

**Oxford Baptist Church – Feb 25, 2018. Pastor Robin W. Pifer**

**Daniel Series: “Daring to Live by Faith.”**

**Message 5 – “The Writing on the Wall” – Daniel 5**

### **The Story of Belshazzar and Daniel.**

The year was 539 BC. King Nabonidus, co-ruler of the Babylonian empire, had been outside the city with his army defending it against the mighty army of the Medes and Persians under Cyrus and Darius.

His son, Belshazzar, was ruling inside the city. Just days before this party, the Persian forces defeated the Babylonian army outside the city. Babylon was now besieged.

### **The Story Outline.**

- **The Last Party with the King. v. 1-4**
  - 1John 2:16; 1John 5:1-4; Ezekiel 18:20
- **The Writing on the Wall. v. 5-9**
  - **God wrote with his finger three times.**
    - Exodus 20:1-17 – God wrote the law
    - Daniel 5:5-9 – God wrote judgement – Hebrews 10:31
    - John 8:2-11 – God wrote Grace.
- **The Warning Denied. v. 10-12**
- **The King’s Speech. v. 13-16**
- **The Prophet’s Sermon. v. 17-24**
- **The Lord’s Message v. 25-28**
- **The Judgement Happens v. 29-31**

**When the Writing is on the Wall, it is a sign that judgment is coming.**

**Why did God bring Judgment on Babylon?**

1. Sin of Drunkenness v. 1-4

2. Pursuit of Sinful Pleasure – entertainment.
3. Immorality - Sexual perversion of every kind.
4. Idolatry – worship of manmade gods, rejecting the true God.
5. Blasphemy – mocked God.
6. Willful Rejection of the Gospel. V. 18-22
7. Unbroken Guilt. v. 6
8. Greed and Impure Motives. v. 7, 17 - Worshipped the gods of Gold, Silver, Bronze
9. Materialism
10. Confidence in Human Security.
11. Corrupt Leadership
12. Decline of the Family. (Adapted from John McArthur)

**We are closer today to the return of Jesus Christ than any time in history.**

### **Life Group Questions**

- What to you is the most significant application of this message?
- How is Belshazzar like so many leaders today?
- Take time to study the three times God wrote with his finger. Do you see a progression in these examples?
- Why is Daniel’s sermon so crucial in this situation? What does he say to show Belshazzar’s sin?
- Take time to review the 12 reasons the Lord brought judgment on Babylon. How does this list relate to our culture today in North America?
- What is God’s answer for us in this mess? Is it judgement? Is it a call to repentance to trust Jesus and receive this grace?
- How does Daniel’s example impact you personally as we live in an increasing secular society?
- Are you personally right with the Lord? Are you ready for the return of Jesus Christ?

