

Daniel 5:10-30  
SA230115

**“The Writing is on the Wall – Part II”**

1. We ended last week in verse 9 with Belshazzar in fear and trembling. He literally saw the writing on the wall as the hand of God wrote words that no one was able to interpret.
  - **Today**, we will see his mom, referred to as the “queen mother,” remind him of the holy man Daniel.
2. Belshazzar knew about Daniel and his history with Nebuchadnezzar, but due to his rebellion against God, he had no time for it.
  - **And** this of course is what led to his downfall.
3. And we will see that due to his pride, rebellion against God, and accountability before God, Daniel had no patience or compassion for him.
  - **And** the same is true for those today who truly know better but reject God due to their pride.
4. God is the most forgiving and gracious being in the universe.

- **But** when someone clearly knows better and continues in pride and an evil heart, even HIS patience runs out.
  - **And** this is where Belshazzar was.
5. Nebuchadnezzar was different in that he knew basically nothing about the God of Israel when he met Daniel; he learned through experience and eventually repented.
- **Hence**, Daniel had patience with him.
6. But Belshazzar had no excuse; he now KNEW about the God of Israel because of Nebuchadnezzar and his miraculous conversion, yet he chose to reject and ignore Him.
- **He** was more accountable, and Daniel simply had no time for his foolishness and rebellion to God.

**v.10** The queen here is actually the ‘queen mother’ or Belshazzar’s mom.

**v.11** 1. Notice she reminds him that his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar made Daniel the “chief” of all of the wise men.

- **Yet**, rather than calling for Daniel first which he should have done, he had not thought of calling Daniel at all due to his rebellion to God.

2. You see, as we said, he KNEW about Daniel and his God.

- **But** he was purposely avoiding Him, insulting Him, and blaspheming Him.

3. And there will always be those who although they have heard of the God of the Bible and what His Word says, they do their best to avoid Him.

- **But** rest assured, there will come a day when they'll have no choice but to come face to face with Him and answer to Him.

- **And** this is Belshazzar's day.

4. And actually by this time we have had no Scriptural reference to Daniel for about 20 years.

- **He** is now in his 80s. It would be easy to think that God is done with him.
- **However, he** will not only be used in a major way, but he will still face the lion's den up ahead!

3. What's my point?

- **Although** you may feel that God is done with you and has not used you for a while, continue to be faithful and the time will come when God will once again bring you forward.
- **We** can take heart that God will use us even in our older ages!

**v.12** 1. So as much as he wanted to avoid this God of the Bible and His servant Daniel, he eventually had nowhere else to turn for answers.

- **And** this will be the case for many of those you now know who do everything they can to avoid the God of the Bible.

2. All people eventually come to a place in their lives where there is simply no other alternative than to look to the God of the Bible.

- **The** uncertain part is what they choose to do with Him.

**v.14** How fake!

- **Of** course he had heard of him!

**v.17** “I don’t want your money, and the wisdom of God cannot be bought at a price”.

- **Quite** a rebuke for a King.

2. And while we are to come under our governing authorities, it does not mean there are not times when we are to rebuke our authorities for their sin.

- **The** level and type of rebuke depends on the level and type of understanding and rebellion the authority is in.

- **And** Daniel gets firm with this foolish king because of his knowledge, level of accountability, and willful rebellion toward God.

3. Notice, I won't take your wicked rewards...

- **But** I will explain your coming judgement.

**v.22** Nebuchadnezzar eventually humbled himself, but you never did even though you knew all that happened to him.

**v.23** 1. God, whom you knew to be the one Who brought judgement on Nebuchadnezzar, you have not feared but have gone even farther than Nebuchadnezzar did and mocked Him.

- **Even** Nebuchadnezzar did not do that!

2. And notice Daniel says that God holds your very breath.

- **Which** is true of all of us.
- **Unless** God gave of us the ability to breathe none of us would be able to.

3. Yet isn't it interesting that the very breath God gives is often used to mock and curse Him rather than praise, honor, and thank Him for it.

- **What** incredible love, grace, and kindness that He doesn't just wipe them out!

**v.29** 1. What kind of position is the 3<sup>rd</sup> greatest in a falling kingdom.

- **This** is like making someone 3<sup>rd</sup> in command of the Titanic while it's sinking!

**v.31** 1. "That very night."

- **History** tells us that is exactly what happened.

2. While the party raged, Cyrus the Great had ingeniously begun his plan to overthrow the city.

- **The** Euphrates River entered the city under the walls of Babylon and had metal bars and gates that went below the water line so no one could enter.

3. However, on this night Cyrus had diverted the Euphrates upstream into a nearby lake, causing the water level to drop low enough for his troops to simply walk under the gates in the water and enter the city.

- **And** that's exactly what his army did under the direction of his commander Ugbaru.

4. The night was October the 12<sup>th</sup> 539 BC. The troops went under the wall in the Euphrates River, and to their pleasant surprise, the inside river gates had been left open to the city. They simply pushed them open and walked in!

- **So** while the nobles and leaders were all drunk, those on guard had neglected their duties and forgotten to lock the gates on the inside.
5. The city was easily taken without even a battle.
- **They** simply walked in, killed the leadership and all other opposition, and took over.
  - **Which** also meant they didn't have to destroy the city. This left it intact for them as they took it over.
6. And because the city was so large and there was no battle, there were many who didn't find out they had been conquered for days or weeks!
- **But** what's even more exciting is that Isaiah predicted every bit of this in detail 150 years before it happened!
7. Speaking prophetically of this event in **Isaiah 44:24-45:4**, God goes so far as to name the incoming king by name!
- <sup>24</sup>Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer and He who formed you from the womb: "I *am* the LORD, who makes all *things*, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself;  
<sup>25</sup>Who frustrates the signs of the babblers and drives diviners mad; Who turns wise men backward and makes their knowledge foolishness; <sup>26</sup>Who

confirms the word of His servant and performs the counsel of His messengers; Who says to Jerusalem, 'You shall be inhabited,' To the cities of Judah, 'You shall be built,' And I will raise up her waste places; <sup>27</sup>Who says to the deep, 'Be dry! And I will dry up your rivers'; <sup>28</sup>Who says **of Cyrus**, '*He is My* shepherd and he shall perform all **My** pleasure. Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." "Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—To subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings. To open before him the double doors so that the gates will not be shut: <sup>2</sup>'I will go before you and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron. <sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places that you may know that I, the LORD, Who call *you* by your name, *Am* the God of Israel. <sup>4</sup>For Jacob My servant's sake, and Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me."

8. Wow!

- **And** as we noted with Nebuchadnezzar, this shows us that God uses even unbelievers as His servants!



**v.31** 1. So if God said “Cyrus” would conquer, why is Darius said to take over?

- **Because** Cyrus led the invasion and battle, but both Cyrus and Darius shared rulership over the Kingdom as the Medes and the Persians.

2. As we finish today, maybe God has convicted you that just like Belshazzar, this is your moment.

- God is not allowing you to run any longer and has brought you face to face with Him in the Spirit and is asking you to make a decision.