



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



The Writing on the Wall

Sunday, March 4, 2018

Bob Bradley

The Lord laid these scriptures on our heart a few days ago, for tonight. Lord willing, we want to do our very best. Please whisper a prayer for us if you would. God knows the need tonight. I'd appreciate you be doing that.

Daniel 5:1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

Daniel 5:2 Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which *was* in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

Daniel 5:3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which *was* at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.

Daniel 5:4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

Daniel 5:5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

Daniel 5:6 Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.

Daniel 5:7 The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. *And* the king spake, and said to the wise *men* of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and *have* a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 5:8 Then came in all the king's wise *men*: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof.

Daniel 5:9 Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished.

That is pretty good reading. Don't you think? It is a story that I hope will get our attention.

Before I forget about this, I want to make this statement. Don't ever forget, the Lord's things are Holy. You had better leave them alone. Amen! The Lord's things—the things here that God uses, that God has blessed, that God uses and God's people uses to worship Him; they are holy. Amen! They are not to be made fun of. They are not to be used to praise this world, or the god of this world. Do you know what they are designed for? They are designed to worship and praise Almighty God.

Here is what is going on. We all know this story. We have talked about it many times over the years. Israel had sinned; the children of Israel, the twelve tribes had sinned. We know that ten tribes in 720, 721 were carried away by the Assyrians. The Assyrians came and they carried off the ten northern tribes. We know that the two southern tribes were left. We know that they also sinned.

However, do you know the thing that got them in trouble? Get this. It was sin, but something very simple that got them in trouble is this.

God told them that every seventh year to let their fields lay fallow. They were not to plant anything, just let them lay fallow. God would take care of them. God would bless them. Do you know what they wouldn't do? They wouldn't do that. They would just go ahead and plant. He also told about a year of jubilee. Every fiftieth year was a year of jubilee. They were to let the land lay fallow. They were to let all the slaves go free. If someone had sold their property, fallen into debt and sold their property; then the land on the year of jubilee, would go back to its original owner. Do you know what they decided to do? They did not really want to do that. They did not think that was important. Do you know what? God sent prophet after prophet...and says, "Hey, guys, you had better repent. You had better turn around because I'm through playing games. What I've said, I mean and what I mean, I've said. It is time for you to turn around and repent.

Do you know what the southern tribes did? Nothing. They continued on doing what they were doing. We know that God raised up, again, prophets; Jeremiah, Isaiah and different ones. They said, "Hey guys, you guys have crossed the line now." Jeremiah spoke—I believe it is in Jeremiah, chapter 25—"Hey guys, you have already crossed the line now. You stepped over the line that God said not to step over. You are going to be going to Babylon for 70 years. You are going to be there. You are going to be there because you have sinned, and you wouldn't repent. You wouldn't do what God asked you to do and you are going to be gone."

We know shortly after that prophecy, shortly after that message that Jeremiah preached and others; do you know what happens? God, the God of heaven brings a gentile king by the name of Nebuchadnezzar and his armies and they come to Jerusalem. True story. Right?

We know that they came. From 606 to 586 BC, for twenty years, they surrounded the place. They deported different people at different times. However, finally in 586 BC, they decided okay. They completely destroyed the place and they tore down the temple one rock at a time. All the gold, silver and everything that was in the temple of God, that God had commanded, and He had blessed people to make these instruments, cups and all this stuff that God had blessed and had His hand upon to be used for Him and the worship of Him; Nebuchadnezzar had taken those things. He loaded up all this stuff. It was probably worth billions—I didn't say millions, but billions with a B—in today's economy probably would have been worth billions of billions of dollars. Do you know

what Nebuchadnezzar did? He loads it up and takes it back to Babylon. We know he deports people and takes them back. Literally, so many things happen. People died. They were killed, slaughtered. Innocent people died because of wicked people's sins.

We are going to somewhere. Pray for us just for a minute here.

