

## Introduction

Good morning Arising Church! Today is June 14th, 2026.

We are living in extraordinary times and they are calling for extraordinary men and women of faith. Does anybody love wisdom in this house?

We are a people who desire to be wise. We want to understand what the Lord's will is and what His desires are for us during the times that we are living in. We are going to travel back in time to a man whose life this church is about to become intimately familiar with. Turn in your Bibles to Daniel chapter 5 as we begin our message titled:



## Daniel 5

<sup>1</sup>King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand.

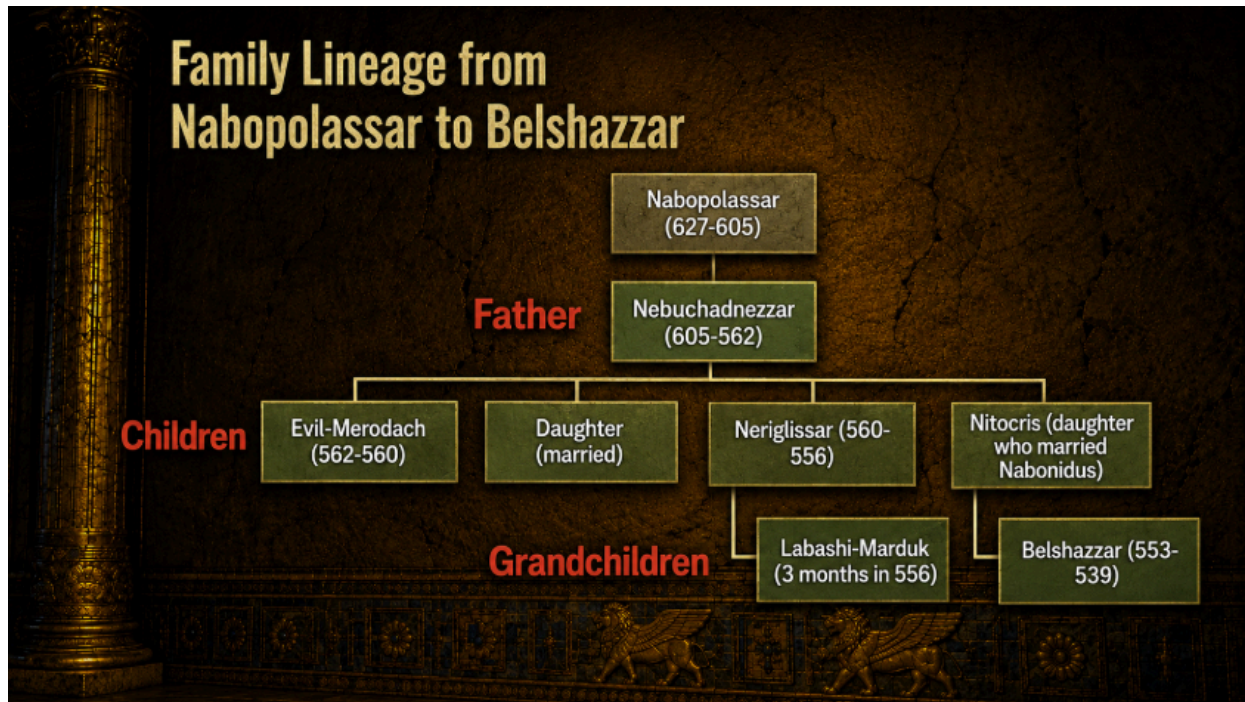
<sup>2</sup>Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. <sup>3</sup>Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. <sup>4</sup>They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

<sup>5</sup>Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote. <sup>6</sup>Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together. <sup>7</sup>The king called loudly to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers. The king declared to the wise men of Babylon, "Whoever reads this writing, and shows me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom." <sup>8</sup>Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation. <sup>9</sup>Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, and his color changed, and his lords were perplexed.

<sup>10</sup>The queen, because of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting hall, and the queen declared, "O king, live forever! Let not your thoughts alarm you or your color change. <sup>11</sup>There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and

astrologers, <sup>12</sup> because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.”

