

CALL to PRAYER - Pray that the Name of God would be honored in our land.

Daniel 5:1-12 - Sober Words for a Drunken King part 1

Intro - The miraculous events of Daniel 5 happened mere hours before a nation's fall. The greatest city in the world...a golden kingdom...was about to tumble in one hour of one day. God had given Babylon a nice run *on top of the world*, but God's gravity tends to pull what is up all the way the down to the ground. Daniel 5 is another lesson against pride...national pride. The nation's leaders felt invincible. They had more than enough, and they mocked God while wallowing in their wealth. Jesus told a parable in Luke 12 of a rich fool who had plenty laid up for years, "...*tear down my barns and build bigger ones...*" Luke 12:19-20. The wicked/rich kingdom of Babylon was reveling when they should have been repenting & Dan. 5 records what happened on the day of their ending.

The Worrying

The Partying

The Writing

THE PARTYING

- About 30 years has lapsed between Daniel 4 & 5
 - Several kings have come & gone and now Belshazzar is on the throne. ^{Bush 41....Biden}
- Dan. 4 ended with a king repenting of pride and Dan. 5 begins with reveling in pride.
 - Daniel 5:1
- History tells us that Belshazzar has recently suffered some military defeats to Cyrus.
 - The Persians were literally *at the door*, but Babylon was partying behind the door.
 - The city felt no threat from the siege...impregnable wall...river and moat...20 years of supplies...
 - Rev. 18:7b
 - An enemy was attacking but Babylon was partying. ^{Isaiah 22:11-14}
- Their partying included blaspheming. 5:2-4
 - The king decided to celebrate a past victory ^(70 years prior) over the people of God.
 - They brought in the sacred vessels taken from the Temple in Jerusalem
 - A sacrilegious element was included in this raucous merriment.
 - Like mocking the Lord's Supper during a pagan party
- Why is *the holy* the target for blasphemy?
 - Why did Belshazzar want to blaspheme the Only True God?
 - What is true, holy, righteous & good is often the object of scorn.
 - Belshazzar showed contempt for the armies of earth and the God of Heaven.
 - Sinful prideful men often spout off about the Most Holy God
- Why do atheist & unbelievers misuse God's name?
 - TV show - avowed atheist - consistently uses Christ's name as a curse
 - They don't denigrate: *Mohammed, Allah, Confucius, Buddha, Vishnu, great spirit*
 - Unbelievers love to blaspheme the True God
 - Is it more common to hear God Name honored or denigrated in the world?
 - We should pray "...*hollowed be Thy Name...*"
- Daniel 4 ends with a king repenting of pride and blessing the Name - 4:37
 - Dan. 5 begins with a king partying in pride and cursing the Name ^{the script is flipped}

THE WRITING

- God interrupts the blasphemous festivities - 5:5
 - God sent a party crasher to get their attention. The miraculous arrested the blasphemous
 - A hand appeared and began to write a message on the wall.
 - It wrote right by the lampstand so all could see what was being written.
 - The music stops...dancing ends....jaws drop...as do the sacred cups full of wine
 - THE HAND & THE WORDS sobered them up real quick
 - *"Sobering Words for a Drunken King"*
- The king was particularly unnerved.
 - 5:6 turned pale, terror filled mind, trembled on feet and was shaking in boots
 - Dr. Missler gives an interesting commentary on this point of *"his loins were loosed"* (KJV)
 - The king became incontinent.
 - Legs turned to water, and he lost his water. Clean up on Isle 1
 - This event scared the crap out him...literally
- Isaiah 66:2b
 - The king trembled at God's words...but it was too late
 - The demons believe and tremble - James 2:19
 - Do we tremble at Gods words?....
 -words He wrote with His own finger? The 10 Words Ex. 31:18
 - Do the scriptures have a sobering effect on your life? *"...causes me to tremble, tremble..."*

THE WORRING

- ❖ The writing was visible, but the writing was not understandable.
 - 1 Cor. 2:14
 - The king needed an interpreter.
- ❖ Belshazzar calls in the magicians 5:7
 - Promises big payment and advancement to 3rd ruler (Belshazzar was a co-regent) with his dad)
 - They couldn't get the job done 5:8
 - Wrong counselors give wrong direction or no direction.
- ❖ Belshazzar is now more worried, and his concern is contagious.
 - 5:9 symptoms even worse
 - The proud partying king now grew even paler - white as a ghost
- ❖ The queen (queen mother) comes in. (mom to the rescue)
 - The queen gives some good advice.
 - *"Back in the day" your father (fore-father/grand -father) had an advisor name Daniel"*
 - *"Go back to the thinking of the old days"* Jer. 6:16 consult the ancient holy wisdom
 - Faith of our fathers 143
- ❖ It seems as though Daniel was put on shelf for some time.
 - A king arose who did not know of Daniel.
 - In 25-30 years the old wise advisors had been all but forgotten
- ❖ There are many good applications in this for persons and nations alike.
 - Are partying when we should be repenting?
 - Do we tremble at God's word? Have we forgotten the old wise ways?