

THE HANDWRITING IS ON THE WALL

How is this figure of speech used? What does it mean to you? Has there been a time when you did or didn't see it? Which of these experiences would friends or family might have said, 'We could see the handwriting on the wall?'

- When you chose to go into a certain career? Or didn't go into a certain career?
- Who you married, or, who you didn't marry?
- When you failed at something? Got hurt doing something?
- When you made a purchase of some kind?

LET'S OPEN GOD'S WORD

Daniel chapter five is another encounter with a Babylonian king. (Belshazzar is the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar.) While few of us will ever have such an encounter, God has preserved these stories with purpose. The Jewish captives needed to know that God is sovereign over the nations and He still has a plan for them. But, don't miss the connection of the sins of kings with the sins of Israel and why they were in captivity.

Read Daniel five and consider what God wants us to learn and apply.

How is the conquering of Jerusalem (586 B.C.) and the captivity connected to this king's story?

What atrocious sin did this king commit? What other sins did this king most likely commit?

From what you know about Israel (Judah) before the captivity, how did their sins compare?

Belshazzar was a grandson of Nebuchadnezzar. How were their situations similar to what happened in chapters two and four?

How was Belshazzar different from his grandfather in chapter four? Why did God respond differently?

Why do you suppose that God chose to send a message in this manner?

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What is the sin for which this king is judged? Why is this particular sin so atrocious to God?
How might we sin in this way today?

The judgment of God (that he judges us) is something that we rarely discuss. How do you feel about God judging this king?

Read Hebrews 9:27. Have you ever warned someone that they will one day face the judgment of God? Do you think about your own judgment?

Now read Hebrews 9:26, 2 Corinthians 5:21, and 1 Peter 3:18. How does this help us know how to discuss judgment with people? How does this affect how we think about the judgment of God for us?

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

It is right to fear judgment. Left to our own, without the work of Jesus, we would all be condemned and face the wrath of God. In the Scriptures listed above, we understand that God in Christ, has made a way for us to avoid the wrath of God. Read and reflect on the following promises and commands: Romans 2:12; 3:21-24; and then the good news in Romans 5:1-2, 9 and 8:1. If you have not yet, put your full (100%) trust in Jesus and what He did on the cross.

PLEASE PRAY

- Thank God for many things he has done including renewing our lease for Micah House, seeing people come to follow Jesus (Yay God!), and giving us unity and power in the Spirit of God
- Please pray for friends who are without Jesus as their mediator and savior
- Please pray for students at winter camp February 14-16.

CALENDAR NOTES (See website for more info)

February 22 Trinity is hosting Grandparent Summit

February 28 "Gather 25", Global prayer event, 25 hours including gatherings at Trinity, groups

March 2 Trinity Kids "Wheels" on campus