



Go for God!

“GREAT LESSONS IN LIFE!”

Daniel Chapter 5

Intro: Jeremiah’s prophecy (Jer. 27:6-7) comes true in Daniel Chapter 5, “And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant; and the beasts of the field I have also given him to serve him. So all nations shall serve him and his son and his son's son, until the time of his land comes; and then many nations and great kings shall make him serve them.”

> BABYLON – PAST – PRESENT - FUTURE

- *The Founding of Babylon* - The Bible’s first mention of Babylon comes in Genesis 10. This chapter is referred to as the table of nations as it traces the descendants of Noah’s three sons. In the genealogy of Ham, “Cush was the father of Nimrod, who grew to be a mighty warrior on the earth” (Genesis 10:8). Nimrod founded a kingdom that included a place called “Babylon” in Shinar (Genesis 10:10).

- *The Tower of Babel* - The Tower of Babel is found in Genesis 11. In English it is easy enough to make the connection between “Babel” and “Babylon,” but in Hebrew it is the same word. This chapter cements Babylon’s reputation as a city of rebellion against God. From then on, the biblical writers consistently use Babylon as a symbol of evil and defiance (see 1 Peter 5:13 and Revelation 17:5).

- *Babylon’s Early Growth* - Near the time of Abraham, Babylon became an independent city-state ruled by the Amorites. The first Babylonian dynasty included Hammurabi, the sixth king, known for his code of laws. Hammurabi expanded the kingdom, and the area around Babylon became known as Babylonia. During the second dynasty, Babylon was in communication with Egypt and entered a 600-year struggle with Assyria. After a time of subjugation to the Elamite Empire, a fourth dynasty of Babylonian kings thrived under Nebuchadnezzar I. Then Babylon fell under the shadow of Assyria.

- *Babylon’s Ascendancy* - By 851 B.C., Babylon was only nominally independent, requiring Assyrian “protection” and facing many internal upheavals. Finally, the Assyrian Tiglath-pileser III took the throne. The Assyrians and Merodach-baladan, a Chaldean, traded power more than once. During one of his times of advantage, Merodach-baladan sent emissaries to threaten Hezekiah, king of Judah (2 Kings 20:12-19; Isaiah 39). When the Chaldean chief Nabopolassar took control of Babylon in 626 B.C., he proceeded to sack Nineveh, the capital of Assyria.

- *Nebuchadnezzar II’s Conquest of Judah* - Under the Chaldean dynasty, and, arguably, throughout the rest of history, no king surpassed the glory and absolute

power of Nebuchadnezzar II's reign. As the crown prince (son of Nabopolassar), he defeated Pharaoh Necho II, who had come to the aid of the Assyrian army, winning for Babylonia the former Assyrian lands, including Israel. After being crowned king, Nebuchadnezzar forced King Jehoiakim of Judah to "become his vassal for three years. But then [Jehoiakim] changed his mind and rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar" (2 Kings 24:1). The king of Babylon, who did not take kindly to being rebelled against, captured Jerusalem and took the king and other leaders, military men and artisans as prisoners to Babylon (2 Kings 24:12-16). This deportation marked the beginning of the Babylonian exile of the Jews.

Nebuchadnezzar appointed Zedekiah to rule Judah. However, Zedekiah, against the prophet Jeremiah's counsel, joined the Egyptians in a revolt in 589 B.C. This resulted in Nebuchadnezzar's return. The remaining Jews were deported, Jerusalem was burned, and the temple was destroyed in August of 587 B.C. (Jeremiah 52:1-30).

- *The Prophet Daniel and the Fall of Babylon* - Babylon is the setting for the ministry of the prophets Ezekiel and Daniel, who were both deportees from Judah. Daniel became a leader and royal advisor to the Babylonian and Persian Empires. He had been captured after the battle of Carchemish in 605 B.C. (Jeremiah 46:2-12). The book of Daniel records Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2) and foretells the fall of Babylon to the Medes and the Persians (Daniel 5). Earlier, the prophet Isaiah had also foretold the fall of Babylon (Isaiah 46:1-2).

- *Conclusion* - In the Bible, Babylon is mentioned from Genesis to Revelation, as it rises from its rebellious beginnings to become a symbol of the Antichrist's evil world system. When God's people required discipline, God used the Babylonian Empire to accomplish it, but He limited Judah's captivity to 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11). Then, God promised to "*punish the king of Babylon and his nation*" (Jeremiah 25:12) "*for all the wrong they have done in Zion*" (Jeremiah 51:24). Ultimately, all evil will be judged, as symbolized by Babylon's demise in Revelation 18:21: "The great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again."

> *Life Lesson #1 – Don't Party at "Club Judgment" (v1-9)*
(Date: Approximately B.C. 539)

(v1) Who is BELSHAZZAR? His name means *Bel, protect the king*. The Babylonian god *Bel* (Isaiah 46:1; Jeremiah 50:2; 51:44) is the same as Marduk, the chief Babylonian god. The Babylonian god Merodach (Jeremiah 50:2), an alternate spelling of Marduk, was the god of war and the patron deity of the city of Babylon. Belshazzar is the oldest son of Nabonidus and the last king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire (Daniel 5:1-2; 7:1; 8:1); his grandfather was Nebuchadnezzar, it was common to call a patriarch of the family or nation "father," which we'll read of reference to Nebuchadnezzar in regard to Belshazzar.

