. You can go to modern-day Iraq, where Babylon — I don't recommend it, but you could go there, and you can visit the remains of this exact spot where this took place.

So we're going to go there. Can we go there? Huge hall. A lot of people; there really wasted right now. And they've done the unthinkable, and they're very drunk, and they're doing very lewd things.

And all of a sudden, *verse 5*, within the hour, **"...the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall** *[They're all plastered, so this is appropriate]* **...the plaster of the wall of the king's palace. And the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.** *[That's when you would say, you know what?] [I'm done drinking for the night]*

Then *[Verse 6]* **the king's countenance changed** *[Ya think?]* **and his thoughts troubled him, so that the...** *[I love God's word] [It's just so honest]* **...so that the joints of his hips were loosened** *[I'll let you use your imagination on that]* **and his knees knocked against each other."**

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

That's fear. And you can't blame him. I mean, here he's having this huge party. Everybody is just so drunk, laughing, mocking, drinking out of these vessels from Jerusalem, and a hand out of nowhere starts with the fingers writing on the wall. I think my knees would be a knocking too.

Now *verse 7* is interesting. **“The king cried aloud to bring in [*Watch this*] the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers.”**

Stop right there! Jeremiah prophesied this precisely that this is exactly what would happen. There's something I want to point out, though, by way of, again, personal application to our own lives. Isn't it interesting that we'll always bring in or call up everyone but the one we should call upon?

I mean, why is it that we all have this proclivity, and I'll speak for myself, to call upon the Lord but have that be the last resort? Our first response is to call up sister so-and-so or brother so-and-so.

I mean, I just — you know, you call up, you know, your friend, you say, you're not going to believe what happened. I might have had a little bit too much to drink, but just out of nowhere, this hand starts writing on the wall. You know, so we call on everyone but the Lord. And they're going to be of no help as we're about to see.

“The king spoke...”

Now you got these astrologers. These are all magicians and, you know, the soothsayers.

“The king spoke, saying to the wise men of Babylon, “Whoever reads this writing, and tells me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck; and he shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.”

Why the third? Because his dad was Number 1. Belshazzar was Number 2. So I'll give you 3. You'll be third in command. I need you to interpret this though for me.

“Now [*Verse 8*] all the king's wise men came, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king its interpretation. Then [*Verse 9*] King Belshazzar was greatly troubled, his countenance was changed, and his lords were astonished.”

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

Again, if we're there, let's use our God-given imagination. Picture yourself there. There's a lot of people there, and they're all watching this; I'm sure their eyes wide open and their mouths dropping. What is going on? And now these soothsayers and magicians and Chaldeans, they don't know what that writing means. Belshazzar needs to know what it means because obviously, this isn't something you see every day, and he knows it has significance.

Enter verse 10. **"The queen..."** *[Who's she? Well, some believe this is his grandmother, the Queen mother]* **"...because of the words of the king and his lords, came to the banquet hall."**

You'll forgive me for seeing the humor in this, but she's not there. But obviously, word got out. Man, something weird's happening at this party. So the Queen is called upon, and she goes to the banquet hall to see what's going on.

"And the Queen spoke, saying, "O king, live forever! *[This was customary]* Do not let your thoughts trouble you, nor let your countenance change." Translated: Chill out.

Verse 11. Here's why. **"There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the Spirit *[Capitalized]* of the Holy God."** Capitalized. The Holy Spirit, God the Holy Spirit is in this guy, in your kingdom.

"And in the days of your father, *[Your grandfather]* light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him. And King Nebuchadnezzar — *[Your grandfather]* your father the king — made him chief of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers."

You know all the guys that you just called in that were of no help to you, that looked at the handwriting to try to interpret it, and all they could say was, huh? I don't know. Your grandfather appointed this guy as their boss. Why didn't you just go to him? Why did you call on them? He's in your kingdom.

"Inasmuch..." *[Verse 12]*

Am I yelling? I'm not yelling. Am I yelling? I'm sorry. This is very exciting to me. I'm so excited.

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

“Inasmuch [Verse 12] as an excellent spirit...”

Isn't that true of one filled with the Spirit? Excellence, excel. **“...knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas [Puzzles] were found in this...”**

Now this is— for her to call him by his Hebrew name, Daniel, that's very telling. And then for her to go on and sort of qualify it, saying, I call him Daniel. But **“the king gave him the name Belteshazzar, now let Daniel...”**

Did you catch that? I wonder about grandma here. You'll forgive me for wondering about her, but I think she came to a saving knowledge of the God of Israel after her husband, Nebuchadnezzar the king, who we're going to get a history lesson in a second here. It's a very concise history course.