**(EXPLANATION OF SLIDE BELOW)**



- This simplification serves to illustrate that there are essentially 3 generations of Babylonian Kings from Nebuchadnezzar to Belshazzar whether we are speaking of genetic descent or the more Babylonian reckoning of seeing successors as sons. The point is you can see Nebuchadnezzar, a son who rules and a grandson who rules. We will dive more deeply into this in foundations.
- Jeremiah summarized this process years in advance of the events by saying:

**Jeremiah 27:6–7 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> Now I will give all your countries into the hands of my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; I will make even the wild animals subject to him. <sup>7</sup> All nations will **serve him** and **his son** and **his grandson** until the time for his land comes; then many nations and great kings will subjugate him.

- In Daniel 5, that we just read, the time that Jeremiah announced has come for Babylon to be subjugated as the prophet had said.

Daniel already knew going into this meeting what the Scripture said. In addition, consider this:

**(DO NOT READ)**



<b>Chronology of Daniel</b>	
<b>Chapter 1</b>	Babylonian Captivity and Training in Babylon
<b>Chapter 2</b>	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream and Interpretation
<b>Chapter 3</b>	Nebuchadnezzar's Image and the Fiery Furnace
<b>Chapter 4</b>	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of a Tree, Interpretation, and Pride
<b>Chapter 7</b>	The Dream of the Four Beasts and Interpretation
<b>Chapter 8</b>	The Vision of the Ram and the Goat and Interpretation
<b>Chapter 5</b>	The Writing on the Wall: Babylon Falls to Persians
<b>Chapter 9</b>	Daniel's Prayer and Vision of Seventy Weeks
<b>Chapter 6</b>	The Lions' Den
<b>Chapters 10-12</b>	Closing Visions

Chapter 5 is not chronological but occurs when Daniel is 81 years old and is well versed in the Scripture. Walking into this meeting, Daniel already knows that Babylon will fall and it's time has come.

<sup>13</sup> Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king answered and said to Daniel, “You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah. <sup>14</sup> I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. <sup>15</sup> Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, but they could not show the interpretation of the matter. <sup>16</sup> But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.”

<sup>17</sup> Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation.

This happened multiple times in Daniel's life. His knowledge of the scripture caused him to understand the writing on the walls. He knew there was a transition of kingdoms coming.

- He knew the kingdom will fall so he didn't need anything
- Daniel alone can interpret the writing because he knows the scripture
- This is our attitude today, why would I want to be great in a world that is crumbling

**Daniel 9:1-3 ESV**

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the Babylonian Kingdom— <sup>2</sup>in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

<sup>3</sup>Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

- Daniel was once again able to read “the writing on the wall” and discern that the desolation of Jerusalem would last 70 years.
- The scriptures also informed him of how Babylon would be overthrown and what the incoming king Cyrus would accomplish.
- It was his knowledge of and insight into the scriptures that gave him wisdom and discernment to read “the writing on the wall”

Most people are familiar with the men of Issachar at this point:

### **1 Chronicles 12:32 (LSB)**

Of the sons of Issachar, men who knew *how to* discern the times, to know what Israel should do, their chiefs *were* two hundred; and all their relatives *were* at their command.

People reference the men of Issachar understanding the times frequently but what it concerned was the transfer of kingship from Saul to David. There was a change happening in the kingdom. They could read the writing on the wall.

Look at what Daniel receives from the Lord concerning the last days:

### **Daniel 11:32-35 ESV**

He shall seduce with flattery (**smooth words LSB**) those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm (**display strength LSB**) and take action. **33** **And the wise among the people shall make many understand,** though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder. **34** When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery, **35** and some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time.

- Think of the smooth words that Belshazzar spoke to Daniel with.
- The wise shall make people understand...they will be able to discern what's going on...the shifts that are happening in kingdoms

As Daniel continues in chapter 12 verse 3

### **Daniel 12:3 (ESV)**

And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

- The wise who are teaching others are turning many to righteousness

So this is what the righteous will do. But let's take time to remember what Deuteronomy 32 the unforgettable song tells us that the ignorant will do:

**PUT THIS UP WHILE WE READ DEUT 32:21**



### **Deuteronomy 32:21 (ESV)**

They have made me jealous with what is no god;  
they have provoked me to anger with their idols.  
So I will make them jealous with those who are no people;  
I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

**The ignorant or foolish will be making Israel angry.**

**Remember what Paul says as he references this passage in Romans 11:**

**I do not want you to be ignorant** of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in,

***In other words the expectation is that we GENTILES would be informed from the scriptures and understand what is going on with Israel and what we must do. That we would be able to read the writing on the wall.***

Daniel was not a mystic in his time, he simply knew the scriptures. Paul states that he does not want us to be ignorant in our time regarding our relationship with Israel.

