

**Women of Excellence**  
**Wednesday Night Bible Study**  
**March 27, 2019**  
**Daniel 5 - The Writing on the Wall**

**Introduction**

Never underestimate the influence of one godly life! As Daniel 5 opens, Daniel is an old man – more than 80 years old. The successors to Nebuchadnezzar's throne have ignored him. He has been shuffled off into some obscure office in the Babylonian bureaucracy. But when the king finds himself in trouble, he calls for God's man. Daniel shows us how to stand for God over the long haul.

**Name** the miracles that have occurred so far in the Book of Daniel.

Chapter 5 starts with a party and concludes with the end of the Babylonian Empire and the death of the King of Babylon, Belshazzar. This day was in 539 B. C. when Darius the Mede defeated Babylon.

A. The Big Party Daniel 5:1-4

1. **Read** the last verse of Chapter 4 and the first few verses of Chapter 5? **What** do you see as the biggest difference in the attitudes of Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar?
2. There was a lot of sinning going on at Belshazzar's party. **What** was the sin that God could not ignore? **Describe** the scene at the party that brought about this sin? **Why** was it so detestable to God? **What** attitude underlay all of Belshazzar's activities during his reign?
3. **Who** do you see as mainly responsible for the sin at this party? **Think** about this question from spiritual perspective as God would.

B. The Writing on the Wall Daniel 5:5-6

1. **Read** these verses in several different versions of the Bible. **Write** a description of Belshazzar's reaction to seeing the handwriting on the wall. **How** would you react to seeing this spectacle at a party where you were having fun?
2. The phrase has survived down through the ages. **What** does the phrase “see the handwriting on the wall” mean today?

C. Belshazzar's Response Daniel 5:7-9

1. After Belshazzar calmed down enough to act, **what** did he do that Nebuchadnezzar before him did?
2. Three times Daniel has recorded the failure of the “wise men” of Babylon to interpret the message of God. **What** point is Daniel trying to make?
3. If you were struggling with a difficult personal problem, whose counsel would you seek? **Why?**

D. The Queen Mother Daniel 5:10-12

1. **How** was the older queen able to help the king with his problem? **Why** do we sometimes ignore older people as a source of information?
2. **What** was her advice to Belshazzar?

E. The King Finds Daniel Daniel 5:13-16

1. About **how** old was Daniel at this time?
2. **How** does what Belshazzar offered Daniel to interpret the writing compare with what Nebuchadnezzar offered him for interpreting his dream in Daniel 2:48?

F. Daniel's Response to Belshazzar's Offer Daniel 5:17-24

1. In verse 17, **what** let's us know that Daniel was in this for the right reason?
2. In his reply to the king, **what** did Daniel say about God and His dealings with Nebuchadnezzar?
3. **How** did Daniel confront the king's pride?

G. The Meaning of the Writing Daniel 5:25-29

1. **How** do we know that the king believed Daniel's interpretation of the writing as the authoritative message of the true God?
2. **When** did the king know for sure it was a correct interpretation?
3. **What** was the meaning of the words on the wall: *mene, mene, tekel, parsin.*?

H. Prophecy Fulfilled Immediately Daniel 5:30-31

1. **How** and **when** was Daniel's prophecy fulfilled?
2. **Who** became the new ruler of Babylon?
3. **How** has this chapter demonstrated that seventy of life under Babylon's influence had not broken down Daniel's convictions?

**Final Words about Pride**

What makes people proud these days?

In what areas might we be tempted to be proud or arrogant?

What can we do to keep pride from clouding our perspective and respect for God?

How have you benefited from the lessons learned by others' life experiences?