



## SAVED TO SERVE

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### DANIEL THE PROPHET - DANIEL 5 THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL, PART 2

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will continue studying Daniel 5 and the interpretation of the handwriting on the wall.
2. As we learned in our last lesson, why was Belshazzar condemned by God for the sins he committed? Daniel 5:18-22 (answer is in verse 22)  

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3. **Note:** Daniel 5 is intimately connected with Revelation 18. Let us compare the two chapters and see how modern Babylon is doing exactly what ancient Babylon did. Remember, modern Babylon represents the Papacy, other false religions and denominations that have erroneous doctrines, and the principles of worldliness which go against God (Revelation 17:1-6; 18:2-6).
4. What is said about Babylon the great, which also happened to ancient Babylon? Revelation 18:2; Daniel 5:28, 31  

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5. What has modern Babylon caused the nations to do, and what did Belshazzar do? Revelation 18:3; Daniel 5:1, 2  

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6. What is wine a symbol of in scripture? Proverbs 20:1; 31:4-6  

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7. Read Revelation 18:7. Who does Babylon glorify? Who should receive the glory instead? Revelation 18:7 (first part); Daniel 5:23  

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8. What does modern Babylon say in her heart? Revelation 18:7; Isaiah 47:1, 7-8  

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9. King Nebuchadnezzar, at one time, had similar sentiments that his kingdom would never see sorrow or be overthrown. What two things did He do which proves this?
  - a) Compare Daniel 3:1 with Daniel 2:44  

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  - b) Daniel 4:30  

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10. Like Nebuchadnezzar, did Belshazzar think his kingdom would “see no sorrow?” What was he doing which proves this? Daniel 5:1-2, 30-31. Also see the quotation below.  

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“While still in the festal hall, surrounded by those whose doom has been sealed, the king is informed by a messenger that “his city is taken” by the enemy against whose devices he had felt so secure; “that the passages are stopped, ... and the men of war are affrighted.” Verses 31, 32. **Even while he and his nobles were drinking from the sacred vessels of Jehovah, and praising their gods of silver and of gold, the Medes and the Persians, having turned the Euphrates out of its channel, were marching into the heart of the unguarded city.** The army of Cyrus now stood under the walls of the palace; the city was filled with the soldiers of the enemy, “as with caterpillars” (verse 14); and their triumphant shouts could be heard above the despairing cries of the astonished revelers.” {PK 530.2}

11. **Note:** The parable of the rich man who built barns proves that Belshazzar said in his heart that he “shall see no sorrow,” or in other words that life would continue as it had been without any judgment for his actions. Let’s read Luke 12:16-18.

12. After building bigger barns for himself, what did the rich man do to celebrate, just like Belshazzar? Luke 12:19

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13. When did God say that judgment would come for the rich man? Luke 12:20

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14. When did judgment come for Belshazzar, and when will it come for modern Babylon?

a) Daniel 5:5, 30-31

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b) Revelation 18:8-10, 17

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15. **Note:** The comparisons between Belshazzar's ancient Babylon and modern Babylon are strikingly clear. This does not mean that modern Babylon (the Papacy and her allies) will all be destroyed in a literal day or literal hour, but the Bible is sharing with us that once the cup of iniquity is full for unrepentant sinners, judgment will be swiftly poured out. By our actions, are we boasting in our hearts that we can persist in sin and never receive God's judgment or are we seeking to cast away our sins through the power of God, so that we can be found worthy in His sight? Ecclesiastes 8:11 says, "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." But, although God is granting us mercy now, His mercy for unrepentant sinners will one day run out.

16. As we learned in our last lesson, one reason why God's handwriting of judgment was written over the candlestick was because Belshazzar had rejected the light of truth (see Matthew 5:15). What two things will no longer be heard in Babylon because she has filled up the cup of her iniquity? Revelation 18:23

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17. What do the "light of a candle" and "the bridegroom" represent, which soon will no longer be found among those who remain unrepentant in their sins?

a) Psalm 119:105; John 1:1, 9-10

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b) Matthew 9:14-15

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c) Amos 8:11-12

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18. Let's return to Daniel 5:23-31 and read it for context. What did Belshazzar not give to God? Daniel 5:23

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19. What message was Daniel presenting, which we likewise must present to those in Babylon today? Revelation 14:6, 7

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20. How do we give God glory? 1 Corinthians 10:31; Philippians 1:10-11

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21. How many times was the word "Mene" written, and what does it mean? Daniel 5:25-26

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22. Which end time message was here being presented in Babylon? Revelation 14:8

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23. What did Belshazzar worship, and what was his judgment? Daniel 5:23, 28

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24. Which message does this typify in these last days? Revelation 14:9-11

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25. **Note:** Let us now transition to practical godliness. In Jeremiah 51:37, it says that Babylon is a dwelling place for dragons. Since Satan is the primary dragon power in scripture (Revelation 12:9), it means that Babylon is his kingdom. Just as ancient Babylon fell and was overthrown, we must choose to unite with Jesus in overthrowing modern Babylon, Satan's kingdom. How are we to do this? Like Daniel, we must live and preach the Three Angels' Messages to the world.

26. When we preach the Three Angels' Messages to the world, what effect will it have upon sincere souls? Revelation 18:4, 5; Jeremiah 51:6

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27. In Daniel 5:26, the interpretation of the word "Mene" is "God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it." In order to be saved, what must we do every day? Psalm 90:12; Proverbs 2:6, 7, 10-12

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28. In Daniel 5:27, the interpretation of the word "Tekel" is "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." What will Jesus allow us to go through so that not one of His character traits will be found wanting or missing in our lives? James 1:3-4

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29. What urgency is left in scripture for us to surrender all to Jesus so that we will not be found wanting? Revelation 22:11-12; Ecclesiastes 1:15

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