



LIFE IN THE LION'S DEN

Pembroke Bible Chapel
D Axford – June 27, 2010
Message No. DAN-06

The Handwriting on the Wall Daniel 5

I. THE CHARACTERS IN THE DRAMA

Belshazzar was coregent over Babylonia with his father Nabonidus from 553 to 539 BC.

The Queen, daughter of Nebuchadnezzar, advised Belshazzar to consult Daniel (*Verse 10*).

Daniel was in his 80's at this time.

II. THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS DOWNFALL

- The city was under siege by the Medes and Persians.
- Belshazzar held a great feast celebrating his great pride and invincibility (*Verse 1*).
- During this feast Belshazzar desecrated the holy vessels, taken by king Nebuchadnezzar from Jerusalem, by drinking wine to his gods from them (*Verses 2-4*).

III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS DEEDS

- God announces judgement on King Belshazzar for his pride and actions by writing on the wall (*Verse 5*).
- King Belshazzar is terrified and summons Daniel to interpret the writing (*Verses 6-16*).
- Daniel tells the king that the hand was sent from God because he had exalted himself above the God of Heaven (*Verses 17-24*).
- Daniel interprets the writing that the king and his kingdom have come to an end (*Verses 25-28*).
- Babylon was entered that very night by the Medes and Persians and Belshazzar was slain (*Verse 30*).

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Application

1. Do not wait until the situation is disastrous before seeking God's council.
2. When seeking council do not look to the wise men of the world but to godly councillors.
3. Never, ever, think yourself too strong or important to fail. Pride goes before a fall. Strength comes from the Lord.
4. Major and shocking events can occur without warning. Be alert for the Day of the Lord.