



CAPITOL COMMISSION[®]

Authority Finished

FEBRUARY 8, 2024

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Daniel 5:17-31 *Then Daniel answered, and said before the king, "Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another; yet I will read the writing to the king, and make known to him the interpretation. 18) O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom and majesty, glory and honor. 19) And because of the majesty that He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whomever he wished, he executed; whomever he wished, he kept alive; whomever he wished, he set up; and whomever he wished, he put down. 20) But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed of his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him. 21) Then he was driven from the sons of men, his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. They fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till he knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses. 22) But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. 23) And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house 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, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all*

your ways, you have not glorified. 24) Then the fingers of the hand were sent from Him, and this writing was written. 25) And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. 26) This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom and finished it; 27) TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; 28) PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." 29) Then Belshazzar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a chain of gold around his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. 30) That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. 31) And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old. (NKJV)

DO YOU DESPISE THE RICHES OF HIS GOODNESS, FORBEARANCE, AND LONGSUFFERING, NOT KNOWING THAT THE GOODNESS OF GOD LEADS YOU TO REPENTANCE? BUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR HARDNESS AND YOUR IMPENITENT HEART YOU ARE TREASURING UP FOR YOURSELF WRATH IN THE DAY OF WRATH AND REVELATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD, ROMANS 2:4-5

Why does Daniel reject the king's gifts initially, but receive them later? Who does he focus upon as a primary example to Belshazzar? What one thing is necessary for all leaders to know and remember? What was Belshazzar's greatest sin? How important is it to glorify the God who holds our breath in His hand? What was God saying by his words on the wall?

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM – PRAYER MEETING – GAB 14TH FLOOR SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – GAB 14TH FLOOR SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

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FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

➤ FEBRUARY 15: DANIEL 6:1-5 **THE PROFOUND INNOCENCE OF DANIEL**

➤ FEBRUARY 22: DANIEL 6:6-10 **DECEITFUL LEGISLATION IS WEAPONIZED TO DESTROY DANIEL!**

When God had pronounced judgement upon “*the head of gold*,” Nebuchadnezzar, he had pointed his finger at his chest and said “*you*” or “*your*” seven times in two verses (Daniel 4:31-32). Now God does the same to Belshazzar through Daniel, His prophet, fourteen times in two verses (5:22-23), and then explains that such flagrant opposition to the “*Lord of heaven*” was why God had written His words of judgment upon the palace wall.

**HE WHO IS OFTEN REBUKED, AND HARDENS HIS NECK,
WILL SUDDENLY BE DESTROYED, AND THAT WITHOUT
REMEDY. PROVERBS 29:1**

I. SOVEREIGNTY PROVEN DANIEL 5:17-21

When offered the gifts by Belshazzar, Daniel refuses them because his message will prove them useless. His focus is the same as every true pastor, to read and accurately interpret the Word of God. Thus, Daniel begins by explaining the setting to these severe words of judgment upon the king. Using the words of his father, Daniel explained, “*the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom and majesty, glory and honor.*” Then he emphasized four times the king’s powerful, uninhibited authority in doing whatever he wished, similar to that of God (v. 21). But when this unhindered authority had increased his arrogance “*and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him.*” What God had given, He proved He could instantly take away from him. Thus, “*his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. They fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven.*” This humbling continued for seven years, “*till*

he knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He wishes.” It was this proven sovereignty of God that authority had pridefully rejected.

**THE WICKED IN HIS PROUD COUNTENANCE DOES NOT
SEEK GOD; GOD IS IN NONE OF HIS THOUGHTS.**

PSALM 10:4

II. SACRILEGIOUS PRIDE DANIEL 5:22-24

Daniel reveals that accountability comes with knowledge and he shows the king that God expected a response. “*But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this.*” Instead of learning from his father’s humbling experience, he arrogantly attacked his Sovereign. “*And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven.*” Daniel recounts the continual actions of adding insult to impudence in using “*the vessels of His house*” to pursue their drunken orgy and promote their deceit in praising false gods “*which do not see, hear or know.*” And most importantly, “*the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.*” These were the reasons why God wrote upon the palace wall.

**FOR IN HIM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING ...
FOR WE ARE ALSO HIS OFFSPRING. ACTS 17:28**

III. SIN PUNISHED DANIEL 5:25-31

Daniel interprets God’s decree, written in past tense. “*MENE: God has numbered your kingdom and finished it.*” This is repeated twice for emphasis—your authority is finished—now! “*TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting.*” This speaks of character and actions of influence which lack obedience and reverence for God. “*PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.*” Without repentance, this leader’s sin brought immediate eternal consequences!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you willing to learn from the past and humble yourself in repentance before God?
- 2) Can you afford to rebel against “*the God who holds your breath in His hands and owns all your ways*”?
- 3) Will you repent and receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord or suffer the eternal consequences of your sin?