



THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

PART ONE

TURN ON THE LIGHTS--THE PARTY'S OVER! DANIEL 5:1-9

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com. This passage can be found in the Pew Bible, in the Old Testament on pages 632-623.

REVIEW

- Chapter 1 – Faith of Daniel who committed not to defile himself
- Chapter 2 – Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of the multi-metallic statue (Future)
- Chapter 3 – Observed the faith and commitment of S. M. & A.
- Chapter 4 – Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the great tree (Nebu's salvation story)
- Chapter 5 – Destruction of Babylon

BACKGROUND ON DANIEL CHAPTER FIVE

- A. Nebuchadnezzar is dead; Daniel is in his late 80/90s.
- B. The Medes and Persians conquered all of Babylon but the city itself.
- C. The City of Babylon is surrounded by *Cyrus the Great* and the great army.
- D. The City has 20 years of food stored up and access to the Euphrates River.
- E. The new king, Belshazzar, is confident he can simply wait out the siege.
- F. Belshazzar is a godless king, leading a now godless country to false god's.
- G. In this passage, God's judgement on the godless city of Babylon will come.

STUDY SECTION

A SHALLOW CELEBRATION

1. The _____.

Daniel 5:1, NASB95 -¹ *Belshazzar the king held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.*

2. The _____.

Daniel 5:2–4, NASB95 -² *When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem [these were holy vessels used only by the high priests] so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. ³ Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God which was in Jerusalem; and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. ⁴ They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone. [cf., Ch. 2]*

Indulgence • Indifference • Irreverence

3. The _____.

Daniel 5:5–6, NASB95 -⁵ *Suddenly the fingers of a man's hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing. ⁶ Then the king's face grew pale and his thoughts alarmed him, and his hip joints went slack and his knees began knocking together.*

4. The _____.

Daniel 5:7–9, NASB95 -⁷ *The king called aloud to bring in the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners. The king spoke and said to the wise men of Babylon, "Any man who can read this inscription and explain its interpretation to me shall be clothed with purple and have a necklace of gold around his neck, and have authority as third ruler in the kingdom." ⁸ Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the inscription or make known its interpretation to the king. ⁹ Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, his face grew even paler, and his nobles were perplexed.*

LIFE APPLICATION SECTION

- A. Without Jesus—you may party hard, but judgment is near!
- B. With Jesus—you truly have a reason to celebrate.

Answers: 1. Ball, 2. Gall, 3. Wall, 4. Call.