

I. Introduction and Review.

- A. The historical context of Daniel 5.
- B. The prophetic significance of Daniel 5. Dan 2:39 Jer. 51:33-50 Isa. 13:17-22 21:1-10
44:28 45:1 47:1f Rev. 17-18

II. Your Sin Provokes God. v. 1-4

- A. Belshazzar's blasphemous feast insults God.
 - 1. It is bad enough that he holds a drunken orgy. v. 1
 - 2. He compounds his sin by mocking the LORD. v. 2-4 Dt. 4:28 Ps. 115:5ff
 - 3. Substance abuse uncovers one's true beastly nature. Is. 5:11,22 Pr. 23:29-35 20:1
Mark 7:14ff Gen. 9:20-21 19:33 Pr. 31:4-5
 - 4. Are you trying to escape reality? Luke 12:20 Isa. 47:10-11
- B. How do people blasphemously provoke God today?
 - 1. They persecute His holy people. Rev. 18:24,20 17:6 16:6
 - 2. They misuse His holy Name. Ex. 20:7 Rev. 17:3
 - 3. They abuse His holy Word. Rev. 22:18-19
 - 4. They corrupt His holy temple (the church). II Th. 2:4 Eph. 2:21 II Co. 6:16
I Cor. 3:16-17 Mt. 21:13 Acts 5:1-6 Ex. 20:4-5 I Cor. 11:27-30
 - 5. They distort His holy gospel. Gal. 1:9 Eph. 2:8-9
 - 6. They sin in their bodies which are to be a reflection of God's holy image.
I Cor. 6:19,15
 - 7. They treat our holy God as if He isn't very important.

III. Your Sins Will Find You Out. v. 5-24

- A. The party is over. v. 5-17
 - 1. Belshazzar is terrified by the 'handwriting on the wall'. v. 5-6 Ro. 1
 - 2. Again, man's resources are unable to unravel God's mysteries. v. 7-9 2:2ff 4:6ff
 - 3. The natural man will never be able to understand the things of God. I Co.2:14
II Cor. 3:14 Luke 8:10 Isa. 6:9
 - 4. Again God's man is sought as a last resort. v. 10-12
 - 5. Why doesn't Daniel want Belshazzar's rewards? v. 13-17 Nu. 22:18 Acts 8:18-23
II Kn. 5:15-16 I Co. 9:18 Mt. 21:13 Mic. 3:5 Ge. 14:23 I Th. 2:4-5
- B. The indictment against Belshazzar: articles of impeachment. v. 18-23
 - 1. You failed to learn from what happened to Nebuchadnezzar. v. 18-2 Mt. 11:20-24
 - 2. You are lifted up in pride against God. v. 22-23a Jer. 50:29 Isa. 14
 - 3. You have insulted and blasphemed God through your idolatry. v. 23b Ex. 20:4
Ps. 115:5-7 135:15-17 Isa. 44:9-20 Rev. 9:20 Hab. 2:18-20 .
 - 4. You have failed to worship God Who has given you life. v. 23c Mt. 12:29-30
- C. Applications.
 - 1. Why doesn't Daniel make an issue of Belshazzar's drunkenness?
 - 2. Could you be indicted on the same charges? Pr. 18:12 Is. 53:6 Col. 3:5 Js. 4:4
Gal. 6:7

IV. God will judge you. v. 24-31

- A. The inscription interpreted: judgement has come upon you. v. 25-28**
 - 1. Your days are *numbered* and your number is up. v. 26 2:39 Heb. 9:27**
 - 2. Your life has been *weighed* and you have come up short. v. 27 I Sa. 2:3 Job 31:6
Rom. 3:23 Pr. 16:2 Ps. 62:9**
 - 3. You are about to be *shattered!* v. 28**

- B. God's Word is reliable and certain. v. 29-31**
 - 1. Why does Belshazzar honor Daniel? v. 29**
 - 2. All happens according to Daniel's prophetic declaration. v. 30-31**
 - 3. A picture of final judgement: *fallen is Babylon the great!* Rev. 18:2-8,16**

V. Concluding Applications.

- A. I have a word from God for our nation and for you. The handwriting is on the wall**

- B. How can you be ready for judgement?**
 - 1. Only Jesus Christ has met God's standard of perfect righteousness. Isa. 11:2-3**
 - 2. The 'handwriting was on the wall for Jesus' -- not because of His own sin, but because He bore our guilt. Mark 15:34**
 - 3. Through faith, His righteousness can be imputed to your account. Phil. 3:9ff**
 - 4. Believe now! Before your time is up! He. 9:27 Ps. 90:12 Rev. 18:4 Pr. 29:1**

- C. At which feast are you dining today?**

Discussion questions

- 1. Who is Belshazzar?**
- 2. What was so bad about his feast?**
- 3. How are people today acting like Belshazzar?**
- 4. How does Daniel's attitude towards Belshazzar differ from his attitude towards Nebuchadnezzar?**
- 5. What is the meaning of the inscription?**
- 6. In what sense is the 'handwriting on the wall' for our nation and its rulers?**
- 7. How does this text point to Christ?**