

GOD'S HANDWRITING

Daniel 5:5 In that same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

Just one chapter tells us all we know of the short life of Belshazzar. His career is being imitated by modern day fast living in America. He made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and they began to guzzle fire water¹.

In the midst of their desecrations they began to make light of the things of God, and here is where God stepped in. In the midst of this impious activity – in the same hour – came forth the fingers of a man's hand, writing over against the candlestick upon the wall. The king's shock was so terrific that all his joints in his body began to shake.



Every face became deathly pale, and the king cried out for the star-gazing astrologers, fortune tellers, and mediums to come and interpret this message.

At last, in the midst of the consternation, the queen came in and told the monarch to send for the man of God, Daniel. Daniel came, who of course was familiar with his Father's handwriting. No one else knew the Lord's ways and word like the one who served Him with all his heart.



This whole scene is being reenacted in America today on more of a national scale. The call of God during these days of war and distress among nations is a call to repentance; but from the sinful hearts of our people, rebellion to the Word has changed it to reveling. The temper and tendencies of our times are not spiritual, but satanic.

This has crept into the houses of worship, and the crying demand is for a soft, smooth, compromising religion as the Church is drifting more and more into playing the part of a fool with the world and its pleasures.

No nation nor individual can drown their sorrows, heartaches, and condemnation of sin by wine, women, and jazz. Many reveling sinners are trying to cover up their

¹ Alcohol

sinful living and heathenism with a slight mixture of religion as a disguise and camouflage. Irreverence for holy things is everywhere evident. The House of God and the Word of God are scorned, and the Bible is a back number. Heaven is a joke, Hell is a cuss word, and judgment is an ancient superstition.

God is writing the handwriting on the wall, and our legislators are running to witches, crystal balls, and fortune tellers trying to find out what it is all about. God is writing His message of approaching judgment today. We see this in the awakening of Palestine, in the fall and collapse of nations, in the revival of Rome, in the growing spirit of the Antichrist, and in famines, pestilences, and earthquakes.



Any man who cannot hold a Bible in the right hand and a newspaper in the left, and see the handwriting on the wall needs to hear the Words of Jesus:

Matthew 16:1-3:

1 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired Him that He would shew them a sign from Heaven.

2 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.

3 And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

One of the latest signs is the scoffer saying: *Where is the promise of His Coming? Away with this tommy-rot idea that we are punished by our sins*, when God says:

Psalms 9:17: The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God.

This wicked generation does not like to be reprov'd for its sins. But God is not winking at your sins, for our God is a consuming fire. The only safe way to live is under the covering of the Blood of His Son, Jesus, by walking in repentance and faith, and being led of the Spirit.

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The last message Jesus gave to the Church is to repent. Five out of seven churches got this red-hot warning – and the same number surely need the same message today.

A revival will break out as soon as we do.

2 Chronicles 7:14: *If My people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

There are too many Samsons that are rising from the lap of fleshly pleasure to shake themselves to come to church Sunday after Sunday – little knowing the Spirit of the Lord has departed from them.

Judges 16:20: *And she [Delilah] said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.*

God will not accept our religious performances until we bring Him our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service.

Romans 12:1: *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

God's handwriting on the wall of our church is to **repent** "and **do the first works**". Are there any Daniels who are familiar with your Father's handwriting.



Revelation 2:5: *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

Why was this severity of judgment forthcoming to Belshazzar? The severe lesson God taught his grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar, was entirely lost or rejected by him.

Daniel 4:34-37:

34 *And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto Heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honoured Him Who liveth for*

ever, Whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation:

35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and He doeth according to His Will in the army of Heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest Thou?

36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.

37: Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of Heaven, all Whose works are truth, and His ways judgment: and those that walk in pride He is able to abase.

Belshazzar showed no regard for the light, and the light turned to darkness – and how great was that darkness. So it came forth under the stupor of a drunken feast with his lords, his debased heart showing its defiance of that which is sacred and holy. It was sinful enough to reject the Word of God and get drunk, but sinning did not stop here – for his treacherous spirit began to work. He thought a new tang for fun and enjoyment would be had, and he began making light of the things that were sacred.



He commanded that the vessels of the Lord's house which had been seized by Nebuchadnezzar from Jerusalem be brought into his revelry. He carried things too far, and in that same hour the handwriting came on the wall. His bravery melted, and he was scared skinny until his knees knocked against each other, playing the tune of his funeral service.

No sooner had the queen mother heard of this astonishing miracle than her thoughts ran back to the days of her father and to the holy prophet who had served him so well. She had great respect for his memory and the convictions he so fully pronounced and lived. She had confidence in Daniel's religion and in his God. She advised the terror stricken king to send for him.



