

**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
  - Jerermiah. 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.**