

Daniel 5:1-31 – “The Writing’s On The Wall”

- I. **Ever Heard It or Used It:** *“The writing’s on the wall.”*
 - A. Here are some that it definitely applies to:
 1. Ben _____; members of Congress; nation of Israel when it comes to Iran
 2. Our own country (See _____ Day; National Day of Prayer; Roe vs. Wade etc.)
 - B. Do they see it? What will they/we do about it?
- II. **Necessary History Lesson:** *(How Did We Get Here?)*
 - A. Chapter 1 – _____ BC: Neb invades Jerusalem & brings back choice items & youth
 - B. Chapter 2 ~ 602 BC: Neb has disturbing dream & calls in Daniel to tell & interpret it...
 - C. Chapter 3 ~ few years later: Neb builds golden image & demands allegiance/bow down to it
 - D. Chapter 4 ~ 570’s BC: another disturbing dream; 7 years living like a beast then restored
 - E. Nebuchadnezzar dies in _____ BC
 - F. His Amel-Marduk rules for 2 years (assassinated by brother-in-law Neriglissar – reigns ___ years)
 - G. His young son Labashi-Marduk assassinated same year by a group includes Nabonidus
 - H. Nabonidus takes over ~556/555 BC – Spent most of his time away from Babylon...
 - I. Who is Belshazzar? Until recently, many denied his existence..._____ & co-regent of Nabonidus.
- III. **The Setting:** *Party Like It’s 539 BC! (Daniel 5:1-4)*
 - A. Belshazzar holding a banquet, a feast for a thousand of his nobles...
 - B. He orders items taken from _____ by Neb be brought out & used by all...
 - C. As they drank, they praised the _____ of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood & stone...
- IV. **The Sign & Ensuing Scene:** *(Daniel 5:5-9)*
 - A. The fingers of man emerge and write on the plaster wall...
 - B. The King grows silent; he is struck with fear/terror – he calls out for his _____
 - C. The King offers the wise men great rewards...whoever is able to read & explain the inscription.
 - D. None are able & the King & his nobles are now in utter confusion...
- V. **The Summons of Daniel:** *(Daniel 5:10-16)*
 - A. Queen mother offers Belshazzar hope – she offers him Daniel...
 - B. The Queen’s description implies intimate knowledge of Daniel’s past achievements...
 - C. King listens to his mother (likely _____ of Neb who married Nabonidus) & calls in Daniel.
 - D. Daniel is now ~ _____ years old as he stands before the bewildered King...
- VI. **The “Shakedown” by Daniel – (Daniel 5:17-28)**
 - A. Daniel reminds Belshazzar of God’s past accomplishments involving King Neb
 1. God is the Most High _____, the sovereign One who gave Neb all that he had.
 2. He is also the One who _____ Neb when he became too proud...& also restored him...
 - B. Belshazzar knew the truth and still had not humbled his heart...
 - C. Belshazzar purposely defied the Lord by exalting himself against the Lord of heaven
 - D. Belshazzar blasphemed God and worshiped _____ instead...
 - E. Mene – imminent judgment of kingdom: its days are numbered
 - F. Tekel – Belshazzar’s life has been weighed on the scales & been found _____
 - G. Peres – His kingdom will be divided & given over to the Medes & Persians.
- VII. **The Final Scene:** *(Daniel 5:29-31)*
 - A. Daniel is rewarded for his efforts – proclaimed 3rd highest ruler in the kingdom...
 - B. The Babylonian Empire is over – Belshazzar is slain & the kingdom given over...
- VIII. **Salient Points:** *The Writing Is Still On The Wall*
 - A. Belshazzar’s actions & God’s response vs. Nebuchadnezzar’s actions & God’s response
 - B. The Lord is a God of knowledge & with Him _____ are weighed...
 - C. Certainties of your life – _____ & _____ are true (days numbered & you are deficient!)
 - D. But God did not leave it – free gift of God; being rich in mercy; kindness of God, love for mankind
 - E. At the name of _____, every knee will bow & every tongue will confess...don’t wait
 - F. Wherever you are – Respond appropriately to God right now, right here...