Daniel came to preach to one of the most willing and eager congregations to which a preacher ever gave the Word of God. God gave him his text, and he started in.

God's eye was on this impious, royal sinner who failed to profit by God's dealings with his forerunner, and thereby defied God's mercy, profaned sacred vessels of worship in the Temple, praised gods of silver and gold, and despised Him Who gave him breath and life.

Beware, every office holder, whether in or outside of the church – it is a serious place. The ruler has more responsibility than his subjects, whether he be a judge or preacher, just as a parent's authority is beyond his children's. Abuse of the place of power or authority is most offensive and brings greater vengeance from Almighty God.

God hates filthiness of flesh and spirit, and abhors reveling, drunkenness, and sensuality, to which He has fixed His sorest penalties. This living in pleasure, ever pampering the flesh and its lust – satisfying our passions and making everything bend to our direction, and leading others down the broad road because of our position – Hell isn't too hot for such!

On top of all this, the disregard for all God's warnings makes doom more certain. God will not speak vain words of hot air. He means business and we better listen to His Word, and know His handwriting well.

The disregard for all God's warnings makes doom more certain.

Belshazzar finally sealed his doom by taking things sacred and holy, and prostituting their use with vain sneers and sarcasm. Still, today, many of you have not profited, either, from these experiences of God's Word, and your doom will be no less severe, except you repent.

By the great mercies of God, Judgment Day is still lingering. God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9: The Lord is not slack concerning His Promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

How much longer will you delay and trifle with your soul's damnation at stake? While the door of mercy is open, let no one who hears me turn a heedless ear, or trifle any further with the precious Gospel which is your only hope of escape from the wrath of God.

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Belshazzar quickly dismissed "superstitious" fears against drinking out of sacred vessels. He was laughing and jesting. Jehovah's vessels are here,

but where is He? If He could not protect His own temple, can He find fault with us for using His utensils?

He felt superior to God. His Kingdom was “invincible” and anyone besieging it would wear himself out, for enough provisions were on hand for years of war.

Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 16:18: Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

God will deflate pride. Even His Own children must feel the crucifying power of the Holy Spirit to sanctify us against its deadly influence.

On and on Belshazzar went, until God wrote his doom before him and all his lords, on a wall.

Daniel is called to interpret the message. Spiritual people are often overlooked and ridiculed, or ignored and despised when things are going well. But in the time of trouble, these sobered merrymakers were forced to call for the preacher to explain the cause of their visitation from God, and to show them a remedy.



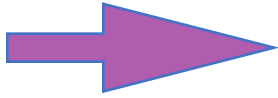
Today the appeal is to the churches to come and step to the front, and to help clean up the mess our country is in. The handwriting is on the wall, and doom is felt everywhere. The merrymakers are being sobered. The big question is: Are there enough of God’s Daniels who know His handwriting, to give them the message of God? Are there those living close to His heart, near enough to know the interpretation of the divine signs in heaven and on earth?

The same finger that wrote the Ten Commandments wrote of the doom of this king. God’s weighing machine was brought into the place, and is being brought into this church tonight. How much do you weigh? What if you are found wanting? Are you as familiar with God’s handwriting as Daniel was? Do you know the written Word of God?

Hebrews 9:27: And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Luke 13:3: I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Daniel’s message to the king was very timely to this generation.



Judgment came AFTER THE WARNING. God always warns first. It is mercy that we shall repent and that wrath be withdrawn.

Judgment came suddenly, without remedy.

Proverbs 29:1: He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

What are the balances of God? The favorite attitude of most sinners and backsliders is to set up their own standards by which to assure themselves. This will not do at the Judgment Day. You are not weighed in the balance of bare profession, balance of good works, or public opinion.

God wrote the message on the wall to this king, and has written His message to all of you in His Holy Word. The Word – the law of the Lord – is perfect, converting the soul.



Psalm 19:7: The Law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

No wonder the devil uses every trick to keep you away from the Word.

How much do you weigh with God's Law? The Law of the Ten Commandments:



1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

(What about lust of sex, and the gods of gold, food, business?)

2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.

3. Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

4. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.

5. Honor thy father and thy mother.

2 Timothy 3:2: (For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.)

6. Thou shalt not murder.

Murder by hate, neglect, harshness; children killing parents by disobedience.)

7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

(This sin is eating at the core of this civilization)

8. Thou shalt not steal.

9. Thou shalt not covet.

10. Thou shalt not bear false witness.

(Slander, lying).



These Laws were written by God

Exodus 24:12: And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to Me into the Mount, and be there: and I will give thee Tables of Stone, and a Law, and Commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

How are *you* responding to the Handwriting on the Wall?

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