For those of you that don't like history, you're going to like this one. If this was his wife, and it's believed that she was, and that would make her Belshazzar's grandmother, for her to emphasize no less than two times that his name is Daniel, and she's imploring her grandson, the king, to call upon him for the interpretation like your grandfather did and made him and appointed him over all of these other guys. In fact, all you guys get out of here And don't take a drink with you on the way out either.

“...now, let Daniel be called, and he will give the interpretation.”

Now, this is grandma. So the grandson, Belshazzar the king, what's he going to do? Well, he's going to listen to grandma.

So apparently, *verse 13*, **“Then Daniel was brought in before the king. [Good move] [Sort of] The king spoke, and said to Daniel...”**

Now, as I read this, I want you to notice that condescending arrogance that very soon he will eat every word of in the way that he talks down to Daniel.

“Are you that Daniel who is one of the captives [The slaves] from Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah?”

Now, good thing I wasn't there because if that was me, I'd say — no, I'm not gonna tell you what I would say. It's not very pastoral at all.

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

Verse 14, he continues. **“I have heard of you, that the Spirit of God is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. Now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, but they could not give the interpretation of the thing.**

And [*Verse 16*] I have heard of you, that you can give interpretations and explain enigmas. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.”

Now let me have this one, okay? Indulge me for just a moment. He's making the same offer. Like God can be bought. I mean, a chain of gold around your neck. Daniel is between 85 to 88 years old. I think that ship sailed. I mean, you know, maybe in my 20s, maybe. And we're going to see his response here, *verse 17*.

“Then Daniel answered, and said before the king, [*Keep your bling*] [*That's a loose paraphrase*] “Let your gifts be for yourself and give your rewards to another; yet I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation.”

I don't want us to miss this before we move on to *verse 18* because that's where we're going to get a very interesting history lesson because this Belshazzar kid, I don't know how old he is, but he needs to be reminded about what happened to his grandfather.

He knew about it; in fact, it's believed — I just have such a great appreciation for Bible teachers and commentators that do the calculations of about how old someone was. It's believed that Belshazzar, the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, was about 14 years old when that happened, when God humbled him. And so he would've remembered it.

You know, if you're four, that's different. You know, they ask, you know, sometimes what's your earliest memory? And I'm flabbergasted when somebody says, yeah, my earliest memory was when I was like three. I'm like, three? I don't have a memory. And of course, I ruined, you know, I messed it up. You know, never mind. I killed brain cells that I didn't have to spare. And so I'm trying to think. I think I remember graduating high school, barely, but no, but 14.

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

He was 14 years old. So he's about to get this history lesson. But before we get to *verse 18* for that history lesson, real quick one, but good one, I want you to take note of the fact that Daniel is adamant about not taking anything in return. I say that to share this.

Be very careful when it comes to an emphasis being on money on giving in exchange for your love offering of... we'll send you this holy water from the Jordan River, which really came from Costco Iwilei. They make merchandise of the saints.

And by the way, Daniel — this — what an amazing man. I cannot wait to meet this man. He's been kind of, I guess, enjoying. And keep in mind, he's got wealth beyond measure from Nebuchadnezzar, who doubtless lavished him.

And as far as this whole purple robe thing, listen, Belshazzar, with all due respect, I don't need a purple robe for my wardrobe. I've already got like, ten from your grandfather, so.... And the gold chain around my neck? Yeah. No. That's okay. You just give it to somebody else. And that's not why I'm going to interpret this anyway. Because God can't be bought. I'm going to tell you. But that's not why I'm going to tell you. So let's make sure we're clear on that.

Now here comes *verse 18*. **“O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father [Gave it to him] a kingdom and majesty, glory and honor. And because of the majesty that He gave him, [In other words, Nebuchadnezzar did not build this great Babylon, that my hands have built] [No, God gave it to him] all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. [This is how powerful he was, your grandpa] Whomever he wished, he executed; whomever he wished, he kept alive; whomever he wished, he set up; and whomever he wished, he put down.**

But [Verse 20] when his heart was lifted up [Like yours is right now] and his spirit was hardened in pride...” [Boom!]