This requires us to know the scripture so we might know what to do now.

We want to make known the end from the beginning — Paul says I make much of my ministry among the gentiles to arouse Israel to jealousy that some of them might be saved — we are going to see how we as gentiles' play a role in the salvation of Israel.

We want to take you back to the first national salvation of Israel to see a recurring motif that ultimately carries implications for us today.

- **Exodus 14:19-20 NIV**

<sup>19</sup>Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, <sup>20</sup>coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the

cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

- The angel of God, and Pillar of cloud became a wall between Israel and Pharaoh's armies.

- **Exodus 14:21-22 NIV**

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, <sup>22</sup>and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

- The Lord was a wall all around the people
- The water became walls on each side of Israel.

- **Exodus 14:30 NIV**

<sup>30</sup>That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore.

- The first mention of salvation applying to the nation of Israel.
- At the birth of the Nation, God was a wall to them.

Consider this moment and how it would shape the view of walls for Israel.

The Lord was the One who was their wall and salvation. He was the one who protected them!

## Saving walls, defensive walls

Now let's go to possibly the most well known story concerning Israel's walls, in Nehemiah, and watch how foolish gentiles anger and provoke Israel when they are in the midst of rebuilding their walls.

- **Nehemiah 2:19–20 (LSB)**

19 But Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard it. And they mocked us and despised us and said, “What is this thing you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?”

20 So I responded to them with a word and said to them, “The God of heaven will give us success; therefore we His slaves will arise and build, but **you have no portion, right, or remembrance in Jerusalem.**”

- **Ignorant gentiles** seeking to disrupt the work to build the wall - antagonize, belittle, and mock the builders.
- Nehemiah's response: God will give us success but as for you, you have **NO** portion, **NO** right, and **NO** remembrance in Jerusalem.
- The wall represents defense, identity, and covenant belonging.
- As these Ignorant gentiles belittled, antagonized, and mocked— they were divided from and separated because of their own ignorance to the work of God.

Let's take a look at a contrast we see during the millennial reign when gentiles are no longer ignorant to the plan of God to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

- **Isaiah 60:10 (NIV)**

10 “Foreigners will rebuild your walls,  
and their kings will serve you.

Though in anger I struck you,  
in favor I will show you compassion.

- The nations will participate in rebuilding Jerusalem:  
**“Foreigners will rebuild your walls”**.
- No longer ignorant foreigners who provoke them to anger, but they actually understand the times and help rebuild the walls.
- What does the Lord's compassion on Israel look like? — The Nations flooding in to help rebuild the City of God.

- **Isaiah 60:18 (NIV)**

18 No longer will violence be heard in your land,  
nor ruin or destruction within your borders,  
but you will call your walls Salvation  
and your gates Praise.

- Yet those same walls are redefined: **“You will call your walls Salvation**
- And gentiles helped build these walls. And now they are being called salvation.

- Look at what the Gates are being called. The place where you go in and out of the city is called **“Praise”**
  - **Consider how when these gentiles who are discerning, come to rebuild the walls it causes praise in and out of the city!**

- **Zechariah 2:11 (NIV)**

11 “Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you.

- At the same time, the nations are no longer merely outside observers: **“Many nations will be joined to the LORD in that day and will become my people”**.
- Many nations will be joined to the Lord. How are we joined to the nation of Israel? Through the Lord. We are joined to what he has been doing, not replacing what God was doing. We are joined TO HIS PEOPLE. What a privilege that we get to participate in his work.
- Such a difference from the Gentiles in Nehemiah's day (sanbalat and tobias)
- The Sign that the Lord is with Israel is that Gentiles have come in.

- **Isaiah 56:1–8 (LSB)**

1 Thus says Yahweh,  
**“Keep justice and do righteousness,  
 For My salvation is about to come**

**And My righteousness to be revealed.**

2 “How blessed is the man who **does** this,  
And the son of man who takes hold of it,  
**Who keeps from profaning the sabbath,**  
**And keeps his hand from doing any evil.”**

3 Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to  
Yahweh say,

“Yahweh will surely separate me from His people.”  
Nor let the eunuch say, “Behold, I am a dry tree.”

