

PASTOR
GLEN BARNES

TRAVELING IN BABYLON

READING THE WRITING ON THE WALL
JUNE 18TH, 2023

First
BAPTIST CHURCH • LORE

The Setting:

539BC | Daniel is an old man | King Nebuchadnezzar is dead | New Babylonian Kings Nabonidus/Belshazzar

Daniel 5

“ King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them.” ~ DANIEL 5:1 (NIV)

“ 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. ³ 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. ⁴ As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.”

~ DANIEL 5:2-4 (NIV)

“ 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. ⁶ His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his legs became weak and his knees were knocking.”

~ DANIEL 5:5-6 (NIV)

The Finger of God In Scripture:

• Exodus 8:19 “the magicians said to Pharaoh, ‘This is the finger of God.’” _____

• Exodus 31:18 “When the Lord finished... He gave him the two tablets of the covenant law, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God” _____

• Luke 11:20 “if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” _____

“ But you, Belshazzar, his son, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. ²³ 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. ²⁴ Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription.”

²⁵ “This is the inscription that was written: mene, mene, tekel, parsin”

²⁶ “Here is what these words mean:

Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.

²⁷ Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

²⁸ Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

~ DANIEL 5:22-28 (NIV)

“ That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain, ³¹ and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two.”

~ DANIEL 5:30-31 (NIV)

GOD'S WARNING LABELS IS DANIEL 5

1. Mene: *Numbered*

Warning: Caution, _____.

“ Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are; help us to spend them as we should.” ~ PSALM 90:12 (TLB)

“ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” ~ JOHN 10:10 (NIV)

Key Question:

Am I living _____ ?

2. Tekel: *Weighed*

Warning: Beware, Contents may _____ than they appear.

“ for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.” ~ 1 SAMUEL 2:3B (NIV)

“ A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart.” ~ PROVERBS 21:2 (NIV)

“ Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

~ MATTHEW 6:19-20 (NIV)

Key Question:

Do I value, _____ ?

3. Peres: *Divided*

Warning: Danger, There Are _____.

Biblical principle of reaping and sowing:

“ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”

~ GALATIANS 6:7-8 (NIV)

Belshazzar Missed God's Warning:

“ But you Belshazzar his son, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this.” ~ DANIEL 5:22 (NIV)

Key Question:

Your life Matters! Are you _____ ?

SO WHAT?

“ Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” ~ HEBREWS 3:15a (NIV)

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