

On-Line Sermon Notes

DATE	SERIES	SERMON TITLE	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE	TEACHER
10/16/16	Resolve	Let God Be God	Daniel 5	Fred Hennes

RESOLVE

- Daniel had seen the society decline. Image of statue – how much longer?

Let God Be God (Daniel 5)

- Background is important
- The city & the succession of kings



Babylon – 7 wonders of the world

Wall in Pergamon Museum

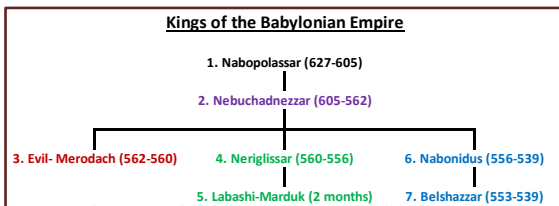
Square 15 miles on each side – 2 walls w/ moat

Outer wall 87' wide x 300' high

Inner wall 25' wide x 75' high (buried 35' - 20 yrs food)

250 watchtowers 450' high

Euphrates River ran through the center iron gates extending 20' below the water surface



Nebuchadnezzar inherited from his Father (605-562 BC)

3. Son Evil MARE-uh-dak (562-560) murdered by...

4. Son-in-Law Neriglissar (560-566) died

5. Son Labashi-Marduk (2 months) murdered by...

6. Son-in-Law Nabonidus (556-539), co-regent with his son...

7. Son Belshazzar (553-539) grandson of King Nebuchadnezzar

- Nabonidus was busy reestablishing the false religions
- Belshazzar's mother was high priestess of the moon god SIN

Daniel 5

¹ King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them.

- October 12th, 539 BC / Persian Army was attacking Babylon

² While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.

³ So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them.

⁴ As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.

As a culture they were (1) indifferent, (2) indulgent, and (3) irreverent

A Society In Decline

- 59M abortions since R v W (1973)
- National debt of \$20 Trillion
- State budgets depend on lottery taxes (\$59B in 2010)
- Marijuana soon to be legal
- TV by age 18 → 16,000 murders / 200,00 acts of violence
- Movies 339 released: 3 "G" / 189 (56%) "R" (PG-13 earn 3x more)

- Porn is 1/3 of internet. Pornhub every iPhone in American full of images
- Human trafficking - slave market largest it's ever been
 - 14.2M trapped in forced labor
 - 4.5 M trapped in forced sexual exploitation
- Marriage has been redefined
 - 2.2% of men are gay
 - 1.1% of women are lesbian
- Human sexuality is now a personal choice
- Global threats of ISIS terrorism
- Top Presidential candidates have serious character flaws

As a culture we are (1) indifferent, (2) indulgent, and (3) irreverent

You are always righteous, Lord, when I bring a case before you. Yet I would speak with you about your justice: Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease? Jeremiah 12:1

⁵ Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote.

⁶ His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his legs became weak and his knees were knocking.

- “His loins were loosed” – he soiled himself!

⁷ The king summoned the enchanters, astrologers and diviners. Then he said to these wise men of Babylon, “Whoever reads this writing and tells me what it means will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around his neck, and he will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.”

⁸ Then all the king’s wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or tell the king what it meant.

⁹ So King Belshazzar became even more terrified and his face grew more pale. His nobles were baffled.

¹⁰ The queen, hearing the voices of the king and his nobles, came into the banquet hall. “May the king live forever!” she said. “Don’t be alarmed! Don’t look so pale!

- Queen not necessarily his wife
- Perhaps his grandmother – she knew Daniel

¹¹ There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods. Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners.

¹² He did this because Daniel, whom the king called Belteshazzar, was found to have a keen mind and knowledge and understanding, and also the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems.

- How quickly God is dismissed!

Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means.” ¹³ So Daniel was brought before the king, and the king said to him, “Are you Daniel, one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah?

¹⁴ I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in you and that you have insight, intelligence and outstanding wisdom.

¹⁵ The wise men and enchanters were brought before me to read this writing and tell me what it means, but they could not explain it.

¹⁶ Now I have heard that you are able to give interpretations and to solve difficult problems. If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, you will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around your neck, and you will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.”

¹⁷ Then Daniel answered the king, “You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means.

- First he will give a review of history & a chance to glorify God

¹⁸ “Your Majesty, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor. ¹⁹ Because of the high position he gave him, all the nations and peoples of every language dreaded and feared him.

Those the king wanted to put to death, he put to death; those he wanted to spare, he spared; those he wanted to promote, he promoted; and those he wanted to humble, he humbled.

²⁰ But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory.

²¹ He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal; he lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like the ox; and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven,

until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and sets over them anyone he wishes. ²² “But you, Belshazzar, his son, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this.

²³ Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them.

You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways.

- Notice – Daniel was quietly living his life – he did not attend this event
- He was not out boycotting this event.
- Stood faithful to the end!
- Word play on hand?

²⁴ Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription. ²⁵ “This is the inscription that was written: mene, mene, tekel, parsin

²⁶ “Here is what these words mean: Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.

²⁷ Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

²⁸ Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

²⁹ Then at Belshazzar’s command, Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

³⁰ That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain, 31 and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two.

- River diverted. Invasion. Take over without a fight.
- Start of the chest & arms kingdom of silver

Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

St. Louis lawyer & Christian for business. Question ... "I've wondered why you're not a Christian." The lawyer hung his head, "I know enough about the Bible to realize that it says no drunkard can enter the kingdom of God; and you know my weakness!" "You're avoiding my question," said the believer.

"Well, truthfully, I can't recall anyone ever explaining how to become a Christian." The believer opened a Bible & read some passages showing all are under condemnation, & that Christ came to save the sinner by dying on the cross. "By receiving Him as your Substitute and Redeemer you can be forgiven. If you're willing, let's pray together." The lawyer agreed, and prayed, "O Jesus, I am a slave to drink. One of your servants has shown me how to be saved. O God, forgive my sins and help me overcome the power of this terrible habit in my life." He was converted. That lawyer was C.I. Scofield.

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 1 Timothy 6:12