Mic drop. I'm not going to drop the mic on you, so... Hardened in pride? That's what pride does. Pride hardens. Pride makes you callous and hard and heartless because you're so full of yourself. And his heart had become so hard. Why? Because he was so full of pride. Pride hardens you. Pride blinds you. And pride always leads to, not the fall; that's a haughty spirit leads to a fall. Pride always comes before destruction, without exception.

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

And your grandfather was lifted up and full of pride and hardened in pride. And it led to his destruction, as it always does.

“...he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him. Then he was driven from the sons of men, his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. They fed him with grass like oxen, [He lived like an animal for seven years] and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till he knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men and appoints over it whomever He chooses.

“But you...”

Man, you should underline those two words. And don't point at somebody when you use them. Who's the “but you”? You. It's you.

“But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, [And this really gets me] although you knew all this.”

Oh wait. Wait, wait, wait, wait. Okay, So you were a young whippersnapper, Belshazzar. You were about 14 when this all happened. You didn't even have your driver's license yet. And grandpa's living out like an animal for seven years because God had to humble him because he was so full of pride like you are right now. And he then humbled himself, and God restored him.

And you haven't. And you knew that you should have because you knew about all this. Don't think for a second that anybody in this massive kingdom of Babylon, which is going to fall, that there was anyone that didn't know the story about King Nebuchadnezzar.

In fact, last chapter — last week — I wasn't here last week — whenever it was, I was here. When we did *Daniel Chapter 4*, it was a testimony of Nebuchadnezzar coming to a saving knowledge of the God of Israel. That's what the whole chapter is about. In other words, we're going to see him in heaven.

Why? Because God humbled him, brought him low, and when he realized that God Most High is the one who rules, and he humbled himself because what happens when you humble yourself? God lifts you up. He exalts the humble, but He humbles the exalted. He gives grace to the humble, but He resists the proud.

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

And you, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart. And it's not that you didn't know. You can't use that one because you did know. You should have learned from that and not repeated that. But you did.

“And [Verse 23] you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. [And he's going to get specific] [This is horrific] They have brought the vessels of His house before you, [At your request, by the way] and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know...”

How can they? They made gods in their own image, the antithesis, the opposite of how God has made us in His image. I mean, these were — they were praising these gods they made that are no gods at all. They could put eyes on them. But the god can't see.

And again, let's bring it into the realm of personal application because there's a disconnect that can always ensue when you read something like that. Well, I'm not gonna — I would never do that.

Well, not so fast. We've got gods of wood and stone, and bronze and iron, silver and gold, and chrome rims. What's the master passion of your life? And here God is trying to get your attention. And He has to go to these drastic measures and have a hand appear out of nowhere and write on the wall of your life just to get your attention. You know it's bad when God has to do something like that to get your attention.

Many years ago on the mainland; I know I've shared this — it's been a while, but I was, driving, as I always do. This is when I was on the mainland, and I just — I had my time with the Lord, and I owned my own business at the time, but I needed to get to an appointment.

So I get in the car, running a little bit late. So I'm kind of, well, I'm exceeding the speed limit, not by a lot. And then a car pulls out in front of me and cuts me off. You know, I got praise worship playing.

[Laughter]

I'm singing, you know, Hallelujah! And all of a sudden, my sanctification flees from me. I'd never seen this car before. And it pulled out in front of me. And then you know what

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

happens? They go so S-L-O-W. You know it's deliberate. And so no longer was I exceeding the speed limit. And now I'm even going to be later that I was going to originally be because this car cut me off! And it's going — they're not even going the speed limit, man! They're going like five miles an hour below the speed limit. I think that's evil.

[Laughter]

I'm sorry. If you drive below the speed limit, I love you. You're still saved. God is a forgiving God. We'll pray for you.

[Laughter]

But then God just kind of slowed me down because He wanted to get my attention. How did He get my attention? Well, this particular car had a personalized plate. Oh, come on, just don't get ahead of me. H82W8 "Hate to wait."

What's my point? You know you're in trouble when God has to use a personalized license plate on a car that cuts you off to get your attention. That's really bad. Okay, that's all I'm going to tell you. I did repent. Lasted about a week.

You know what's interesting? It was close in proximity to my house. I know most of the cars and traffic at that time. I never saw that car again. As God as my witness, you know how scripture says you can entertain an angel unaware? I think sometimes you can be cut off by a car driven by an angel unaware. So next time somebody cuts you off ask the Lord about it. You never know.

