



Darnley Mill
Church

Daniel 5:1-31

Warning about a day of reckoning

SUMMARY

The book of Daniel gives a historical account of the faithful Jews who lived in captivity in Babylon around 605-535 B.C. and shows how God is in control of heaven and earth, directing the forces of nature, the destiny of kingdoms, and the care of his people.

Daniel chapter 5

The writing on the wall was a message for all those who would defy God. Although Belshazzar had power and wealth, his kingdom was totally corrupt, and he could not withstand the judgement of God. God's time of judgement comes for all people. If you have forgotten God and slipped into a sinful way of life, turn away from your sin now before he removes any opportunities to repent. Ask God to forgive you and begin to live by his standards of justice.

Life Application Study Bible, New International Version. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011. Print. See commentary on Daniel 5:27

Memory Verse: 5:21

But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory.

A RECAP OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Daniel 1:1-2 – the king of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar, besieged Jerusalem and God's people were exiled to Babylon, and among them was Daniel.

Daniel 1:9-20 - Daniel and his friends choose to honor God and God gave them favor with the Babylonians.

Daniel 2 – Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the statue made of different metals, showing that it is the God of heaven that reveals mysteries, and that God's kingdom will last forever.

Daniel 3 – Nebuchadnezzar builds an image of gold and orders that all worship it or be thrown into a fiery furnace. Daniel's friends defy the king and are thrown in, but God saved them from the fire.

Daniel 4 – Daniel interprets King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and in his pride, he falls from his high place to roam about like an animal.

1. A King Swaggering vs 1-4

- Belshazzar is now King of Babylon, and he is proud and opposes God
- There is a problem of the heart:
 - **Romans 5:8,10** "God shows his love for us...if while we were still sinners, Christ died for us...if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son."
 - **Luke 16:31** "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead."
- What about you? What is the state of your heart? **Matt 5:8** - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

2. A King Shivering vs 5-9

- God responds immediately, openly, and Belshazzar is terrified by the writing on the wall.
- **Isaiah 46:11** - "I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it."

3. A King Sent Packing vs 10-31

- Daniel reproves Belshazzar and provides the meaning of the event and words.
- God will enact justice on the wayward king and his kingdom.
- **Hebrews 9:27** "It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgement."

For us, there is good news of the Gospel of Christ. If you have forgotten God and slipped into a sinful way of life, turn away from your sin now before he removes any opportunities to repent. Ask God to forgive you and begin to live by his standards of justice.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Romans 10:9 "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."