

Series: The Book of Daniel

Sermon: Judgment: Signed, Sealed, Delivered

Passage: Daniel 5 (ESV)

Illustration:

Need: God's people need to be reminded that all earthly kingdoms will fall and every human will be accountable to Him for his or her own humble submission or prideful rebellion.

I. The writing on the wall (5:1-31)

- Nabonidus is king of Babylon, Belshazzar is his son who is ruling during his 10 year absence.
- Medes & Persians have surrounded the Babylon but the city is "secure" with stored rations for years.
- Belshazzar throws as a show of confidence in his gods for protection and strength.
- Using the vessels from the temple of Yahweh was a public display of great arrogance and disregard.
- The detached hand wrote strange words from God and brought great fear to the king and his guests.
- AGAIN, the Babylonian wise men could neither read nor interpret the message.
- Belshazzar's mother suggested Daniel be brought to interpret the message.
- Daniel recounted the rise, fall and restoration of Nebuchadnezzar all by God's hand as a result of Nebuchadnezzar's humility before God.
- No humility or repentance existed in Belshazzar so God declared His judgment on him and the nation.
 - MENE - God has numbered the days of YOUR kingdom & brought it to an end.
 - TEKEL - YOU have been weighed in the balances and found wanting.
 - PERES - YOUR kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and the Persians.
- Daniel received great honor for his interpretation but it lasted on a few hours.
- "That very night" the Medes and Persians infiltrated the walls of the city, killed Belshazzar, and head of gold (Babylon) was defeated by the shoulders and arms of silver.

II. Take Aways

- Every human kingdom will fall. Fools hitch their wagon of hope to any one of them.
- God's Word must be proclaimed no matter how unpopular the message.
- The honors of this world are very temporary.
- Everyone is accountable for their own heart's response to God's grace:
 - Humble submission that leads to Redemption.
 - Arrogant rejection that leads to Destruction

III. Instruction for Believers (1 Thes. 5:1-11)

- (6) Remain awake and alert
- (8) Live by faith, loving others and having our hope set on Christ.
- (11) Encourage and build up one another