When we come to Daniel 5 we discover that Belshazzar is now King of Babylon. In Dan. 5 Daniel records for us what happened during the last night of the Babylonian empire’s existence before it was overthrown by the Medo-Persian empire.

I. BELSHAZZAR COMMITS IDOLATRY WITH THE HOLY VESSELS (Read Dan. 5:1-4)

A. In vs. 1 it mentions Belshazzar. Who is he and how is he Nebuchadnezzar’s son?

1. See if you can find any information about the enemies of Babylon and what they were doing at the time of this feast.

2. According to vs. 1 what were Belshazzar and his noble’s doing? Does this in any way seem strange to you? Why?

B. In vss. 2-4 we learn that Belshazzar wanted to drink out of the gold and silver vessels taken from the temple in Jerusalem during this feast. Why?

1. There are many idolatrous practices that have happened all over the world since the fall of man. Why doesn’t God do something about it?

2. Look up the texts below and write down what they teach you about God’s apparent indifference of those who mock and rebel against Him.

   a. Hab. 2:2-3

   b. II Pet. 3:3-11

   c. Rev. 2:20-22

   d. Why does God wait to judge the wicked right now?
II. MYSTERIOUS FINGERS WRITE ON THE WALL (Read Dan. 5:5-9)

A. What happened according to vs. 5 and why?

B. In vss. 6-7 what six responses did the king have to this mysterious event?
   1. (Vs. 6)
   2. (Vs. 6)
   3. (Vs. 6)
   4. (Vs. 6)
   5. (Vs. 7)
   6. (Vs. 7)

C. In vs. 8 what were the wise men able to do about the mysterious writing and its interpretation? Why?

D. Why wasn’t Daniel summoned? (See if you can find something in the context that explains why Daniel wasn’t summoned.)

E. In vs. 9 in what two ways did the king respond after his wise men could not interpret the writing? Why?
   1. 
   2. 
   3. How did the king’s nobles respond?
4. Neither the king, the nobles, the concubines, or wise men repented when this happened. Why didn’t they humble themselves and cry out to God?

5. Once a person is saved their entire world view changes. When we read certain texts in the Bible we may have a hard time understanding why the people don’t repent and place their faith in God even after witnessing God’s powers and miracles. Look up the texts below which are examples of this kind of behavior.
   a. Rev. 6:12-17
   b. Rev. 9:13-21
   c. Rev. 16:8-11, 21
   d. What does this teach us about the nature of mankind when it is not given the grace of God?

III. QUEEN INFORMS KING ABOUT DANIEL WHO IS SUMMONED (Read Dan. 5:10-16)

A. In vss. 10-11 we discover that at just the right time the queen entered into the banquet hall, and that she just happened to know about Daniel and his ability to interpret dreams. Was the king lucky that this happened? Why or why not?

B. What qualifications did the queen say Daniel possessed?

C. What was her advice to the king according to vs. 12?

D. What did the king do with the queens advice according to vss. 13-16?

E. What three things, according to vs. 16, did the king promise Daniel if he could interpret the writing on the wall?
   1. 
   2. 
   3.
a. There is an idiom used in our culture when we want to describe someone who realizes that something (usually something bad) is going to happen. We might say something like, “He could see the writing on the wall.” Where do you think that idiom came from? What is ironic about that idiom?

b. Why do you think God made fingers mysteriously appear and write a mysterious message in a mysterious language? Why not have the hand write in a language the Babylonians could understand?

IV. HISTORY OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR RETOLD (Read Dan. 5:17-24)

A. What do we learn about Daniel’s character from vs. 17?

B. Look up the Scriptures below. Write down the common lesson they teach.

1. Eccl. 5:10
2. I Tim. 3:3
3. I Tim. 6:10
4. Heb. 13:5
5. Do you think this lesson needs to be learned in the church today?
6. What would a person’s life look like if they had learned this lesson?

C. What lesson does Daniel recount to Belshazzar in vss. 18-19 that his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar learned the hard way (See 4:17, 25, 32)?
D. What two effects did Nebuchadnezzar have on all the peoples of every nation according to vs. 19?

E. What four powers did Nebuchadnezzar possess according to vs. 19?
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 
   4. 