One more thing on these, gods with a "little g." These are gods that you have to make and create, and then you got to care for them. My favorite one — I'll just be real quick — is when the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant, which — and they put it in the temple of Dagon, their god. And the next morning they get up, they go to the temple and their Dagon god is on its face before the Ark of the Covenant. And it's all buss-up.

So what do they do? This is their god we're talking about. They have to set him back up and glue him back together. You're in trouble when you've got to put your god back together, when you've got a god that you have to take care of, instead of a God who takes care of you,

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

a god you have to put back together, instead of a god that puts you back together, these gods that have eyes but don't see, ears but don't hear, or know.

And this is where I just — (Strong sigh) I love the sanctified strength of what Daniel says next. He's just got done basically saying this to Belshazzar. Do you realize what you did, man? Are you crazy? You — how could you? How dare you? Shame on you!

And then he says this. **“...and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.”**

Please stay with me. Don't miss this. Here you are drinking, getting drunk out of the vessels that were set apart for the worship of God in the temple in Jerusalem, and you're drinking out of them and praising with the breath your gods. And the breath that you're using to praise your gods is held in the hand of the true and living God.

Let that sink in. He holds our breath in His hands. We take breathing for granted, right? Until you have a respiratory infection. Then you really realize how much you take breathing for granted. But do you realize that God — that next breath — in fact, everybody's kind of like holding their breath right now. God holds your breath in His hand. He can take it anytime.

And the breath that He holds in His hand you used to praise these gods. You, you, you used the breath the very breath that the God, the true and living God holds in His hands to blaspheme Him.

Man, you would not have another breath if it were me, which is why I'm not God and you're not God either. That's called mercy. That's called grace. God holds our breath in His hand.

“Then [Verse 24] the fingers of the hand were sent from Him, and this writing was written. And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This [Verse 26] is the interpretation of each word.

[So Daniel speaking] MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; [Your number has been pulled] [Your number came up]

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

TEKEL: *[Verse 27]* **You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting;** *[This is actually a Gospel message in that we're all found wanting in the balances] [The good that we do does not outweigh and we're found wanting]*

[And then] **PERES:** *[Verse 28]* **Your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians."**

Remember the vision of the statue with the head of gold. And then Nebuchadnezzar, pre-conversion, made that image entirely of gold in defiance because the shoulders and the arms were silver. And that was the next succeeding kingdom of the Medes and the Persians. And they're already inside Babylon as they party.

"Then [Verse 29] Belshazzar gave the command and they clothed Daniel with purple [I told you I didn't need one] and put a chain of gold around his neck and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

[Verse 30 and 31] *[As we end the chapter, listen to this]* **That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. [Killed] [Dead] [Finished] [Finito] And [Verse 31] Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old."**

I'm going to be 62 next month. That doesn't mean anything to you. I just — unless you're 62. Happy birthday if you are.

Well, that's interesting because I remember Jeremiah prophesying about this. I remember Isaiah prophesying about this down to the very detail.

So let's come back to our question and personal application. What is it that God is writing on the wall of your life? What is it that He is doing or needing to do in order to get your undivided attention? And it's because He wants to tell you something. He wants to show you something, and He can't do it because He doesn't have your undivided attention. You're just all caught up in the cares and the affairs of this life.

So sometimes He's got to do something pretty extraordinary, like this to get your attention because it's to warn you. It's to warn you of the path that you're on being a path that may seem right to you, but it's the way that leads unto death.

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

There's danger ahead. And I'm trying to get your attention. You're blowing through all the signs. I'm trying to get your attention. Slow down. Stop. Proceed with caution. Watch out! Be careful. Wait! No! Stop! And you're blowing through every single one of them.

So I gotta — I got to get your attention because I love you. And you need to repent. Do a 180. What is it in your life? What is it in my life that God wants to write on the wall of my life?

Let me say it like this, and then we'll partake together of communion. There are those times in our Christian lives when God just choreographs the steps and orchestrates the circumstances in such a way that you see His fingerprints, you see the handprint of God. Don't blow past it. Sometimes it comes in the way of a check in your spirit. Something just doesn't quite rest right and feel right or smell right, doesn't — what do they say — pass the smell test. (Sniffing) You know something just doesn't smell right about this.

Never go against that. That's God trying to get your attention. He's trying to protect you, redirect you from something that could bring catastrophic disaster upon you.

I'll just be candid. I hope it doesn't make you uncomfortable just speaking personally when it comes to humility. I find in my own relationship with the Lord that oftentimes the time when God really has to get my attention is when I'm getting too dangerously close to harboring an attitude of pride. And it comes in very subtle ways.

