



# THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

PART TWO

TURN ON THE LIGHTS--THE PARTY'S OVER! DANIEL 5:10-28

'INDEPENDENCE DAY' WEEKEND MESSAGE

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NEVADA • JUNE 30, 2019, INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND  
 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 623.

## Study section

### A Shocking Revelation

#### 1. The Recommendation. (vv. 10-12)

**Daniel 5:11–12, NASB95** -<sup>11</sup> “There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; ... King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, ... appointed him chief of the [all the wise men]....<sup>12</sup> ... [the ability at] solving of difficult problems were found in this Daniel.... Let Daniel now be summoned and he will declare the interpretation.”

The Queen Mother advises Belshazzar to call for Daniel.

#### 2. The Reward (vv. 13-16)

**Daniel 5:16, NASB95** -<sup>16</sup> ... Now if you [ie., Daniel] are able to read the inscription and make its interpretation known to me, you will be clothed with purple and wear a necklace of gold around your neck, and you will have authority as the third ruler in the kingdom.”

The king offers to promote Daniel to the third highest position in the kingdom if he can interpret the writing on the wall.

#### 3. Refusal

**Daniel 5:17, NASB95** -<sup>17</sup> Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Keep your gifts for yourself or give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription to the king and make the interpretation known to him.

Daniel refuses the bribe but offers to interpret the message without cost.

#### 4. Rebuke (vv. 18-23)

**Daniel 5:23, NASB95** -<sup>23</sup> but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand. But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and all your ways, you have not glorified.

Daniel contrasts the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar.

The Lesson Nebuchadnezzar learned: He testified to God's sovereignty.  
 The Lesson the Belshazzar spurned: He defied God and served only himself.

**Indulgence • Indifference • Irreverence**

#### 5. Revelation (vv. 24-28)

**Daniel 5:25, NASB95** -<sup>25</sup> “Now this is the inscription that was written out: ‘MENĒ. MENĒ [Aramaic: lit., “God Counts” listed twice for emphasis (ie., time's up)], TEKĒL, [lit., ‘God weighs’ (ie., you have fallen short)]; UPHARSIN [lit., ‘God divides’ (ie., God judges)—The hand writing is on the wall; time's up—the party's over, (judgment has arrived)].’

**Daniel 5:26–28, NLT** -<sup>26</sup> This is what these words mean: MENE means ‘numbered’—God has numbered the days of your reign and has brought it to an end.<sup>27</sup> TEKEL means ‘weighed’—you have been weighed on the balances and have not measured up.<sup>28</sup> PARSIN means ‘divided’—your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes....”

Daniel tells the king that his kingdom will end and that he will die.

## Life Application Section

What Brought the End to the Babylonian Empire?

- Indulgence, indifference, and irreverence** (these bring God's judgment).
- Using sacred things for profane purposes** (marriage, life/abortion, religion).
- Their sin—not acknowledging the sovereignty of God—which made them impervious to danger.**
- They forgot that God is, indeed, sovereign.** (cf., Matthew 24:37-42, 44)