Here is what happens. We know the story of the boys that decided that they weren't going to defile themselves of the king's meat and drink. Do you remember those guys? We have talked about them. They brought them there. They wanted to teach them the way of the Chaldeans. They wanted to use them in their kingdom. They wanted to give them the king's meat and the king's drink. These guys said, "Hey, we are not going to do that. We are not going to defile ourselves before Almighty God." We know that they didn't. We know that God blessed them. We know that when the storm came, when the trial came as we talked about this morning; when it got and heavy, do you know what God did? God took care of these boys. God took care of them.

It is something that we need to understand today, that when we live right and do right and when we decide and purpose that we are going to do what God has asked us to do; do you know what God is going to do? God is going to take care of His people. It doesn't matter what may come our way. If we will live right, it doesn't matter if the doctor says you have a day or two to live or a week or two to live; it doesn't matter.

Listen. Our life is in the hands of Almighty God. It is not in the hands of men. Do you know how long you are going to live, if you are living in the will of God? You are going to live until God says, I'm going to take you home. That is exactly how you are going to live. You don't have to worry about dying premature if you are living in the will of God, you live, you are obedient to Him, then you will be here as long as, God wants you to be here.

Here is the story. We know that Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. We don't have time to get into all of that. We know that God had blessed Nebuchadnezzar. God had given him wisdom. We know that he was a fellow here that was ruling the known world. Do you know what happens, when you read the story? He has a dream. We know that Daniel interprets the dream for him. We know that Nebuchadnezzar gets all exalted in himself. He gets lifted up in pride. We know that he wants everybody to come out to the plains, out in the desert to worship his image. We know that story. We know the fellows here said they were not going to do that. You do what you need to do but we are not going to worship your image. We know that they didn't. We also know that God took care of them.

We also know this. Nebuchadnezzar has another dream. The smart guys, the soothsayers, all the astrologers could not figure it out. They did not know what was going on. they could not tell Nebuchadnezzar his dream.

Do you know what? There was a guy there by the name of Daniel that had already interpreted some dreams. Do you know what they do? They go get him. The Bible

says this. They go get Daniel. They bring him in. Daniel begins to tell Nebuchadnezzar here that this is what is going to happen.

You have lifted up yourself in pride. You have exalted yourself against the God of heaven and because you have done that then God is going to deal with you. You are going to go out here. You are going to live in the wild. You are going to go out here and the dew of heaven is going to be upon you. You are going to live like the animals live. You are going to eat grass like the oxen. Your fingernails are going to grow like eagles' nails and your hair is going to grow like eagles' feathers. Do you know what happens? That is just exactly what happened.

Nebuchadnezzar would not repent. If you will read the story, after Daniel tells him what is going to happen; a year later Nebuchadnezzar was standing out one day, in his house, in his palace just lounging around. Do you know what he does? He begins to brag on himself. He begins to look at Babylon and all that is here. Do you know what he does? He begins to exalt himself. He says, "I am the one that has built this great place. I am the one that has built Babylon." Do you know what Nebuchadnezzar was about to learn? Nebuchadnezzar was about to learn that it was the God of heaven that put him in Babylon. It was the God of heaven that blessed Babylon to be able to conquer the world. It was the God of heaven that did that.

Listen. When we, when I, when you; we get exalted in ourselves, we about to learn a hard lesson. Amen!

Nebuchadnezzar was the dude. He wanted people to die; they died. If he wanted people to live; they lived. However, do you know what happens? It happened just exactly like Daniel said. Daniel says, just what happens. They took Nebuchadnezzar from the throne. They pulled him from the throne. He goes out in the wild. He is living with the animals. His hair looks like eagles' feathers. His fingernails grow and look like claws. He eats grass. His hair grows. Do you know how long he is out there? He is out there for seven years.

Listen. God has a way to get my attention. And God has a way to get your attention. Some trials in life and sometimes when life comes, when God does some things; do you know what I do? I learn a whole lot quicker, that I do other times.

Do you know what Nebuchadnezzar was going to learn? Nebuchadnezzar was going to learn that it was God that rules in the affairs of men. He was going to learn that it was God that sets up kingdoms and takes down kingdoms. We know that He did that.