And I'm hypersensitive to it because I know pride well. I have a Ph.D. in pride. I'm very humble about my pride, remember? And I'm proud of my humility, too. But I'm hypersensitive to pride. And God is always about getting my attention. Be careful. Don't think more highly of yourself than you ought. The proverbial handwriting is on the wall.

What does that mean? You've been weighed. Your number has been pulled, and you've been found wanting. You need to get it right. And if that's what it takes, then so be it. Now that I've got your attention, your undivided attention, we need to talk. We need to settle this. We need to resolve this. This has got to go. I got to get that out of you. I got to kill that in you before that, that is in you, kills you.

Isn't that what they do with cancer? They have to get the cancer out before the cancer kills you. Now, sometimes God, in the spiritual sense, has to get out of our lives that which will

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

take our lives. And if it requires such serious and drastic measures, then God's going to do whatever it takes because He loves us enough.

And think about it like this. And I'm done, and we'll partake of communion. If God didn't love you that much and didn't care, He wouldn't even bother. I'm not going to bother with the whole hand thing. Writing on the wall. I mean, that's pretty dramatic, You know? Nah, just let them.

No. We told our kids growing up that, you know that — of course, you did too as parents. You know, I discipline you because I love you. We'd quote the Scripture in Hebrews, **“God disciplines those whom He loves.”** That's how you know that you're His child because you're not going to spank somebody else's child. If you do, I'd like to know how that ends for you.

I tell you what; you see a parent disciplining their child, you go, that's got to be their child because the parent disciplines the child. Oh, that must be a child of God because they're being disciplined. I wish there were another way. I wish it could be a plaque: Child of God: JD Farag: Child of God.

No, how do you know he's a child of God? God disciplines him. That's how you know he's a child of God. Why does God discipline? Because He loves him.

And we'd tell our kids, you know, we do this because we love you, to which they would usually respond, “Can you love us less?” Maybe we can work this out.

It wouldn't be so — you know because we would also say, “This is going to hurt me more than it's going to hurt you.”

Like a child believes that, right? Well, listen, none of us have to be hurt here. Just we can skip the whole thing, and nobody gets hurt.

No, this is so hard for me. I got — I don't want to do this, but I have to do this.

Why?

Because I love you. I got to get your attention. There's something that I've got to correct and make right and straighten out. So what is that? Let the Holy Spirit search your heart and see if there be anything at all that is keeping you from knowing Him, hearing Him, loving

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

Him, humbling yourself before Him, surrendering to Him, and stop fighting Him, and stop blowing past Him.

Why do I know so much about this? Again because I own this. I can write a book. I'll never write a book, but I can write volumes on this. How many times have I blown past those signs where God is saying "no," only to realize that He was trying to protect me from myself?

You know that expression? "You're your own worst enemy." Oh, my goodness. You know, when you're looking in the mirror, you're looking face-to-face at the enemy. You're the enemy. You're my biggest enemy. Me. I'm my biggest enemy. I'm my worst enemy.

Okay, I said I would stop. So now I'm going to stop and draw your attention to *Luke's Gospel, Chapter 22*. This is the account that we affectionately refer to as the Last Supper.

And Luke writes, by the Holy Spirit, that **"When the hour had come, He [Speaking of Jesus] sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." [He's referring to the Wedding Feast of the Lamb]**

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, [A second time now] I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And He took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

So if you'll, for those of you that are here, take and peel back the top of the packaging. You'll find the bread there, and just hold on to it for a moment. Those online, if you want to get the bread ready, just hold on so we can partake together.

We hold in our hands a symbol, a symbol only of the body of Jesus Christ that was broken. Broken: brokenness always precedes the blessing. Brokenness: something we devalue. Brokenness. If something is broken, we throw it away.

Not in God's economy. God values brokenness. God is close to the broken hearted, the downcast. So brokenness is beautiful in the eyes of God. "The beauty of brokenness," as one said.

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

So His body was broken as a symbol, not His bones, His body. His skin was broken in seven places, the number of completion in order for His blood to be shed, which is what we celebrate with the symbol of the cup.

I want to tie this into our Daniel study this way. What comes packaged with humility is brokenness when God just has to break you. You know, when you break a bone, it grows stronger at the point of the break. Sometimes God just has to break us and remake us stronger and better than we were before.

