

## EXILE: The Writing on the Wall

*Daniel 5:1-31*

- I. God \_\_\_\_\_ our sin when we \_\_\_\_\_ His glory (Daniel 5:1-4).  
A. see Isaiah 47:10-11
- II. God \_\_\_\_\_ our sin, and we should \_\_\_\_\_ when He does (Daniel 5:5-9).  
A. vs 5. *“fingers of a man’s hand”*  
1. Exodus 31:18 - *When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave him the two tablets of the covenant law, the tablets of stone **inscribed by the finger of God.***  
a) see Deuteronomy 9:10  
B. Vs. 7 *“third ruler in the kingdom”*  
1. Belshazzar and his father Nabonidus, where co-kings  
a) Cylinders of Nabonidus: An archeological discovery, containing inscriptions, confirming the Biblical account.
- III. God \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ unrepentant sin, and we are found lacking (Dan. 5:10-28).  
A. Two main themes of Daniel, reiterated:  
1. Yahweh’s supremacy over all earthly powers  
2. Gods people are to remain loyal and set apart (holy), even in exile.  
B. Verses 10-12, is a turning point: Daniel remembered by the Queen  
1. Daniel is around 80 years old.  
2. He no longer serving in kings court
- IV. God deals with our \_\_\_\_\_ sins with appropriate \_\_\_\_\_ (Daniel 5:29-31).  
A. vs 31- *“Darius the Mede”* is dynastic title (King Cyrus)  
B. Belshazzar showed no signs of repentance

## **Babylonian Kingdom:** Nebuchadnezzar to Belshazzar

**605-562 BC** – Nebuchadnezzar (died after 43 of rule)

**561-560 BC** – Evil-Merodach (Nebuchadnezzar's son)

**560-556 BC** – Neriglissar (assassinated the king; brother-in-law)

**555 BC** – Labashi-Marduk (assassinated in first month of rule)

**555-539 BC** – Nabonidus (assassinated previous king; joint rule with son from Arabia; worshipped Sin the moon god)

**553-539 BC** – Belshazzar (co-king with father; ruled over region of Babylon)

**October 11-12, 539 BC** – Babylon falls to king Cyrus of Persia (cf Dan. 5:30-31; *Histories* by Herodotus, 1.191)

## **Life Group Discussion:**

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1. Why do you think we are prone to view ourselves in a higher light than we ought (faultless, skill, philosophically, relationally, etc...)? How can you see this tendency in your own life?
2. How do Belshazzar's actions serve to mock God and His glory? What are some other ways we implicitly mock God's Glory?
3. What are some ways we often try to protect ourselves against God's judgement? How do we try to convince ourselves we are beyond His reach?
4. How are God's acts of discipline also acts of grace?
5. How does Daniel foreshadow Jesus in this passage? In what ways does Jesus more perfectly mediate between God and man than Daniel does?
6. In what ways has God called you to places of leadership? How can you be more like Daniel, and less like Belshazzar?

**Key:**

- I. sees ... mock
- II. confronts ... tremble
- III. exposes ... weighs
- IV. unrepentant ... judgment