4 For thus says Yahweh,  
“To the eunuchs **who keep** My sabbaths,  
And **choose what pleases** Me,  
And **hold fast** My covenant,

**5 To them I will give in My house and within My walls**  
**a memorial,**  
**And a name better than that of sons and daughters;**  
**I will give them an everlasting name which will not be cut off.**

6 “Also the foreigners who join themselves to Yahweh,  
To minister to Him, and **to love the name** of Yahweh,  
To **be His slaves**, every one **who keeps** from profaning the  
sabbath  
And **takes hold** of My covenant,

(these are the same words...it's not just foreigners, it's the sons of  
foreigners exactly the same as in Isaiah!)



7 Even those I will bring to My holy mountain  
And make them glad in My house of prayer.

Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on  
My altar;

For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the  
peoples.”

8 **Lord Yahweh, who gathers the banished of Israel,  
declares,**

**“Yet others I will gather to them, to those already gathered.”**

- Consider how those foreigners who **did righteousness** will have portion in the house and be brought to the Holy Mountain, will have a right to sacrifice, and will not be cut off but remembered
- Contrast these **righteous foreigners/Gentiles** who are welcomed into God’s Kingdom, to those who are ignorant and continually

belittle, antagonize and mock God's people and the rebuilding of the walls in Nehemiah 2.

- The discerning gentiles living righteously are included— having a **portion** and **right** and **REMEMBRANCE** in Jerusalem **VS.** The ignorant gentiles who act against Israel have **NO portion, NO right, and NO remembrance** in Jerusalem.

### **Reiterate Daniel 11 and 12**

#### **Daniel 11:33a (ESV)**

33 And the wise among the people shall make many understand,

- On a very practical level, this requires us to understand the scriptures, read the writing on the wall and know what we must do.

- **Daniel 12:3 (NIV)**

3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

- Shining like the stars are their deeds
- Matthew 5:16 ESV

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

We want to show you something beautiful in paleo hebrew



In the same way we saw salvation being connected to walls, we want to show you that brothers are a strong wall.

What does it mean to be a brother? A strong wall

- Defense, protection, support.

## Conclusion

- **Romans 12:1 (LSB)**

1Therefore I exhort you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy, and pleasing to God, which is your **spiritual (rational)** service of worship.

- In light of Romans 11, us being righteous gentiles who see the writing on the wall because of scripture.....THEREFORE this is what we ought to do.

## Righteous Gentiles

- Examples in the word (rapid fire)

Name	Nation / People	Scripture Reference	What They Did / Modern Standard
Rahab	Canaanite / Jericho	Joshua 2; 6:25; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25	Risked her life to protect Israel's spies because she feared YHWH. Modern standard: protect Jewish life when your own people oppose it.
Ruth	Moabite	Ruth 1-4; Matthew 1:5	Clung to Naomi, Israel, and Israel's God, then served humbly and faithfully. Modern standard: refuse to abandon the Jewish people in grief or vulnerability.
Pharaoh's daughter	Egyptian	Exodus 2:5-10	Preserved Moses from Pharaoh's genocidal decree. Modern standard: protect Jewish children when the powers of the age target them.
Jethro	Midianite	Exodus 18:9-27	Rejoiced in YHWH's deliverance, worshiped Him, and strengthened Israel's leadership. Modern standard: honor Israel's God and help Israel's leaders carry the burden wisely.
Caleb	Kenizzite, incorporated into Judah	Numbers 13-14; Numbers 32:12; Joshua 14:6-14	Fully followed YHWH, rejected fear, and took inheritance by faith. Modern standard: stand with God's promise concerning Israel even when the majority report is fearful.
Ittai the Gittite	Gath / Philistine	2 Samuel 15:19-23; 18:2	Followed David when David was rejected and vulnerable. Modern standard: stand with the Jewish king and God's people at their lowest point.
Uriah the Hittite	Hittite	2 Samuel 11:6-17; 23:39	Showed covenant integrity and solidarity with Israel's army. Modern standard: display loyalty and moral clarity even when leaders fail.
Ebed-Melech	Cushite / Ethiopian	Jeremiah 38:7-13; 39:15-18	Rescued Jeremiah from death and was personally honored by God. Modern standard: use your position to save a persecuted Jewish prophet or righteous voice.
Cyrus	Persian	Isaiah 44:28; 45:1-4; Ezra 1:1-4	Released the Jews from exile and authorized rebuilding the temple. Modern standard: use political power to restore Jewish worship, land, and security.
Roman centurion of Capernaum	Roman	Luke 7:1-10; Matthew 8:5-13	Loved the Jewish nation, helped build a synagogue, and was praised by Jesus for great faith. Modern standard: materially support Jewish worship and approach Israel's Messiah humbly.
Cornelius	Roman / Italian cohort	Acts 10	Feared God, prayed, gave generously to the Jewish people, and became the first named Gentile household to receive the Spirit. Modern standard: combine prayer, generosity toward Israel, and obedience to revelation.
Hiram king of Tyre	Phoenician / Tyre	2 Samuel 5:11; 1 Kings 5; 2 Chronicles 2	Aided David and Solomon, supplying materials for the temple. Modern standard: use wealth, trade, skill, and diplomacy to build what honors the God of Israel.
Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre	Amorites	Genesis 14:13, 24	Covenant-allies of Abraham who helped him rescue Lot. Modern standard: become a covenant friend who stands with Abraham's family in battle.
Joseph's steward	Likely Egyptian	Genesis 43:16-25; 44:1-13	Remained nameless but helped administer the testing and reconciliation of Joseph's brothers. Modern standard: serve quietly behind the scenes to help Jewish family reconciliation come to pass.

