

"I See the Handwriting on the Wall"

Daniel 5

Something to Ponder:

Q. We often use the above title as an idiomatic phrase in our twentieth-first century. How do we mean it?

A.

The Text:

Verses 1-4 ~ The Party

Q. What two actions brought judgment upon King Belshazzar?

Note: Belshazzar was Nebuchadnezzar's grandson and co-regent with his father Nabonidus who was away most of the time on expeditions.

A.

1. The abuse of _____ objects connected to Yahweh – making them _____. (v. 3)
2. The praise and worship of _____ gods while drinking from the _____ cups. (v. 4)

Note: This was a sign of divine superiority. Home gods over foreign ones.

Q. How does this compare to King Nebuchadnezzar? (Cp. 1:2)

A. He did the _____ without personally _____ them.

The Party-buster:

Q. What happened? (vv. 5-6)

A.

1. (v. 5a)

2.

3.

4.

5. (v. 5b)

Q. Compare this with Luke 11:19-20. What is significant?

A. The kingdom of God is found wherever the _____ and _____ of God is actively present.

6. (v. 6)

7.

“Déjà vu”

Q. Why does this sound so familiar? (vv. 7-16)

A.

1. (v.7)

2.

3. (v. 8)

Note: It wasn't that they didn't know what the words were, as will be seen. It was that they could not _____ what seems to be four random words.

4. (v. 9a)

5. (v. 9b)

6. (v. 9c)

7. (v. 10a)

8. (v. 10b)

9. (v. 11a)

Note: This is the same description given to him by
_____ (Cp. 4:8,9,18)

10. (v. 11b)

Note: The Queen gives a good explanation of what it means to
“have the _____ of the gods” within a person.

11. (v. 11c)

Note: Daniel has held his prominent position through _____
monarch changes. (Nebuchadnezzar's son was murdered;
Nabonidus ascended).

12. (v. 12)

13. (vv. 13-15)

14. (v. 16)

Note: The same type of gifting was made by Nebuchadnezzar in
2:45.

The Difference:

Q. What was the difference in Daniel's response to the king's gratuity?
(vv. 17-24)

A.

1. (v. 17a)
2. (v. 17b)

History in review:

Q. What comparison was made between King Belshazzar and King Nebuchadnezzar?

A.

1. (v. 18)
2. (v. 19)
3. (v. 20)
4. (v. 21)

Q. What was the difference? (vv. 22-24)

A.

1. (v. 22a)
2. (v. 22b)
3. (v. 23a)
4. (v. 23b)
5. (v. 24)

The Inscription:

Q. What was the essence of the message?

A.

Mene = God has _____ the days of your reign and brought it to an end. (v. 26)

Tekel = You have been _____ on the scales and found wanting. (v. 27)

Peres = Your kingdom is _____ and given to the Medes and Persians. (v. 28)

Note the _____ of the declaration. This wasn't "_____ " to happen. In God's degree, it had _____ happened.

Q. What was the result? (vv. 29-31)

A.

1. (v. 29a)

2. (v. 29b)

3. (v. 30)

4. (v. 31)

Note: The last verse of Daniel 5 is the first verse of Daniel 6 in the Hebrew Bible.

Thoughts...

Q. It appears that God gave Nebuchadnezzar a second chance while not extending that to Belshazzar. Why do you think that is?

A.

Q. What was lacking with Belshazzar and what can we learn from him?

A.

Q. Read Romans 9:14-24. What connection can we make with this text and chapters 4 and 5 of Daniel (Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar)?

A.