

Remnant Life Church

April 28, 2024

## What is Written on Your Wall?

### Part 2

Dan 5:1-30

We began last week by asking a series of questions

- With one in particular important for our look at Daniel
- Does God speak to us?
- He does, but seldom in an audible voice
- Only a few times did this happen throughout the Bible
- Other ways, such as dreams and visions, were more often utilized, with one in particular being especially unique

The account found in **Daniel 5** follows yet another transfer of power in the ancient kingdom of Babylonian

- The time period is during the 70 years of Israel's captivity
- Daniel is one of thousands of Hebrews living in and around the capital city of Babylon
  - Nebuchadnezzar has died, as have the next 3 in the line of succession
  - Belshazzar is now the ruler, and Daniel is being summoned after likely having been removed from the power of the royal court 25 years earlier
  - Daniel is now about 80 years old

We agreed last week that there are things we can learn from how Daniel must have lived during the 25 years of silence since nothing is known of his life during that time.

#### **First point: We must be faithful during the times of silence in our lives**

- Daniel must have remained faithful and known to continue to worship God as the queen remembered him and what he had done for Nebuchadnezzar
- Our question last week in this regard was what do people see in you solely by your actions?
- Continue to be faithful during those times.

#### **Second point: Our faith must be maintained and seen by others to be a true example of Jesus Christ**

Two things are important in this segment of Scripture

1. Daniel's faithfulness to God regarding his own gain
  - a. **Vs 17** - *Then Daniel answered the king, "You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means.*
    - i. But the love of money has corrupted many a ministry
      1. *It is the love of money that is the root of all kinds of evil (I Tim 6:10)*
      2. Paul wrote these words to Timothy not only as an instruction but as a warning

- b. Daniel maintained the right heart and his faithfulness to God even when presented with the things most valued in this world
2. Daniel's knowledge of history – in particular, the history of God's power and presence
- a. Daniel had not been used by God for many years, yet he never forgot who God was and still is
    - i. Belshazzar had everything, but no faith
    - ii. Daniel had comparatively very little but never lost his faith
    - iii. Would we remain so faithful if something we thought we should have or a position we thought we deserved was suddenly changed or even taken from us?
  - b. Daniel knew what it was to have power and influence, and he knew what it was to be ignored and forgotten – yet his faith never waived

That history lesson brings with it the third aspect of faith for us to consider

- The first – Have faith during the times of silence
- Second – Our faith must be seen by others regardless of the circumstances

### **Third point: We must hold to our faith in the times of the extremes**

- Don't you mean hold to your faith in the deepest and darkest times of want and need?
  - That is only one type of season
  - Life is rarely very balanced for too long a period of time
  - What happens to your faith during those times of emotional upheaval or extremes?
- And specifically, what about the times of plenty or abundance?
  - How available, how steady, how resolute is your faith then?
- Daniel made sure they all remembered that Nebuchadnezzar had the whole world at his feet, but he had it taken away when it became all about him

Agur is the man credited with authoring the 30<sup>th</sup> chapter of **Proverbs**. He and his father Jakeh are only mentioned in that 30<sup>th</sup> chapter, and we know nothing else about them

- But look at what he writes in **Prov 30:7-9**
- *Two things I ask of you, LORD; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.*

What is your faith like in the highs and lows of your life?

- The Apostle Paul writes of this very thing to the church in Philippi regarding his own experiences
- **Phil 4:10-13** - *I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the*

*secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

When we begin to phase God out when it is all going well for us, we are rushing headlong into a lesson that God will teach every person

- **Dan 4:37**...*those who walk in pride he is able to humble.*
- Who said these words?
  - It was not Daniel
  - It was Nebuchadnezzar after he had learned a very hard lesson
  - Belshazzar did not remember what had happened and was headed down the same path

### **READ – Daniel 5:25-31**

What did Daniel say to Belshazzar?

- **Dan 5:23-24** - ... *you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways. Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription*

How did Belshazzar “set himself up” against God?

- Babylon was one of the most impressive cities of its day
- Nebuchadnezzar had built walls at least 75 feet high around the entire city
- They were said to be wide enough for a 4-horse chariot to ride around the top
- The walls surrounded farmland that would allow them to grow their own food in endless supply because the Euphrates River, an endless supply of water, ran right through the city
- Belshazzar had so much arrogant belief in what he ruled over that he called for the sacred pieces from Israel because why shouldn't he be drinking out of the goblets fit for a god?!
  - But his faith was tragically misplaced!
  - Their security and comfort were in the idols of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone (5:4)

This attitude, pride, and idolatry is what led to a disembodied hand appearing and writing four words that spelled judgment for Belshazzar and all of Babylon

- **Dan 5:26-28** – (Daniel said) *Here is what these words mean:*  
*Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.*  
*Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.*  
*Peres: (the singular tense of Parsin) Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.*

Pride blinds you to what is actually happening in your world:

- Belshazzar is having a feast with 1000 of his nobles (5:1)
  - Add the plus-ones, and you're probably looking at more like 2000

- Look at verses **30-31** - *That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain, and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two*
  - If Babylon was overthrown the night of the feast, where would the Medo-Persian army have had to be located prior to the invasion?
    - Right outside the city walls
  - Who throws a party the night before an enemy invasion?
  - Someone who is so blinded by their pride and faith in the things of life that they have lost sight of the reality of their lives

So, if the Hand of God were to appear at your house tonight and begin writing on the wall, what would the words say?

- Would they be like the words of **Matt 25:21** - *Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!*
- Or would they be more like the parable told by Jesus of the rich young fool in **Luke 2:18-21**? The fool said - *This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."* *"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' Then Jesus said, "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."*
- In a very real way, you determine the words that will be written
  - It begins by giving your life to Jesus Christ
  - It continues by totally surrendering your life to Him
  - And then it is about walking out your life every day in faith
    - Faith during the times of silence
    - Faith that is seen and evident to the people around you
    - And faith that is held to in the times of great want and in great abundance

So again, what would the hand-writing on the wall say if it was written about you?