We know that he was out there. We also know that after the seven years were up, he comes back to throne. He gets his senses back. When you read chapter 4, do you know what you will find out? That this guy that lived in the wilderness and ate grass like the oxen; he came to his senses. Do you know what he did? He began to praise the God of heaven.

Aren't you glad that God loves us enough, even though while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Aren't you glad when we mess up and we go the wrong way, God loves me enough that sometimes I have to live like the animals. I'm not talking about living in sin. I'm not talking about that. Do you know what God did? God forgave Nebuchadnezzar. Do you know what happens to Nebuchadnezzar? He dies. He is off the scene.

Now here is the lesson I want to talk about.

When you read about Belshazzar; several years have transpired between chapters 4 and 5. I don't know how many years it has been. When you read the Bible, not necessarily does chapter 5 follow chapter 4. In other words when you look—it is not a chronological book. In other words, if you read chapter 1, it doesn't necessarily mean that chapter 2 is going to tie in with chapter 1. It doesn't mean that. I don't know how many years here has transpired between chapters 4 and 5. I don't know. However, here is a young man, as I read this story; he is not very old, maybe in his 30's. I don't know how old he is. Do you know what he is here? He becomes king here of Babylon. Here he is. Babylon was a big place. If you read history, just read history books do you know what you will find out? You will find out that Babylon, it was many, many miles inside the city here. When you look at history and what they have dug up; do you know what you can find? They have found walls that were 15 miles long this way, and 15 miles long that way, 15 miles this way and 15 miles this way. Not only have they found walls like that but they were 300 feet tall. They were probably 40 to 60 feet wide. They were made out of brick.

When Nebuchadnezzar built the place, he was building so that nobody could get in and so that nobody could get out. The Euphrates River had a canal that run right down...off the river and right down into the city. They could raise their food inside the city walls. They could drink the water from the river. They could live in there. They could sustain themselves. They didn't need anything from the outside.

Do you know what happens sometimes in this world? Do you know what people thinks? They don't think they need anything from God. They don't think they need a God to do anything. I want you to understand something tonight. You need the God of heaven more than you need anything. You may have walls built around your life. They may be 300 feet tall. They may be made out of brick. They may be 60 feet wide. However, I want you to understand there is an enemy that is stronger than you are and you are going to need God, and you may need Him before the night is over, a lot more than you think.

Belshazzar, a proud young man. Don't know much about him. I know that he is having a big party. The Bible says that there a thousand of his lords that are there. A thousand people. That would take a pretty good place to hold a thousand people. Do you know that? We could cram 130 to 150 in here. Could you imagine how much we need to have a thousand people? Here they are. They are having a party. Do you

know what the Bible says they are doing? They are drinking wine. They are having a big time.

Do you know what I thought today, as I was studying some today and down through the week? Do you know what wine will do, do you know what alcohol, do you know what liquor will do for you? It will make you feel like you are a whole lot more secure than you really are. It will make you feel like you are ten feet tall and bullet proof. There have been many times in my life that do you know what has got me in trouble? That has got me in trouble. Alcohol has got me in trouble. I will tell you something tonight. It will get you in trouble if you drink it. I know we live in a world today—listen—that people says it is okay for Christians to do this and that. Listen to me tonight. Do you know what we need to understand? We need to understand that there is a God in heaven that knows all about me. He knows all about you. However, we had better be depending upon Him and taking care and listening to Him because there is a force out there that is stronger than what you and I are.

Here is what happens. They are drinking. They are having a big time; having a big party. They were all drunk. They were drinking. The Bible says here they were tasting their wine; do you know what Belshazzar does, when you read verse 2? He remembers something. He remembers all these golden vessels that Nebuchadnezzar, his father, had brought from Jerusalem to Babylon.

