

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

The Handwriting On the Wall

Daniel 5:1-31

Introduction: The passage we're going to look at this morning is one of the most frightening, sobering and tragic stories found anywhere in the Bible. Here in the opening verses of chapter five we are invited to go to the royal palace, to a great feast hosted by King Nebuchadnezzar's grandson King Belshazzar. While they are feasting a very strange and frightening thing happens. There appears floating in the air the fingers of a man's hand. Seeing the armless hand, a deathly silence falls over the banquet hall as the king and his guests watch in horror as the fingers begin to write across the plaster wall these words, Mene, Mene Tekel Upharsin. So, what does this strange handwriting on the wall mean? What message was God trying to convey to King Belshazzar, and does this ancient handwriting have any meaning or significance for us today as a nation? Come with me to the party as Daniel interprets for us this mysterious message written by the finger of God.

OUTLINE:

- I. We must not be afraid to speak God's message with _____ and _____.
- II. God is _____ or in control of the rise and fall of nations and leaders.
- III. God _____ the heart of every person to determine what is lacking