The Most High God
Ruler of Heaven and Earth

The Handwriting on the Wall
Daniel 5
Lesson 5

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
June 29, 2014
Daniel – Outlines

1. History (1-6)
2. Prophecy (7-12)

1. Daniel purposed not to defile himself (1)
2. Order of world history (2-7)
3. The Beautiful Land in world history (8-12)
Order of World History

Head – fine gold – Babylon
Breast and arms – silver – Medes and Persians
Belly and thighs – bronze – Greece
Legs – iron – Rome
   Feet – iron and clay
Stone cut without hands
Chiasmic structure (2-7)

A – 5 world kingdoms (2)
   B – Persecution – fiery furnace (3)
      C – Sovereignty – Nebuchadnezzar (4)
      C – Sovereignty – Belshazzar (5)
   B – Persecution – lions’ den (6)
A – 5 world kingdoms (7)
Beautiful Land in world history (8-12)

- Jeremiah 3:19; Daniel 8:9; 11, 16, 41
- Ram and Goat (8)
- 70 weeks (9)
- A terrifying vision (10)
- Conflicts in the Beautiful Land (11)
- Resurrection of the just and the unjust (12)
Purpose of Daniel

- Show Divine rule in history
- Show hostility to God and His people in history
- Show the Beautiful Land in history
- Anticipate the death of Christ
- Show goal of history – Christ’s eternal reign
World History (Daniel 2, 7)

- Kingdoms start strong, then fade
- It is the stage for the work of salvation
Three Major Prophets

- Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel
- They spoke of the termination and restoration of Israel
- Ezekiel spoke of Daniel (Ez. 14:14, 20; 28:3)
- Daniel spoke of Jeremiah (Daniel 9:2)
- Jeremiah wrote to the exiles (Jeremiah 29)
Babylonian Empire (605-539)

- Nebuchadnezzar (605-562)
  - 605 – Daniel and 3 companions
  - 597 – Jehoiachin and Ezekiel
  - 586 – Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple

- 562 – Amel-marduk – Evil-merodach
  - 2 Kings 25:27-30; Jer 52:31-34

- 560 – Nerglissar – Nergal-shar-usur
  - Jeremiah. 39:3, 13

- 556 – Labashi-marduk

- 556-539 – Nabonidus
Nabonidus (556-539)

- Wife – the daughter of Nebuchadnezzar
- Belshazzar – son of Nabonidus
  - Ruled Babylon
  - Unknown in history until 1920
- Queen (5:10) – Belshazzar’s mother
- Medo-Persian empire (539-331)
Fall of Babylon

- Babylon – impregnable fortress
- Second year of a siege by Cyrus
- Diverted the Euphrates
- Gubaru – Darius
  - Mede; born in 601 BC – 62 years of age
  - appointed by Cyrus over Babylon – one of 20 provinces
  - Independent ruler
- Darius – A title meaning “holder of the scepter”
The Great Feast (5:1-4)

- Like the days of Noah (Matt. 24:37; Luke 17:26)
- The great blasphemy
The Hand of God (5:5-9)

- The Hand of God – power and wrath
- The sense of doom – intense fear
  – Proverbs 28:1; Isaiah 57:20-21
- The wisdom of this world – of no value
The interpreter (5:10-23)

- The queen introduces Daniel (5:10-12)
- Belshazzar charges Daniel (5:13-16)
- Daniel charges Belshazzar (5:17-23)
The handwriting on the wall (5:24-28)

- Aramaic – passive
- MENE – numbered (also Hebrew)
- TEKEL – weighed – too light (Hebrew)
- UPHARSIN – broken – Persia (Hebrew)
- God’s justice
Divine Wrath (5:29-31)

- Reward for Daniel
- Death for Belshazzar (Isaiah 47:9-11)
- The end of the head of fine gold
  - Habakkuk 1:16; 2:15-20
  - Jeremiah 50-51 – 51:1, 20-24
  - Isaiah 13-14:23; 47
- Darius the Mede (Isaiah 13:17)
World/Personal History

- Enmity toward God
- Grace and mercy from God
- Justice – numbered, weighed, broken
- Only hope – Jesus Christ – Colossians 2:14
Colossians 2:14 (AV)

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, that was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross.