

**DANIEL 5:22-31**

Study by Glenn Palmer

**Daniel 5:22**

1. Of what sin does Daniel condemn Belshazzar? *P R I D E* *He has not humbled himself like Nebuchadnezzar*
2. Matthew 11:20-24
  - a. Why does Christ warn Korazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum? *Although miracles were performed there, they did not repent*
  - b. Why will their punishment be greater than the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? *They knew but did not repent*
  - c. Calvin: "Those who sin knowingly and willfully are without the slightest excuse."
  - d. Think speeding ticket. If you see the sign, speed limit 55 and drive 80 MPH, you don't have excuse.
  - e. Why does Daniel condemn Belshazzar? *Like Korazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum, he had the knowledge but refused to believe.*
  - f. Calvin: Belshazzar shows "manifest obstinacy"

**Daniel 5:23**

3. How is Belshazzar a type of an anti-Christ? *Anti-fogging windows prevents the windows from fogging. An anti-Christ is against Christ.*
4. How did Belshazzar, his nobles, his wives, and his concubines "dis" God?
  - a. *Used that which is holy in a profane way*
  - b. *They praised the gods*
  - c. *They worshipped the created things, not the Creator.*
5. Calvin: Belshazzar "provoked God on purpose."

**Daniel 5:24**

6. Who sent the hand? *God*
7. Why is this important? *It is God himself who warns us*

**Daniel 5:25**

8. The inscription is there.

**Daniel 5:26: "Mene - God has numbered your days."**

9. Stated twice - definite. Just like you add sums, and then add them again to be sure the first was right. So God has added up the number of his days and it is definite.
10. Job 14:5

*Practical Application: What comfort do we get from this? When evil abounds, remember that the evil ones have their days numbered as well.*

**Daniel 5:27: "Tekel - found wanting"**

11. Job 31:6

**Daniel 5:28: "Peres"**

## Theme of Daniel: God is Lord of lords and King of kings

## Our God Reigns

12. Double meaning: Peres can mean
  - a. Persian - thus Cyrus was a Persian
  - b. Divided - the kingdom is going to be divided and given to the Medes and Persians

*Practical Application: If God numbered your days and you died tonight . . . would you be found morally deficient?*

*If Christ was to divide, would you be in the sheep camp or on the goat camp? Would you be on the right or the left hand side?*

### Daniel 5:29

13. Good news - Belshazzar keeps his word. He could have "shot the messenger" and ordered Daniel to be beheaded.

*Practical Application: Even though this word was NOT what the king wanted to hear, the pagan Belshazzar kept his word. How well do we as Christians keep our word, even when it hurts?*

### Daniel 5:30: "That very night"

14. The Lord is faithful.
15. Did Belshazzar repent of his evil ways before he died? The Bible is silent.

*Practical Application: Will we be warned prior to our death?*

*How then will we live?*

*Practical Application: When we sin and are not punished for it, what is our reaction? Do we react with "God does not care, otherwise He would have punished me? Therefore, I can sin again."*

*If God does not punish us immediately, do we repent or do we keep sinning? Do we see God's mercy and grace and repent "Whew, that was a close one" or do we keep on sinning?*

### Daniel 5:31: "Darius the Mede"

16. Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon @ 25 October 539, during the great festival, by diverting the Euphrates river and by walking into the city on the river bed. This is mentioned both by Herodotus and Xenophon. Apparently, the Babylonians did not put up much of a fight.
17. Problem: Daniel says that Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, but it was Cyrus the Great (r. 559-530) who conquered.
  - a. Cyrus conquered, and Darius was a subordinate. Thus, in Daniel 9:1 we read Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom. He was "made ruler." He did not become king on his own. Because he was the *de facto* man in charge, "he took over the kingdom," he was thought of as king. This is the way that Cyrus ruled. He kept the kings, and respected people. For example, he sent the Jews home. Also, Cyrus spent almost no time in Babylon as he continued fighting for another nine years.
  - b. Dr. John Whitcomb & Dr. Gleason Archer:
    - 1.) Darius = Gubaru (Greek name: Gobryas); mentioned in Cyrus's letters as being governor of Babylon in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> year of Cyrus (535, 533 & 532 BC) and in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> of Cambyses II, who succeeded Cyrus the Great
    - 2.) Darius could be a title of honor like Caesar, or Pharaoh, or Tzar
18. Shortly afterwards, the queen mother (vs. 10), died