I really never thought about this until today. In my mind, as I read this story; do you know what I know or what I believe? These vessels that Nebuchadnezzar brought, even though Nebuchadnezzar was a heathen fellow, a gentile fellow. He knew nothing about the God of heaven at that time. There were some things that were even off limits for him to do. Do you know what you will never read here where Nebuchadnezzar drinks from these vessels? You will never read here where he ever got them out and looked at them and tried to impress anybody. However, here Belshazzar is, a young man; he is trying impress people, no doubt. Do you know what he wasn't worrying about? He wasn't worrying about where the vessels came from. Even though he may have known that Nebuchadnezzar had brought them and no doubt that he did. As a matter of fact, I know the scriptures will tells us he did. He knew where they came from but he wasn't worrying about mocking the God of heaven. He wasn't worrying about challenging the God of heaven. He was just trying to impress people.

Listen. If you want to impress somebody, let's impress the God of heaven. Let's don't try to stick out our chests and brag about who we are and what we have and how much we have got. Listen. It all comes from God. Everything we have whether we have much or whether we have little, it is all comes from the God of heaven.

Nebuchadnezzar was gone. Belshazzar is here. He is having a party. They are all drinking and getting drunk. He said, bring me the gold and silver vessels that my father Nebuchadnezzar brought—get this—from the house of God. Bring them. I want them. Do you know what happens here? That is exactly what happens. They go. They get

them. They brought the gold vessels in chapter 3. Do you know what they begin to do? they begin to drink out of them.

Daniel 5:4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

Could you imagine being there on that night? All these people, all these hundreds and no doubt, into the thousands of people that were there. Here Belshazzar is. He has got all this fine stuff out here, no doubt, that was beautiful. God has blessed men to make this stuff out of silver and gold. When you read how this stuff was made, it had to have been vey beautiful.

Listen. We live in a world today, when we have a lot of folks that even comes to church that doesn't think too much about anything being holy. Listen to me tonight. There are things that are holy and this book is one of them. This Word of God is holy. It is separated. It is something that you and I...do you know what we should do? We should respect, we should cherish, we should guard God's Word with everything that we have. Not only that but this place that we come to; I know it is just wood and brick and concrete. However, do you know what I thought about? This brother's dad, probably many years ago, when the building was built; do you know what they did? They probably got on their faces before Almighty God and they dedicated this place as a place of worship to Almighty God.

Listen. This place is holy. This place is holy. Why it is holy is because God is here. We need to respect it; people of old.

Back when I was a kid, I didn't go to church until I was 15 years old probably. Back then, we didn't have air conditioning, carpet, and all that stuff. I remember a few times when I went I was 14 or 15 years old. Sinners respected the house of God. The drunks that were in the community respected the house of God. Amen! They did. Didn't they? Boy! Haven't we changed? Things have changed.

Here Belshazzar is. They are having a big party. They bring in the golden vessels. Do you know what they begin to do? They don't begin to praise the God of heaven. They begin to praise the gods of gold and silver. Listen. In Babylon, they had all kinds of gods that they could praise and that is what they were doing.

Listen. It is a serious thing when we begin to mock Almighty God. It is a serious thing when we challenge God to a fight because you are going to lose. I want you to understand that tonight. You are going to lose. You cannot defy the armies of the God of heaven and expect to win. You are not going to do that.

The Bible says they drink their wine from the cups and they praise their gods of wood, and stone. Listen. Here is what is going to happen. The Bible says, while they are doing that; they are no doubt, all drunk. They are feeling good. They are having times and usually when you have drinking going on then you have women that are doing

some things that they shouldn't be doing. Also, men. They were having a big party. However, God was about ready to put an end to their party.

Listen. You may think you are going to live forever. You may think you can live like you want to forever, but God has got His hand upon the dial of your life. It is here. It is appointed unto man once to die, after this the judgement.

Things are going on. They are having a big-time party. Everything is fine. Then something happens. Over here on the wall where Belshazzar can see is a man's hand. Get this. There is a man's hand, fingers writing. Amen! Writing on the wall. He doesn't see the man. The Bible doesn't say that he sees the arm. But he sees these fingers and this hand writing against the candlesticks over on the plaster wall, and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. That is all he saw is the hand. Amen!

Listen. It is amazing to me how sometimes we get so disrespectful for God, toward God, towards His Word, towards His house, towards His property, towards His name and we can go a long way with that. We get so disrespectful. In this world we live in, we see more of that today than we have ever saw in history of mankind. The media, churches, church music...

