

DANIEL

MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

DATE: JULY 24, 2022

Daniel 5 - "You have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this."

Timeline of Babylon's Decline

605 B.C. — Nebuchadnezzar II inaugurated	556 B.C. — Labashi-Marduk - 3 months
587 B.C. — Jerusalem Conquered	556 B.C. — Nabonidus & Belshazzar reign
562 B.C. — Amel-Marduk reigns 2 years	539 B.C. — The Persian army besieges Babylon
560 B.C. — Neriglissar reigns 4 years	

Belshazzar acts with foolish arrogance in the face of the siege

Dan. 5:3 Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem... 4 They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

God's message of swift judgment turns the king's arrogance to terror

Dan. 5:5 Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote. 6 Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him

In desperation, the king turns to Daniel, the servant of Judah's God

Dan. 5:13b "You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah. 14 I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you..

Daniel contrasts Nebuchadnezzar's humility with Belshazzar's willful arrogance

Dan. 5: 18 O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty. ...20 But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken from him...21b until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will. 22 And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, 23 but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven...

God's judgment on Belshazzar's reign demonstrates his supreme rule above all kings

Dan. 5:26 This is the interpretation of the matter: Mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; 27 Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; 28 Peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians." ...30 That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. 31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom...

As New Covenant People, we...

1. ...evaluate our desires in light of the gospel.

1 Cor. 10:6 *Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.*

- idolatry (v. 7)
- sexual immorality (v. 8)
- testing God (v. 9)
- grumbling (v. 10)

2. ...maintain loyal gratitude to the One who rescued us.

1 Cor. 10:9 *We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, 10 nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.*

3. ...wisely take full advantage of our privileged place in history.

1 Cor. 10:11 *Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.*

4. ...humbly rely on God to sustain us in our weak human tendencies.

1 Cor. 10:12 *Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

Reflection/Discussion:

1. What people in your life have served as an example of "what not to do"? How have those negative examples positively benefited you?

2. While Jesus is our positive role-model, God has given negative examples for our instruction. Who are some biblical figures that serve as warnings? Rather than just teaching moral behaviors, how do these biblical stories outline how to live in relational harmony with God?

SONGS

"I AM SET FREE" - Leslie Jordon

"GOD IS FOR US" - M. Farren, J. Ferguson, T. Kleyn, J. Reeves, J. Robinson, J Tealy, R. Thompson

"GREAT ARE YOU LORD" - David Leonard, Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan

"CHRIST IS RISEN (HALLELUJAH)" - Brian Johnson, Mack Brock, and Phil Wickham

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 31,084.60

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,093.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$961,376.79

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$1,046,697.00