

THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

Daniel 5:1-31

Theme of Daniel: The absolute _____ and _____ of the _____ and _____ God.

Six Scenes in a Story about God's Absolute Sovereignty and Man's Need to Be Humble:

1. BELSHAZZAR'S DELUSIONAL DEBAUCHERY (5:1-4)
2. GOD'S TERRIFYING INTERRUPTION (5:5)
3. BELSHAZZAR'S HORRIFIED DESPERATION (5:6-9)
4. DANIEL'S EXEMPLARY REPUTATION (5:10-16)
5. THE HAUNTING INTERPRETATION (5:17-29)
 - **“MENE MENE TEKEL UPHARSIN”**
 - This is the literal message¹: *Numbered, Numbered, Weighed, Divided!*
 - **MENE** ~ God has numbered the days of your kingdom.
 - **TEKEL** ~ God has judged you and found you lacking.
 - **PERES** ~ God has divided your kingdom and given to the Medes and Persians.
 - Or in the modern vernacular:
 - **MENE MENE** ~ *Your number is up!*
 - **TEKEL** ~ *You don't measure up!*
 - **UPHARSIN/PERES** ~ *You will be divided up!*
6. BELSHAZZAR'S DEATH & BABYLON'S DOOM (5:30-31)

¹ Adapted from Dykstra, course notes for BE 607: Daniel