I told someone today, yesterday, talking about a particular song—it doesn't matter what the song was—it wasn't a Christian song. They call it a Christian song. It was garbage. It was degrading the God of heaven. It was bringing disgrace to His name. Yet we want to get up, jump around, and wave around. Listen. Music that doesn't bring glory to God; we don't need it in our church.

Here is what happens. He sees the handwriting on the wall.

I thank God, we don't have that problem here. Amen! People singing garbage. We don't have that problem here. We know better. Don't we?

He sees the hand writing on the wall. Do you know what it does? I'd say this dude sobered up real quick because it scared him to death. The Bible says here, he sees the part of the hand that is writing. The Bible says...

Daniel 5:5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

Daniel 5:6 Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.

The king's countenance was changed, when you read verse 6, that quick. It didn't take an hour. It didn't take two hours. He sees this. He sees the hand writing. He doesn't see anything else but he sees the hand writing and his countenance changed that quick. The Bible says his thoughts were troubled. Not only did his face change but also even in his brain, his thoughts changed that quick. Not only that but also...

Daniel 5:6 Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.

I'd say if we would have seen this king, sitting and doing all this that was happening to him; we probably wouldn't have had any idea what was going on. His knees shaking. His knees banging together. Things out of joint, bam, bam, bam. His countenance changed. His thoughts changed. The way he looks changed. Now he is scared to death. The Bible says here the king cried aloud, when you read verse 7, it says that.

Daniel 5:7 The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. *And* the king spake, and said to the wise *men* of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and *have* a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

This happened and no doubt, the king screamed and hollered as loud as he could. Do you know what he does? He is hollering for somebody to come and help him, somebody to come and tell me what is going on. Bring the astrologers, and the soothsayers. Bring the ouija boards, bring all the wizards, bring all the witches, and bring everything you have because I want to know what this writing means. Again, do you know what? He was looking in the wrong spot. Listen. The devil can't read the handwriting of God. Amen! He can't do that. We can tell him what it says and he knows that. But do you know what he can't do? he can't read this because he had no idea what it meant. The magicians, soothsayers, astrologers, and these people that were empowered, indwelt, and infested by unclean spirits; these guys no doubt, were. They couldn't read the writing. They were scared to death.

He says just tell me what it means and what it says. I'll put you in scarlet. I'll put a gold chain about your neck and I'll make you third ruler in the kingdom. You will be third guy in charge if you will just tell me what it says. They couldn't do it. They did not have it.

Here is what happens. When you go down to verse 9...

Daniel 5:9 Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished.

When they looked at him sitting and shaking, convulsing, how he looked, and all that was going on; they were absolutely petrified on how he looked. They knew something bad was going on.

Get this.

Daniel 5:10 *Now* the queen, by reason of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banquet house: *and* the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed:

Daniel 5:11 There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom *is* the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father,

the king, *I say*, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, *and* soothsayers;

Daniel 5:12 Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.

Do you know who the queen was? The queen was Nebuchadnezzar's wife. Nebuchadnezzar is dead, if I understand things. Now he is gone but his wife is still yet there. She begins to say...

Daniel 5:11 There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom *is* the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, *I say*, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, *and* soothsayers;

Daniel 5:12 Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.

Daniel is an old man now. Nebuchadnezzar is gone. No doubt, Belshazzar here has rooted him out of the way. The old man is crazy. We will take care of him. My dad liked him so we will keep him around. We don't really need him anymore.

Listen. We need wisdom. We need people who has wisdom. We need people who have been on this way a while that we can sit down and talk to that can teach us some things. Amen! Wisdom doesn't come overnight folks. Wisdom doesn't come in a year or two, or five years, or ten years, or even twenty-five years, necessarily. Some of our dear folks that has been on this way a long time; brothers and our sisters that has some wisdom that has been on the way. We need them around. We need to listen to them. Because they can tell us young whippersnappers some things.

She said, "Go call Daniel. He can tell you what is going on here. He can tell you all of this stuff."

Here is what is going to happen. The get Daniel. As you read, Daniel was brought in. Daniel is going to speak unto the king here. The king asked him...