And there's no other way that He could do that unless He breaks us. He places a high value on brokenness. And broken people are humble people. Stiff-necked people, hardened people are proud people.

Interesting illustration. We'll partake. Bear with me. Roy Hession: His book, 'The Calvary Road' is more of a devotional. I've read it many, many times. He draws upon an illustration from the mission field, where they have these dangerous snakes, which, thank God we don't have on these islands, right? And he would compare it to the worm.

And this was the example. You step on the snake, and it hardens and stiffens, and hisses and strikes, and bites and poisons you. It could kill you. You step on the worm. What happens? It breaks. Question: Are you a snake or a worm? Do you break or do you fight back? Brokenness and humility are roommates if I can say it like that.

So as we partake of the bread broken, let's do so in remembrance of His body, broken in our stead. Would you partake with me? Thank You, Lord. Lord, thank You for this ordinance. Thank You for giving us this to do so that we would remember You and what You did for us. We do forget, and we live like we've forgotten. And we need to be reminded that Your body was broken for us, that You died for us so that You could save us and redeem us for all eternity with the gift of eternal life. And this is a much-needed reminder whenever we partake together.

But it's also a much-needed reminder of the beauty of humility and the beauty of brokenness. Because in Your meekness, in Your brokenness, Lord, You were the example for us of what brokenness and what humility and what meekness looks like and is like.

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

And Lord, we want to be like You, and we're like You when we too are broken, and humble, and meek, and reliant upon You. So Lord, thank You.

Luke goes on to write, and says, **“Likewise He [Again speaking of Jesus] also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”**

Again, for those of you here, if you'll peel back the remainder and just hold on to it. Those of you online, just hold onto the cup for a moment.

I find myself almost repeating myself, I think every time we partake together, but I don't know if it's possible to overstate just how powerful the symbol of the cup is that we hold in our hands. We sing it, we say it, we know it. There is power in the blood. And that's what the cup represents, is His blood shed in our stead.

But do you realize what the implications of that are? See, there's no remission of sin, remission of sin, removing of sin without the shedding of blood. So Jesus said, My blood will be shed in your stead, so yours won't. And not only will My blood be shed; here's why My blood will be shed. It will be for the remission of all of your sins, all sins past, [Eww] all sins present, right now.

Some of you are sinning right now, looking at your watches, going, is he going to go over? That's sin. You need to repent.

[Laughter]

And all sins yet future. They're removed, not covered, removed as far as the east is from the west and God remembers them no more, so much so that when you pray about something you did in the past that you'd already asked for forgiveness for and confessed before God, He already forgave You and cleansed You of — *1 John 1:9* — the Christian bar of soap — **“If we will but confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

That's a good deal. Two-for-one! We only do one thing: confess. And He does two: forgives and cleanses. So you confess your sins. He forgives you. He cleanses you. And then you go back some time later and you ask and confess that sin, and the Lord's like, I forgot all about

Daniel 5
The Handwriting Of God On The Wall Of My Life
Pastor JD Farag

that; you just reminded Me because I remembered it no more until you just reminded Me of it now.

Don't do that. He forgot all about it. He removed it as far as the east is from the west. Now they gotta go fetch the thing. Bring it back. Deal with it again. Really? No. The blood of Jesus Christ washes all of our sins away. Oh, happy day!

As we partake together, let's do so in remembrance of the blood of the New Covenant. The Old Covenant: The blood of the sacrifice only covered sin, but the blood of the New Covenant removes sin. Would you partake with me? Thank You, Lord. Once you do, if you would, please stand. We'll have Kaponu come up. We'll close in prayer and song.

Lord, we're just in awe of You for who You are, what You did all because You love us. You so loved us so much that You would willingly go to the cross and die for us. Greater love has no one than that they would lay down their life for another. And that's the love that You have for us.

And Lord, thank You. What we just did tonight, we did in remembrance of You. But like You, we too fervently desire, eagerly await for that day, that great day *[Can't wait]* when what we just did here tonight will be fulfilled in Your kingdom, at the wedding feast of our marriage to You as the Lamb of God.

So Lord, thank You because I know — I'll even speak and pray for myself in this regard — I need this reminder of what awaits. And partaking of communion is that reminder of what awaits us in glory. No eye has seen. No ear has heard. We can't even fathom. We look through a glass that is blurry and dim, and we can't even fathom what awaits us in glory. And so we await eagerly, fervently desire.

So Lord, can we just ask You to come quickly? Maranatha! Come quickly, Lord Jesus! We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.