- Modern day examples (slow down, emphasize modern application)

Name	Nation	Year(s)	Story / Modern Standard	Site References
Raoul Wallenberg	Sweden / Hungary rescue work	1944-1945	A Swedish diplomat in Budapest, Wallenberg issued protective passports, established safe houses, and directly intervened at deportation sites and death marches to pull Jews out of Nazi hands. He used every ounce of diplomatic authority, personal courage, and improvisation he had to save thousands of Hungarian Jews. Modern standard: spend your office, status, and protection for Jewish life when law and order collapse.	Yad Vashem - Righteous Among the Nations database; United States Holocaust Memorial Museum - Holocaust Encyclopedia
Chiune Sugihara	Japan / Lithuania rescue work	1940	Sugihara was the Japanese vice-consul in Kaunas, Lithuania. Against his government's instructions, he issued transit visas that enabled Jewish refugees to escape through the Soviet Union and onward to safety. He kept writing visas even as he was leaving. Modern standard: choose conscience over career when bureaucracy becomes an instrument of death.	Yad Vashem - Righteous Among the Nations database; United States Holocaust Memorial Museum - Holocaust Encyclopedia
Irena Sendler	Poland	1942-1943	A Polish social worker, Sendler helped smuggle Jewish children out of the Warsaw Ghetto, placing them with Polish families, convents, and orphanages. She preserved records of their names in hopes of reuniting them with surviving relatives after the war. Modern standard: protect children, preserve identity, and risk yourself for the vulnerable.	Yad Vashem - Righteous Among the Nations database; United States Holocaust Memorial Museum - Holocaust Encyclopedia
Corrie ten Boom	Netherlands	1943-1944	Corrie ten Boom and her family hid Jews in their home in Haarlem, helping them avoid arrest and deportation. The family's resistance work led to arrest; Corrie and Betsie were sent to Ravensbrück, where Betsie died. Corrie survived and later testified widely about costly Christian mercy and forgiveness. Modern standard: make your home a refuge and accept suffering rather than betray the persecuted.	Yad Vashem - Righteous Among the Nations database; Corrie ten Boom House / official museum resources
André and Magda Trocmé (Le Chambon-sur-Lignon)	France	1940-1944	Pastor André Trocmé, his wife Magda, and the Protestant village network of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon helped shelter, feed, and move Jews to safety during the Holocaust. Their leadership helped make rescue a normal pattern of communal obedience rather than a rare heroic exception. Modern standard: build a whole culture of refuge in which protecting Jews becomes ordinary faithfulness.	Yad Vashem - Righteous Among the Nations database; United States Holocaust Memorial Museum - Holocaust Encyclopedia; Le Chambon Foundation / historical resources

- Proverbs 31:8-9 NIV

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

- Righteous gentiles who would defend, or be a wall around those who are weak.

- **Luke 12:54–56 (LSB)**

54 And He was also saying to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘A shower is coming,’ and so it happens.

55 “And when you see a south wind blowing, you say, ‘It will be a hot day,’ and it happens.

56 “You hypocrites! You know how to examine the appearance of the earth and the sky, but why do you not examine this present time?

- **Matthew 24:45-51 NIV**

45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. 47 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ 49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. 50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. 51 He will cut him to pieces and

assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- The faithful and wise servant gives proper food at the proper time. He KNOWS the signs of the times
- The wicked servant is surprised.