Daniel 5:13 Then was Daniel brought in before the king. *And* the king spake and said unto Daniel, *Art* thou that Daniel, which *art* of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry?

Daniel 5:14 I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods *is* in thee, and *that* light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee.

Daniel 5:15 And now the wise *men*, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but they could not shew the interpretation of the

thing:

Daniel 5:16 And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and *have* a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 5:17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

The king asked, "Are you the Daniel from the children of captivity? Are you the one that came from Judah. Did my father bring you from the land of Israel? He said, "I have heard of you and about you." He tells him here, "The smart guys can't tell me anything. I've asked them. They can't tell me about this handwriting on the wall." Daniel is going to say something here that as you read down through here, he is going to tell him something.

He is going to tell him, "King, I can tell you what this is. I can tell you all about that. First of all, I am going to tell you about your father. I am going to tell you something about your father that you already know. You know that he came. You know that he brought the children of Israel back here. You know that he got exalted in himself. Belshazzar, you know what Nebuchadnezzar, your father, did. You know how God dealt with him. You know that he gets lifted up in pride. He exalts himself against the God of heaven. Belshazzar you know what your father, Nebuchadnezzar did. You know that. You know how he spent seven years out in the wilderness eating grass. The dew was upon him. He was a wild fellow. You know that. You also know that when the seven years were up, he comes to his senses and he comes back in. God puts him back on the throne. He begins to praise the God of heaven. He recognizes it is God that has blessed. He recognized that it is God that built Babylon. Belshazzar you know that. You know what God did. You know what your father did. You know what the God of heaven did to him and for him. You know that. What are you doing? You know."

Listen. Get this. Sometimes we know. We may not act like we know. Sometimes we may want to forget that we know. Sometimes we want to tell people, I don't remember. Do you know what we know if we are saved? We know what God expects out of us. We know what God expects out of us. I can look at people that have gone before us. Buss and others that we have known here...that has gone down that road, taught us, instructed us, that has lived right and we saw how God blessed them. We know what God has done through them. We know what it takes. We know it takes a life of obedience, if God is going to bless us. Then we act sometimes like we forget that.

Belshazzar knew what the God of heaven had done with his father. He had used him to bring Israel there. He gets exalted in himself. He sends him to the wilderness. He brings him back from the wilderness. He repents. He puts him back on the throne. God takes him off the scene. He knew that. Even though, he may have forgotten it.

maybe he wanted to change things around...however, he knew. Daniel reminded him, "You knew this but yet you went ahead and did what you did. With your eyes wide open, you know what God did to your father and yet you go ahead and do what you are doing." Daniel says, "I have a message for you. You are not going to like it."

The message was this.

Daniel 5:25 And this *is* the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

Daniel 5:26 This *is* the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

Daniel 5:27 TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

Daniel 5:28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

The writing on the wall was this: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. That was the writing on the wall. That is what he saw. That is what Belshazzar sees on the wall. MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. He can't figure it out. Do you know what Daniel says? "I'm going to tell you. Here you are sitting here drinking wine out of vessels that have been dedicated to the God of heaven. You are sitting here inside a city that your father built to be impregnable. You are sitting inside of a city that you have fifteen years of food stored up and you have a river running right down through you. You think that you can just live on. He says, "I have a message for you. Things are about to change."

If you just read secular history, while Belshazzar was having his party; do you know who was outside the city? Darius the Mede. He was outside the city. Do you know what they were doing? They were not trying to go over the wall. They were not trying to go under the wall. Do you know what they did? They diverted the river and marched right down the river into the city. Amen!

Belshazzar thought it was fine. He thought he had no problems. No doubt, he knew the Medes were out there. His enemy; he knew they were out there. The big walls, wide walls, plenty of water, plenty of food. They are going to drink and have a party. MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. The interpretation of the thing in verse 26.

