

The Book of Daniel: Chapter 5

May 7 & May 10, 2023

Chapter Overview: This chapter fast forwards to the last night of the Babylonian kingdom. King Belshazzar throws a drunken, idolatrous feast that is interrupted by a disembodied hand that writes a message on the wall (1 – 12). Daniel is called on to interpret the writing, and explains that it proclaims the judgment of Belshazzar and the fall of Babylon into the hands of the Medes and Persians (13 – 29) which occurs that very night (30 – 31).

(1) Who was the king at this time, and what was the setting of the events recorded in Chapter 5?

(2 – 4) What did Belshazzar command during the feast? What did this indicate about his attitude toward God?
(Daniel 1: 1 – 2; 2 Kings 25: 14 – 15)

(5 – 6) What happened at the feast as the king and his guests drank from the vessels taken from the temple in Jerusalem, and what effect did this have on the king?

(7 – 9) Who was unable to read and give the king the interpretation of the writing on the wall? How is it that they were unable to read and interpret the writing, and what effect did this have on the king?

(10 – 12) Who counseled the king to call for Daniel to interpret the writing? How could she have come to the knowledge of Daniel's ability to interpret dreams and visions?

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(13 – 16) Summarize the king's remarks to Daniel. What statement did the king make regarding Daniels' ability of interpretation, and what did he promise to Daniel if he could read and interpret the writing on the wall?

(17) What did Daniel say to the king concerning the rewards that he had promised?

(18 – 21) What events did Daniel recount in his comments to King Belshazzar? Why was it important for Daniel to provide this historical perspective to the king?

(22 – 24) Before reading and interpreting the writing on the wall, what charge did Daniel bring against the king? (*Romans 1: 18 – 23*)

(25 – 28) What were the three words that were written on the wall, and what did each word indicate about the king's reign?
(*Ecclesiastes 8: 11 – 13*)

(29) What command did the king give concerning Daniel?

(30 – 31) As had been indicated by the writing on the wall, what happened that very night?