

When Culture and Convictions Collide
Hand Writing On the Wall
September 3, 2023

Daniel 5:1-7 (NIV) King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and **drank wine** with them. While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone. **Suddenly the fingers of a human hand** appeared and **wrote on the plaster of the wall**, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his legs became weak and his knees were knocking. The king summoned the enchanters, astrologers and diviners. Then he said to these wise men of Babylon, “Whoever reads this writing and tells me what it means will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around his neck, and he will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.”

Daniel 5:23-24 Instead, **you have set yourself up against the Lord** of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines **drank wine from them**. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or **understand**. But you did not honor the God who **holds in his hand your life** and all your ways. Therefore, he sent the hand that wrote the **inscription**.

3 Warnings:

- ✓ We need to remember that our days are _____

Daniel 5:26 “This is what these words mean: *Mene*: God has **numbered** the days of your reign and brought it to an **end**.”

Job 9:25 (NCV) My **days go by faster** than a runner; they fly away **without** my seeing any **joy**.

Psalm 39:4-5 (NLT) LORD, remind me how **brief my time on earth** will be. Remind me that my days are **numbered**, and that my life is fleeing away. My life is no longer than the width of my hand. An entire lifetime is just a moment to you; human existence is but a **breath**.

- ✓ We need to remember how easy it is for our lives to get out of _____

Daniel 5:27 “*Tekel*: You have been **weighed** on the scales and found **wanting**.”

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Ecclesiastes 4:6 Better one handful with **tranquility** than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.

- ✓ We need to remember that a mis-managed life will always _____

Daniel 5:28 “*Peres*: Your kingdom is **divided** and given to the Medes and Persians.”

Luke 21:34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with **dissipation**, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and **that day will close on you** unexpectedly like a trap...”

What can we learn from this story?

1. Live _____ and with urgency.

Proverbs 17:24 (GNT) An intelligent person aims at **wise** action, but a fool starts off in many directions.

Psalms 139:16 ...all the days ordained for me were **written in your book** before one of them came to be.

2. Establish your _____, and evaluate often.

Matthew 6:33 “But **seek first** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Matthew 6:11 “Give us **today** our **daily** bread.”

What do I do?

- Read the _____ of God.
- Spend time in worship and _____.
- Think through and _____ your day.

3. Do it _____.

2 Corinthians 6:2 For he says, “In the time of **my favor** I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of **God’s favor**, now is the **day of salvation**.

Walk Away: Today, I will establish right _____ in my life and then I will live _____.

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