Daniel 5:26 This *is* the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

Daniel 5:27 TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

Daniel 5:28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

"God has numbered your kingdom..." Do you know what that means? Belshazzar, you are done. Your kingdom is going to come to an end now. You are done. Your days here on earth are over. You are finished. Do you think that got his attention? I'll guarantee you, it got his attention. You would have thought it would have brought him

to a place that hey, if my father repented and he was able to praise the God of heaven and maybe since God put him back on the throne then maybe... However, do you know what he didn't do? You will not read here anywhere where he repents. You will not read here anywhere where he says anything about the goodness and greatness of Almighty God.

Daniel says MENE means God has numbered your kingdom, your days and you are finished. What do you think? If we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that this night would be our last night what would we do? Would we do things differently?

I promise you that you wouldn't be going home and watching the reruns of *I Love Lucy*. You wouldn't be doing that. Also, you wouldn't be getting your phone out when you get to the parking lot checking Facebook. You wouldn't be doing that. You wouldn't be doing a lot of stuff. I think we would be changing the way we think, how we handle ourselves and what we do. There would be a million things running through our minds. Am I ready. Do I know I'm ready? Do I owe anybody an apology? He says this...

Daniel 5:27 TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

Daniel 5:28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Belshazzar, God has weighed you in His balance, in His scales and you are not coming up. You are falling way short. You are not measuring up, Belshazzar. He says God has weighed you in the balances and you are found wanting or lacking." The Bible tells us that we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. If we were weighed in the balances, standing on our own merit; everyone of us would be wanting tonight. Amen! Our righteousness is as filthy rags. Do you know what makes the balances balance out? The blood of Jesus. Amen! Isn't that great.

He says here your kingdom, you're numbered, your days, you're done, you're finished. God has weighed you. The reason that you are over, that you are done, your days are over is because God has weighed you in the balance. You are found wanting.

He says this.

Daniel 5:28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold. The arms of silver, the Medes and the Persians. The vision he saw, the image that he built; they are going to take over. He says, "Belshazzar, you are done. You have mocked the God of heaven. Things that were very holy, things that God had blessed to be used and was designed for His worship; you have mocked the God of heaven. You have defied the God of heaven. You have challenged the God of heaven to a fight, Belshazzar. You are going to lose."

Daniel 5:30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

Do you know what happens? Darius, the Mede, re-channels the river, the canal. He marches down through where the water would normally come into the city. Probably the guards that were on the wall, were sitting up there probably drinking, having a big time. The rest of the people were inside the banquet hall having a great time, never knowing how close disaster really was until it was there.

Listen. I don't know when God is going to call. I don't have any idea. I don't know how long you and I are going to be here. I told someone this yesterday, maybe. I don't know why wicked people live to be old and why some people die young. I don't understand all of that. But I do know this. God knows what He is doing. I do know there is going to come a time that God is going to call and everyone of us are going to answer. God is going to call and everyone of us is going to answer. It is my prayer that we will be like Nebuchadnezzar. He praised the God of heaven. He understood how great and how wonderful the God of heaven was. He knew who He was and he praised Him. There is no doubt, in my mind, that when we get to heaven that we will be able to see Nebuchadnezzar. Amen! That is where I want us all to go.

I was thinking about a while ago when we were singing the song, some of you folks were holding hands with your wife or your children, or you were hugging one another. Listen. Going to heaven is a great thing. Do you know that? To be able to know that you are going to be there with your family, your husband, your wife, and people that you love. That is a great thing. Amen! If you don't know that tonight, I want to invite you to come.

If you are in this building, if you are listening to me around the world tonight, wherever you may be; if you don't know for sure that if Jesus Christ should come and call you out of here tonight, if you don't for sure that you are going to heaven, this would be a great time, this would be a great place for you to come and make things right with Jesus Christ. Folks, it is going to happen one day. It is going to happen one day.

I have said this many times. there are many folks who put their shoes on this morning that an undertaker is going to take the off today. What you put on this morning, an undertaker will take them off tonight. Amen! A lot of people dressed this morning in their clothes, and undertaker will take them off tonight. Friend, I don't know when my time is nor do I know yours, but I do know one thing. If the rapture doesn't take us we are all going to die. If you are not ready to meet Jesus, come as we stand.

Come and pray—