



stand & LOVE FIRM well

**How to be Faithful to God and Genuinely Love Others
When Engaging Culture that is at Odds with Faith in Jesus**

Part 7

Understanding and Interpreting the Writing on the Wall

Daniel 5:1

Many years later King Belshazzar gave a great feast for 1,000 of his nobles, and he drank wine with them.

Daniel 5:2a

While Belshazzar was drinking the wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver cups that his predecessor, Nebuchadnezzar,

Daniel 5:2b

had taken from the Temple in Jerusalem. He wanted to drink from them with his nobles, his wives, and his concubines.

Daniel 5:3

So they brought these gold cups taken from the Temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives, and his concubines drank from them.

Daniel 5:4

While they drank from them they
praised their idols made of gold,
silver, bronze, iron, wood, and
stone.

Daniel 5:5

Suddenly, they saw the fingers of a human hand writing on the plaster wall of the king's palace, near the lampstand. The king himself saw the hand as it wrote,

Daniel 5:6

**and his face turned pale with fright.
His knees knocked together in fear
and his legs gave way beneath him.**

Daniel 5:7a

The king shouted for the enchanter, astrologers, and fortune-tellers to be brought before him. He said to these wise men of Babylon, “Whoever can read this writing and tell me what

Daniel 5:7b

it means will be dressed in purple robes of royal honor and will have a gold chain placed around his neck. He will become the third highest ruler in the kingdom!”

Daniel 5:8

**But when all the king's wise men
had come in, none of them could
read the writing or tell him what it
meant.**

Daniel 5:9

**So the king grew even more
alarmed, and his face turned pale.
His nobles, too, were shaken.**

Daniel 5:10

But when the queen mother heard what was happening, she hurried to the banquet hall. She said to Belshazzar, “Long live the king! Don’t be so pale and frightened.

Daniel 5:11a

There is a man in your kingdom who has within him the spirit of the holy gods. During Nebuchadnezzar's reign, this man was found to have insight, understanding, and wisdom

Daniel 5:11b

Your predecessor, the king—your predecessor King Nebuchadnezzar—made him chief over all the magicians, enchanters, astrologers, and fortune-tellers of Babylon.

Daniel 5:12a

This man Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar, has exceptional ability and is filled with divine knowledge and understanding.

Daniel 5:12b

He can interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means.”

Daniel 5:13

So Daniel was brought in before the king. The king asked him, “Are you Daniel, one of the exiles brought from Judah by my predecessor, King Nebuchadnezzar?”

Daniel 5:14

**I have heard that you have the spirit
of the gods within you and that you
are filled with insight,
understanding, and wisdom.**

Daniel 5:15

My wise men and enchanters have tried to read the words on the wall and tell me their meaning, but they cannot do it.

Daniel 5:16a

I am told that you can give interpretations and solve difficult problems. If you can read these words and tell me their meaning,

Daniel 5:16b

**you will be clothed in purple robes
and you will have a gold chain
placed around your neck. You will
become the third highest ruler in the
kingdom.”**

Daniel 5:17

Daniel answered the king, “Keep your gifts or give them to someone else, but I will tell you what the writing means.

Daniel 5:18

**Your Majesty, the Most High God
gave sovereignty, majesty, glory,
and honor to your predecessor,
Nebuchadnezzar.**

Daniel 5:19a

**He made him so great that people of
all races and nations and languages
trembled before him in fear.**

Daniel 5:19b

He killed those he wanted to kill and spared those he wanted to spare. He honored those he wanted to honor and disgraced those he wanted to disgrace.

Daniel 5:20

**But when his heart and mind were
puffed up with arrogance, he was
brought down from his royal throne
and stripped of his glory.**

Daniel 5:21a

He was driven from human society.

He was given the mind of a wild animal, and he lived among the wild donkeys. He ate grass like a cow,

Daniel 5:21b

**and he was drenched with the dew
of heaven, until he learned that the
Most High God rules over the
kingdoms of the world and appoints
anyone he desires to rule over them.**

Daniel 5:22

**You are his successor, O Belshazzar,
and you knew all this, yet you have
not humbled yourself.**

Daniel 5:23a

**For you have proudly defied the Lord
of heaven and have had these cups
from his Temple brought before you.
You and your nobles and your wives**

Daniel 5:23b

and concubines have been drinking wine from them while praising gods of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone—gods that neither see nor hear nor know anything at all.

Daniel 5:23c

**But you have not honored the God
who gives you the breath of life and
controls your destiny!**

Daniel 5:24

**So God has sent this hand to write
this message.**

Daniel 5:25

**This is the message that was written:
MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN.**

Daniel 5:26

**This is what these words mean:
MENE means 'numbered'— God has
numbered the days of your reign
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Daniel 5:27

TEKEL means 'weighed'— you have been weighed on the balances and have not measured up.

Daniel 5:28

PARSIN means 'divided'— your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

Daniel 5:29

Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was dressed in purple robes, a gold chain was hung around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 5:30

**That very night Belshazzar, the
Babylonian king, was killed.**

Daniel 5:31

And Darius the Mede took over the kingdom at the age of sixty-two.



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Principle #1

Whenever we misuse, abuse, or disrespect any of the objects, places, or people that God has given us to aid, assist, or enhance our relationship with Him, we commit blasphemy.

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Areas of Blasphemy - Church

- **Sacred Space to Place of Exclusion**
- **House of Prayer to House of Gossip**
Making Disciples to Making Dinners
- **Place of Grace to Place of Judgment**
- **From Masterpieces to Attendees**

Other Areas of Blasphemy

- Home
- Family
- Work
- Neighborhood
- The Lost
- Time, Talent, Treasure

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Principle #2

When we ignore or when we refuse to listen to God in private, He will “shout” His message to us in public, by writing it on the wall for all to see.

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Principle #2

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Principle #3

It is our character, our conduct, and our consistency that will determine whether or not others will consider us worthy of giving godly counsel.

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Principle #4

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Principle #5

There are four unwise shifts that individuals, families, institutions, and nations make that ultimately lead to a horrible downfall.

The 4 Negative Shifts

They lose all sense of...

- **Remembrance**
- **Reality**
- **Restraint**
- **Respect**

Principle #5

There are four unwise shifts that individuals, families, institutions and nations make that ultimately lead to a horrible downfall.

Principle #6

If we choose not to repent of our ways and if we refuse to partner with God in accomplishing His will, He will get rid of us and empower those who will.

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