F. In vss. 20-21 we are told Nebuchadnezzar’s threefold problem, his sevenfold judgment, and the lesson he needed to learn. Write them down below.
   1. Problem: 
   2. Problem: 
   3. Problem: 
   4. Judgment: 
   5. Judgment: 
   6. Judgment: 
   7. Judgment: 
   8. Judgment: 
   9. Judgment: 
   10. Judgment: 
   11. Lesson he needed to learn: 

G. Why was Belshazzar’s sin extra grievous according to vs. 22?
H. In **vs. 23**, what four things did Belshazzar do that were wrong and what right thing did he not do that he should have done?

1. What Belshazzar did that was wrong:

2. What Belshazzar did that was wrong:

3. What Belshazzar did that was wrong:

4. What Belshazzar did that was wrong:

5. What he failed to do that was right:

6. How is God described in **vs. 23**? Look up the texts below and see what they teach you about this attribute of God.
   a. **Job 12:9-10**
   b. **Isa. 42:5**
   c. **Acts 17:24-28**
   d. Because God is this way, how should that affect the way we live?

7. What does **vs. 24** tell us was the reason for God sending the hand to write the message on the wall?

8. Many people have seen “the writing on the wall” and knew judgment was coming but escaped the judgment that was promised. What do the verses below tell us about how someone can escape promised judgment?
   a. **I Kings 21:27-29**
   b. **Jer. 18:7-10, 27-30**
c. \textbf{Jer. 36:3}

d. \textbf{Jonah 3:8-10}

e. What do all of these texts teach us about God's character and how anyone can escape promised judgment?

V. \textbf{DANIEL INTERPRETS THE WRITING ON THE WALL (Read Dan. 5:25-28)}

A. In the chart below is what was written on the wall. Write its interpretation next to it in the blank.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writing on the Wall</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mene</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mene</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tekel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upharsin (Peres)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Why the difference between “upharsin” and “peres”?

2. Summarize in your own words what the message on the wall meant.

3. What do we learn from the writing on the wall about the character of God that is taught in the verses below?

a. \textbf{Acts 17:30-31}

b. \textbf{II Cor. 5:10}

c. \textbf{Heb. 9:27}

d. How should knowing about this attribute of God cause us to live differently?
B. Consider the statements below which describe the uniqueness of the particular night being described in our text and how this relates to God.

1. The uniqueness of the prophesied duration of the captivity (See Jer. 25:11-12).

2. The uniqueness of the activities of Babylon’s enemies that night.

3. The uniqueness of God’s miraculous acts that night.

4. The Queen who just happened to know about Daniel.

5. The Queen coming into the banquet hall at just the right time.

6. Daniel being able to interpret the writing on the wall when no one else could.

7. The fear without repentance that the king expressed.

8. Look up the verses below. Write down the name of the doctrine which explains what is happening behind the scenes in Dan. 5.
   a. Gen. 45:5-9 & 50:20
   b. Prov. 16:9
   c. Prov. 16:33
   d. Rom. 8:28
   e. Give a definition in your own words of the doctrine found in the verses above and illustrated in Dan. 5.
   f. Why is this doctrine important for every Christian to know and how does it apply to their lives?
VI. THE RISE OF DANIEL AND THE FALL OF BABYLON (Read Dan. 5:29-32)

A. What honor did Daniel receive from Belshazzar according to vs. 29?

B. What do we learn when we compare Dan. 2:48 with 5:29?

C. What happened to Belshazzar according to vs. 30 and any other resources you can find?

D. Who “received the kingdom” according to vs. 31?
   1. What does the phrase “receive the kingdom” mean?
   2. Who is Darius the Mede? (See Dan. 11:1 and any other resources you have.)

3. Who is Cyrus according to the verses below?
   a. Ezra 1:1-2, 7-8
   b. Ezra 5:13-15
   c. Ezra 6:14
   d. Isa. 44:28-45:7
   e. Dan. 1:21
   f. Dan. 6:28
   g. Dan. 10:1
4. How can we reconcile Dan. 5:31 with the verses above? Did Cyrus conquer Babylon or Darius or both? If Cyrus did then why did Darius receive the kingdom of Babylon? If Darius did, then why does the Bible say Cyrus did and why does it call Cyrus king of Babylon?

5. Why does it tell us in Dan. 1:21 that Daniel continued until the first year of Cyrus but in Dan. 10:1 describes Daniel as receiving a vision in the third year of Cyrus? How can this be reconciled?

6. What major lessons do we learn about God in Dan. 5?