

MESSAGE NOTES



IS THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL?

Since everything written in the Bible is for our instruction, Daniel 5 is more than simply the biblical record of the collapse of the Babylonian Empire on October 12, 539 B.C. What led to the demise of this world power? How do you know when “the handwriting is on the wall”?

The handwriting is on the wall when:

1. A nation is lulled to sleep by complacency (5:1, 29-31)
2. A nation openly treats God with contempt (5:1-4,22-23)
3. A nation responds to crisis with panic rather than repentance (5:5-10, 29-31)
4. A nation carelessly forgets its heritage (5:11-22)
5. A nation is callous to the goodness of God (5:23)

the one thing:

Keep your chin up! (Luke 21:28)

Miss something? All of these sermon notes will be available online Monday.

TAKING IT HOME NOTES

FOR SMALL GROUP & PERSONAL STUDY

- 1 **KEEPING IT REAL**
Scripture holds Daniel and Joseph in high regard in terms of leading faithfully despite serving under pagan kings. How would Daniel or Joseph engage in our public square today?
- 2 **LOOK AT THE BOOK**
John 8 describes the scribes and Pharisees trying to trap Jesus. Jesus, with the hand of God, twice stooped down and wrote on the ground. What do you think He wrote?
- 3 Daniel apparently had been serving in obscurity for 20+ years (after serving prominently under Nebuchadnezzar) before being summoned by Belshazzar. Discuss Daniel’s humility and how the Lord elevated him under both Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar.
- 4 **THE NEXT STEP**
What situation are you currently facing where you need to trust that God is in control rather than trusting in your own wisdom or power? What do you need to do?

NEXT STEPS

- Memorize Daniel 5:22 (use your name).
- Pray daily for the USA according to 1 Timothy 2:1-4.
- Refuse to panic (Luke 21:28).
- Other _____

october is pastor appreciation month

It’s a time to be purposeful in coming alongside our leaders in love and support; applaud their efforts and shoulder their burdens. This month, take time to send a card, buy a lunch, give a Facebook shout-out, decorate a church office or give a gift card. The gesture doesn’t have to be large to be a blessing.

Reprinted from *Fresh Start* devotional entitled “Job Appreciation” by Carolyn Hulliberger

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