

Warnings on the Wall

Daniel 5

Series: Generation Next - Part 5

Introduction

“I wish I could have seen ‘the handwriting on the wall’.”

- I was a new believer
- I was proud
- I was an idol worshipper
- I was lovingly warned
- I rejected the warning
- I was humbled

The Testimony of A Foolish Man

◆ The Historical Setting - 539 BC

- Babylon - The Supreme Power In The World
- Nebuchadnezzar Died In 562 BC
- Daniel Demoted Or Retired (75 - 80 years old)
- Media - Surrounding The Walls Of Babylon
- Belshazzar - Nebuchadnezzar's Grandson
- The City Was Invincible

◆ The Content of Chapter 5

- I. Belshazzar Throws A Party - v. 1 - 4
- II. The Handwriting On The Wall - v. 5 - 9
- III. The Queen Mother Has A Solution - v. 10 - 12
- IV. The King Calls For Daniel's Help - v. 13 - 16
- V. Daniel Tells It Like It Is - v. 17 - 28
- VI. God Does It Like He Says - v. 29 – 31

LIFE LESSONS FROM DANIEL 5

1. We can run from God, but we can't hide.

Psalm 139:7 - 12

- How did Belshazzar run?
- How do you tend to run?

2. God expects us to learn from His dealings with others.

Galatians 6:7 - 8

3. God's love demands that we "care enough to confront."

Proverbs 29:25

4. God is slow to anger and abounds in mercy, but persistent waywardness will reap certain judgment.

Hebrews 9:27

Application

“Humble yourself therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He might exalt you . . .”

1 Peter 5:6

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss a time in your life where you saw the “handwriting on the wall,” but failed to respond to its warning.
2. What was at the heart of Belshazzar’s sin? How did he cover it up? What are some common ways we cover up our insecurities and fears?
3. Why is it so difficult to say “hard things” to people even when we care about them deeply? Who, if anyone, might you need to talk to?
4. How does the reality of God’s judgment impact how we live? Why is it critical to remember God is holy and just, as well as merciful and loving?
5. What specific step do you need to take in response to this message? When and how will you do it?