

Revival Christian Fellowship

Night Scenes of the Bible
Daniel 5 - The Night of Retribution
October 3, 2021

Main Point: God is sovereign over all nations, people and circumstances.

Introduction

- What does the figure of speech “I saw the handwriting on the wall” mean in our culture?

Understanding

1. The Night of Revelry. Read Daniel 5:1-4.

- a. How would you describe the king, King Belshazzar?
- b. What sins were Belshazzar and his guests committing, based on these verses?
- c. What were the god's that the king and his companions worshipped? Are there any equivalent god's that are worshipped in our culture? Explain.
- d. The king's behavior demonstrated two things: (1) A false sense of security; (2) he was distracted from the dangers facing his kingdom just outside the gates of the city. What things in our culture provide these two things, false security and distraction from reality?

2. The Night of Revelation. Read Daniel 5:5-29.

- a. What does Daniel 5:5 describe?
- b. What do you think King Belshazzar was so afraid of? Was it only the disembodied hand that frightened him?

- c. Who did the king call to interpret the writing on the wall? Why were they not successful? What are the implications of these verses for seeking worldly counsel?

- d. Can you relate to Belshazzar in verse 6, in the sense that there was a time you suddenly saw the writing on the wall for your careless actions? What did this cause you to do?

- e. In Daniel 5:10-12 why did the queen have such confidence that Daniel could help Belshazzar?

- f. Why do you think Daniel turned down the king's offer of royal rewards in verse 17?

- g. Why did Daniel answer the king so confidently, seemingly certain that God would reveal to him the meaning of the writing on the wall? What is the relationship between faith in God and wisdom from God?

- h. What did Daniel remind Belshazzar of in Daniel 5:18-21? Why was this an important reminder?

- i. What sins did Belshazzar commit according to Daniel 5:21-24?

- j. How are the sins of Belshazzar happening all around us today? Where might the church be in danger of this?

- k. Why does Daniel include the fact in verse 22 that Belshazzar “knew all this” about the life of Nebuchadnezzar?

- l. What was the meaning of the words that God wrote on the wall for Belshazzar to see? What do we learn about God from His words to this king?

3. The Night of Retribution. Read Daniel 5:30-31.

- a. How was the message of the writing on the wall fulfilled?

- b. What are the implications for the United States of America from this chapter?

Application

- Is there an area of your life where you need to face the handwriting on the wall?