

6 – THE WRITING ON THE WALL (DANIEL 5:1-31)

I. The King's Feast (5:1-4)

A. The feast (5:1)

- Belshazzar was Nebuchadnezzar's grandson and co-regent with his father.
- Belshazzar hosted a great feast for a thousand of his officials.

B. The temple vessels used (5:2-3)

- The king commanded that the vessels from the Temple be used at the feast.

C. The worship of false gods (5:4)

- The vessels were used for drinking wine as the false gods were praised.

II. The Appearance of the Hand (5:5-12)

A. The hand (5:5)

- With the same hour, a hand appeared and wrote on the wall.
- The king saw the hand.

B. The king's fear (5:6)

- The king was struck with terror when he saw the hand writing on the wall.

C. Interpretation sought (5:7-8)

- The king cried out for the wise men to come and interpret the writing.
- The wise men were not able to read the writing and make the interpretation.

D. The king is troubled (5:9)

- The king was visibly troubled and others noticed it.

E. The queen's suggestion (5:10-12)

- The queen suggested that the king consult Daniel for the interpretation.
- She reminded the king of Daniel's service to Nebuchadnezzar.

III. The King's Request (5:13-16)

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A. Daniel brought to the King (5:13)

- Daniel is brought to the king.
- The king questions his identity.

B. Daniel's reputation (5:14)

- The king recalls his past service and reputation.

C. The request for interpretation (5:15-16)

- The king asked Daniel to read the writing if he can.
- The king would reward him for interpreting the writing.

IV. Daniel's Interpretation (5:17-28)

A. The refusal of the reward (5:17)

- Daniel tells the king to keep his reward.

B. Nebuchadnezzar's judgment recalled (5:18-21)

- Daniel reminds the king of the judgment that God placed on Nebuchadnezzar.

C. The king's pride and sin (5:22-23)

- Daniel points out the king's pride and his sin against God by profaning the vessels of the temple.

D. The writing of judgment (5:24-28)

- Daniel tells the king that the hand and the writing are from God.
- God has pronounced judgment on his kingdom.
- God has measured the king and found him lacking.
- God has given the kingdom to the Medes and the Persians.

V. The Prophecy Fulfilled (5:29-31)

A. Daniel rewarded (5:29)

- Daniel is rewarded by being made the third ruler of the kingdom.

B. The king killed (5:30)

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- Belshazzar is killed that very evening.

C. The kingdom is defeated (5:31)

- The Babylonian empire was defeated by Darius, king of the Medo-Persian Empire.