(R.E.M. song - It's the end of the world as we know it (I had some time alone)
It's the end of the world as we know it (I had some time alone)
It's the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine (It's time I had some time alone) I feel fine (I feel fine))

(v2-4) Three STRIKES you're out:

- STRIKE 1 – *Drunkness and Immorality*
- STRIKE 2 – *Sacrilege*
- STRIKE 3 – *Blasphemy*

(v5-9) God's judgment: "*The handwriting is on the wall.*" and God's handwriting is on some very sacred tablets - Exodus 31:18 - *And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.*

- The "*finger of God*" gave humanity THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. The TEN COMMANDMENTS represent GOD'S GOVERNMENT OVER MAN! GOD commands us for our own good to give up wrongs and not rights! HIS system always results in LIBERTY and FREEDOM! The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are built on this foundation, which provides for punitive justice. It is not until one damages another's person or property that he can be punished. The Marxist system leads to bondage and GOD'S system leads to LIBERTY! Read very carefully:

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath to keep it Holy.
5. Honor thy father and mother.
6. Thou shalt not murder.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.
10. Thou shalt not covet.

- On the building of the Supreme Court and directly above the Chief Justice's chair in the Supreme Court is a tablet signifying the TEN COMMANDMENTS. When the Speaker of the House in the U.S. Congress looks up, his/her eyes look into the face of Moses.

SUPREME COURT BUILDING



“The Bible is the Book upon which this Republic rests.”—Andrew Jackson, Seventh President of the United States.

“The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.”—Noah Webster

- The handwriting of man gives humanity THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO:

The Communist Manifesto represents a misguided philosophy, which teaches the citizens to give up their RIGHTS for the sake of the “common good,” but it always ends in a police state. This is called preventive justice. Control is the key concept. Read carefully:

1. Abolition of private property.
2. Heavy progressive income tax.
3. Abolition of all rights of inheritance.
4. Confiscation of property of all emigrants and rebels.
5. Central bank.
6. Government control of Communication & Transportation
7. Government ownership of factories and agriculture.
8. Government control of labor.
9. Corporate farms, regional planning.
10. Government control of education

- **The Psalmist declares** - *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.”—Psalm 33:12*
- Jesus said in Luke 11:20 - **But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.**
- The finger of God can condemn us or save us! **Let us read Matthew 8:1-12.**
- How about Revelation 20:11-15 - *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. **And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.** The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.***

> **Life Lesson #2 – Let us learn from Daniel’s TESTIMONY! (v10-17)**

- The Spirit of the **Holy God** was found in him! (v11a)
- **Light**, understanding and **wisdom** was found in him! (v11b)
- He was a **leader**! (v11c)
- An **excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas!** (v12)
- He was not interested in the things of the world, only **God’s Kingdom** and the **eternal rewards!** (v17)

> **Life Lesson #3 – Let us learn from Daniel’s WITNESS! (v18-31)**

(v18-21) Daniel’s history lesson (same sin/different man). (Proverbs 1:7-33)

(v22-24) Daniel pronounces the sin of Belshazzar: **Pride—Sacrilige—blasphemy!**

(v25-29) Daniel reveals God’s judgment:

- “MENE” (declared twice) – *“God has **numbered** your kingdom, and finished it”*
- “TEKEL” – *“You have been weighed in the balances, and found **wanting**”*

- “PERES” – “Your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians.” (“Peres” means to divide; “Upharsin” – u is Aramaic for and; “Persians” comes from paras, this is written as prediction.)

(v30-31) Belshazzar’s last party, the king was slain. No one knows the day or hour of their death, remember when Jesus told the parable of the worldly wealthy man in Luke 12:16-21 - *Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

(BABYLON - In the Old Testament the prophetic books of Isaiah and Jeremiah predicted the downfall of the city of Babylon. This would happen as God's punishment of the Babylonians because of their destruction of Jerusalem and their deportation of the citizens of Judah (Isaiah 14:22; 21:9; 43:14; Jeremiah 50:9; 51:37). Today, the ruins of this ancient city stand as an eloquent testimony to the passing of proud empires and to the providential hand of God in history.)

- Psalm 146 reads, *Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!*

2 While I live I will praise the Lord; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

3 Do not put your trust in princes, Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.

4 His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; In that very day his plans perish.

5 Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the Lord his God,

6 Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever,

7 Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry. The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.

8 The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; The Lord raises those who are bowed down; The Lord loves the righteous.

9 The Lord watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow; But the way of the wicked He turns upside down.

10 The Lord shall reign forever — Your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!

¹ Daniel, The Key to Prophetic Revelation by John Walvoord