

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

LESSON 5: THE WRITING ON THE WALL

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BELSHAZZAR, EVEN THOUGH MENTIONED ONLY BRIEFLY IN BIBLICAL AND SECULAR RECORDS, WAS CO-RULER OF BABYLON WITH HIS FATHER NABONIDUS.

- **SINCE THE SON OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR, AMEL-MARDUK, HAD BEEN KILLED IN A COUP, NABONIDUS THE SON OF A PRIESTESS CAME TO THE BABYLONIAN THRONE (C. 556 BC).**

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BELSHAZZAR, EVEN THOUGH MENTIONED ONLY BRIEFLY IN BIBLICAL AND SECULAR RECORDS, WAS CO-RULER OF BABYLON WITH HIS FATHER NABONIDUS.

- **LATER, NABONIDUS MOVED TO ARABIA AND LEFT BABYLON UNDER THE CONTROL OF HIS SON BELSHAZZAR (C. 550 BC). BELSHAZZAR RULED UNTIL 539 BC WHEN HE WAS OVERTHROWN.**

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WHEN WE PROFANE WHAT IS HOLY, THE REAL ISSUE IS NOT NECESSARILY BLASPHEMOUS WORDS OR IRRELIGIOUS ACTIONS BUT IRREVERENT ATTITUDES — DAN 5:1-4.

- **WHILE NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAD AT LEAST KEPT THE TEMPLE VESSELS IN A “SACRED” PLACE, BELSHAZZAR TREATED THE HOLY THINGS OF GOD AS COMMON — VV. 2-3; SEE 1:2.**

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- **BELSHAZZAR ALSO USED THE HOLY THINGS OF GOD TO HONOR FALSE BABYLONIAN GODS, EVEN THOUGH BELSHAZZAR SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER — V. 4; SEE VV. 22-23.**

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- **IT SHOULD NOT SURPRISE US THAT ONE OF THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO BELSHAZZAR'S IRREVERENCE WAS ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION — VV. 1-4; SEE PROV 31:4-5; LEV 10:8-11.**

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WHEN WE PROFANE WHAT IS HOLY, THE REAL ISSUE IS NOT NECESSARILY BLASPHEMOUS WORDS OR IRRELIGIOUS ACTIONS BUT IRREVERENT ATTITUDES — DAN 5:1-4.

- THERE ARE MANY WAYS WE PROFANE OURSELVES, BUT THE BIBLE SPECIFICALLY LISTS THE FOLLOWING:

WE DEFILE OURSELVES (AND OTHERS) WHEN WE INVOLVE OURSELVES IN SEXUAL IMMORALITY.

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WHEN WE PROFANE WHAT IS HOLY, THE REAL ISSUE IS NOT NECESSARILY BLASPHEMOUS WORDS OR IRRELIGIOUS ACTIONS BUT IRREVERENT ATTITUDES — DAN 5:1-4.

- THERE ARE MANY WAYS WE PROFANE OURSELVES, BUT THE BIBLE SPECIFICALLY LISTS THE FOLLOWING:

WE DEFILE OURSELVES WHEN WE SWEAR FALSELY, ESPECIALLY BY FLIPPANTLY USING GOD'S NAME.

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WHEN WE PROFANE WHAT IS HOLY, THE REAL ISSUE IS NOT NECESSARILY BLASPHEMOUS WORDS OR IRRELIGIOUS ACTIONS BUT IRREVERENT ATTITUDES — DAN 5:1-4.

- THERE ARE MANY WAYS WE PROFANE OURSELVES, BUT THE BIBLE SPECIFICALLY LISTS THE FOLLOWING:

WE DEFILE OURSELVES WHEN WE INVOLVE OURSELVES IN IDOLATROUS AND ERRONEOUS WORSHIP.

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**WHEN WE PROFANE WHAT IS HOLY, WE
DEMONSTRATE WILLFUL IGNORANCE AND REBELLIOUS
PRIDE AND INVITE DIVINE JUDGMENT ON OURSELVES
– DAN 5:5-31.**

- **EVEN THOUGH BELSHAZZAR WAS AWARE OF ALL
THAT GOD HAD DONE TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR, HE
CHOSE TO IGNORE GOD AND FOLLOW HIS OWN
PLEASURES – V. 22; SEE VV. 18-21.**

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**WHEN WE PROFANE WHAT IS HOLY, WE
DEMONSTRATE WILLFUL IGNORANCE AND REBELLIOUS
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– DAN 5:5-31.**

- **IN WILLFULLY REJECTING KNOWLEDGE OF GOD,
BELSHAZZAR EXALTED HIMSELF AGAINST GOD,
INSTEAD OF HUMBLING HIMSELF AND GLORIFYING
GOD – VV. 22-23.**

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– DAN 5:5-31.**

- **GOD REVEALED THAT HE WAS GOING TO BRING
BOTH BELSHAZZAR AND THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE
TO AN END AT THE HANDS OF THE MEDES AND
PERSIANS – VV. 24-28.**

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WHEN WE PROFANE WHAT IS HOLY, WE
DEMONSTRATE WILLFUL IGNORANCE AND REBELLIOUS
PRIDE AND INVITE DIVINE JUDGMENT ON OURSELVES
– DAN 5:5-31.

- SO THAT WE DO NOT BECOME PROFANE LIKE
BELSHAZZAR, WE NEED TO LEARN THE POSITIVE
PRINCIPLES FROM HIS NEGATIVE EXAMPLE:

**WE NEED TO SPEND TIME CONSIDERING PEOPLE
FROM THE PAST.**

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WHEN WE PROFANE WHAT IS HOLY, WE
DEMONSTRATE WILLFUL IGNORANCE AND REBELLIOUS
PRIDE AND INVITE DIVINE JUDGMENT ON OURSELVES
– DAN 5:5-31.

- SO THAT WE DO NOT BECOME PROFANE LIKE
BELSHAZZAR, WE NEED TO LEARN THE POSITIVE
PRINCIPLES FROM HIS NEGATIVE EXAMPLE:

**WE NEED TO MAKE REGULAR ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENTS,
STRIVING TO MAINTAIN A HUMBLE HEART.**

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WHEN WE PROFANE WHAT IS HOLY, WE
DEMONSTRATE WILLFUL IGNORANCE AND REBELLIOUS
PRIDE AND INVITE DIVINE JUDGMENT ON OURSELVES
– DAN 5:5-31.

- SO THAT WE DO NOT BECOME PROFANE LIKE
BELSHAZZAR, WE NEED TO LEARN THE POSITIVE
PRINCIPLES FROM HIS NEGATIVE EXAMPLE:

**WE NEED TO REMIND OURSELVES THAT WE ARE
WHOLLY DEPEND ON GOD.**

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ONE OF THE SUREST WAYS TO MAINTAIN A REVERENT, HUMBLE, AND OBEDIENT SPIRIT BEFORE GOD IS TO ENGAGE IN DAILY, PERSONAL (AND PUBLIC) WORSHIP.