



The Writing is on the Wall

**DANIEL**

**FLOURISHING IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT**

## Setting:

- God's people in exile due to unfaithfulness
- Babylonian Empire
  - take the best and assimilate them
  - separation and dispersing

## So Far

- God has taken credit for kingdoms & situations
- Faithfulness is critical to Flourishing
- Reveals Himself in power – identified by chosen

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## Chapter 4

- King Nebuchadnezzar 2<sup>nd</sup> dream – disturbed
- Daniel vs.19 *“Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him.”*
- Daniel gives interpretation

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- Conclusion and Plea

*“Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.”*

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- This comes to pass
- King comes to recognize God's authority
- 36-37 *"At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who **walk in pride he is able to humble.**"*

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# Daniel 5 – after reign of Nebuchadnezzar

- Belshazzar – grandson ruling
- The Party – 1-4
  - took the consecrated cups to drink from
- The Hand – 5-9
  - powerful display by God
  - terrifying to those there
  - demanded an explanation
- The Man of God – 10-12
  - return of Daniel to the stage

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## - The Interpretation – 13-25

- God gave Nebuchadnezzar his power
- God humbled him in view of everyone
- He knew and acknowledged God's power

*- “And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven.” vs.22*

- Days are numbered, you have been weighed and found wanting, power will go to others

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- The Outcome – 26-30

- that night everything is over



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# 1. Pride is a Problem

- we have things passed on to us

- God revealing himself and humbling Kings

- *“And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.”*

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- Rom. 1:18-22 *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools”*

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- Deut. 4:9-10 *“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children— how on the day that you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, the Lord said to me, ‘Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.’”*

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## 2. Consecrated things Matter

- set apart for God's exclusive use
- knowingly took them and used them to praise the creation not the creator
- used for the drink offerings, consecration of priests
- God allowed his things in a difficult environment
- God is described as jealous, possessive of what is his, redeeming it at great cost

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### 3. God Revealed His Will

- bloodless hand writing on wall
- display of power – uses his chosen to interpret
- Your days of Rule are coming to an end
- You have been judged and are lacking
- Your kingdom will be delivered to another

### 4. Things that disturb me

- my concept of fairness – where was his warning?
- God continues to use evil leaders for His purpose

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## 5. The Judgment

- vs.30 *“That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.”*

- Heb. 9:27-28 *“And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.”*

- Matthew 25 – sheep and goats

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# So What?

## 1. What are you passing on?

- proud of what our family or I have accomplished?
- the story of what God has allowed & granted?
- how are we recounting and marking God's work?
- how are we pointing to God's promise & return?

## 2. Am I seeing and respecting what is consecrated?

- people of God – his kids and family
- bride of Christ – making her beautiful
- those he has set apart to lead

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### **3. Where am I disturbed, or perhaps deceived?**

- focused on the why and how of God's actions
- not holding to the will and power of God to....
- renewing the Lordship of Christ in my life
  - surrendered to faithful following
  - away from comparison and equality
- God is at work, for you not about you

### **4. How do I live in Light of Judgment**

- days are all numbered and we will give an account

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