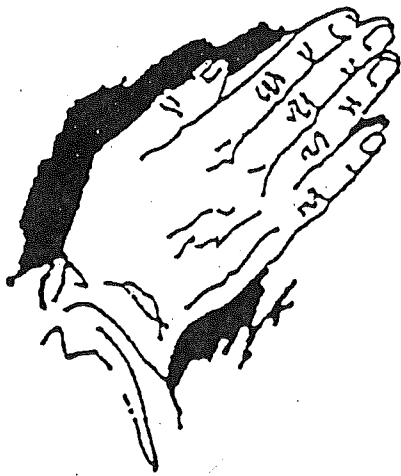


THE PARTY'S OVER

Daniel 5:1-31



OH WHAT A KEG PARTY

- ◆ Carnality
- ◆ Confrontation
- ◆ Calling
- ◆ Consequences

“O Belshazzar, you have not humbled your heart...but lifted up yourself against the God of heaven”(Daniel 5:22 & 23)

Bill Kirk

“TURN OUT THE LIGHTS THE PARTY’S OVER”

Text: Daniel 5:1-31
Subject: What Happens When The Party’s Over?

Introduction

(The theme of Daniel chapters 1-6 is summed up in 2 verses)

- ◆ Daniel 5:12, “Forasmuch as an **excellent spirit** was found in Daniel”, (and)
- ◆ Daniel 6:3, “Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes because an **excellent spirit** was in him”.

Question: What is an excellent spirit?

Answer: It is the spirit of Daniel revealed in Daniel chapters 1-6.

- ◆ The first 6 chapters of Daniel are historical (and reveal his personal integrity).
- ◆ The last 6 chapters of Daniel are prophetic (and reveal end time events).

Question: What are the characteristics of an excellent spirit (that bring blessings and great reward?)

- ◆ In chapter 1– A willingness to choose right when the environment is all wrong. (**an integrity spirit**)
- ◆ In chapter 2 – A willingness to thank God when blessings come your way. (**a grateful spirit**)
- ◆ In chapter 3 – A willingness to choose companions who fear the Lord above every other opinion. (**a courageous spirit**)
- ◆ In chapter 4 – A willingness to speak the truth in love even when it hurts. (**a secure spirit**)
- ◆ In chapter 5 – A willingness to not use God for personal gain. (**a servanthood spirit**)
- ◆ In chapter 6 – A willingness to pray and seek God in the midst of a crisis or a calm. (**a devotional spirit**)

Question: How many of you want to please the Lord with an excellent spirit?

- ◆ Like Daniel (in ch. 1) you don’t want to bow down to the gods of wine offered to pagan idols?
- ◆ Like Daniel (in ch. 2) you want to be grateful to God when every blessing comes your way?
- ◆ Like Daniel (in ch. 3) you want to chose friends who fear the Lord and see Jesus in the fiery furnace?
- ◆ Like Daniel (in ch. 4) you want to remember that those who walk in pride God is able to abase.
- ◆ Like Daniel (in ch. 5 today) you want to live ready to die everyday and not come up short in the end?

Discover With Me **(Revelations From A Keg Party)**

I. The Carnality Of Belshazzar (Vs. 1-4)

Question: What does the Scripture say in Daniel 5:1?

Answer: “Belshazzar the King made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand”.

(Grasp The Setting Here)

1. Nebuchadnezzar’s grandson (Belshazzar) has been brought up in luxury, power and adulation.
2. The last king of Babylon was Nabonidus, the husband of Nebuchadnezzar’s daughter.
3. Nabonidus has made his son (Belshazzar) his associate.
4. For 14 years Belshazzar has been second in command (and in chapter 5, Belshazzar is faced with serious responsibility).
5. Belshazzar’s dad is in the field with the Chaldean army fending off the attacks by the Medes and the Persians.
6. The armies of Cyrus have surrounded the capital as their final prize.

7. And, the defense of the capital is entrusted to Belshazzar (a time when he is needed the most and we find him at his least).

Question: What is Belshazzar doing while the enemy is sneaking around ready to break in?

Question: What is Belshazzar doing while the Persian army prepares to attack?

Question: What is Belshazzar doing when the cities people need him the most?

(In Verses 1-4, it's a Keg Party like none other)

- ◆ Belshazzar ignores the Persian threat just outside the city walls and throws a party.
- ◆ It's an orgy of food, wine, women and song.
- ◆ One thousand lords with beautiful women.
- ◆ Golden lamps hanging from a ceiling paneled with ivory and pearl.
- ◆ The floor carpeted with the richest rugs that India could produce.
- ◆ Couches mounted with silver and cushioned with velvet.
- ◆ Bands of music playing and servants waiting on the partygoers.
- ◆ Dazzling costumes, and upbeat tempo and Belshazzar challenges his lords to out-drink him.
- ◆ It was a night that Satan loosed the lie of FERMENTATION.

Question: Pastor, what made this party like no other party?

Answer: It was the ultimate mocking of Jehovah God! (How?)

- ◆ While Belshazzar was intoxicated (v. 2) he ordered his servants to bring the golden vessels that were taken out of the house of God (the temple) in Jerusalem.
- ◆ For any man or woman to use the vessels of the temple unless they were a heavenly appointed priest serving at the altar of God – meant certain death.
- ◆ Belshazzar knows these vessels are consecrated only to the service of God.

(2 Questions:)

Question #1: Why does Belshazzar mock the Lord in his drunken pride?

Answer: Because Belshazzar is so cool that he wants everyone to see that he could even dare God at this party.

Question #2: Why is alcohol such a damnable substance (a stronghold of Satan's arsenal)?

Answer: Because when a person drinks, the devil has free access to their mind and to their heart. (Repeat)

- ◆ So drunken Belshazzar lifts his toast to the lusts of his flesh.

(And Then It Suddenly Happens)

II. The Confrontation Of The Lord (Vs. 5-24)

Question: Who crashes the party and sobers up all the attendees?

Question: Without warning, who freezes the party heads in stunned silence?

- ◆ Without notice the partygoers discover, they can hide from the Persians (but they can't hide from God).
- ◆ They could keep the Persians outside the city, but they couldn't keep God outside the party.

Question: What is the spiritual application to us all in (v. 5)?

Answer: That every sinner must sooner or later come to a crisis awakening. (Notice verse 5)

"In the same hour" (what hour?) the same hour as the party, came forth fingers of man's hand and wrote on the wall of the king's palace and the king saw the message" (which was no accident)

(In Other Words)

Everyone Must Experience A Divine Encounter?

- ◆ In v. 5, instantly there is a message written on the wall.
- ◆ No hand, wrist, arm or body is visible.
- ◆ Yet someone, who is super-intelligent, is present and knows what's going on. (Pg. 2 of 4)

- ◆ All eyes follow the writing.
- ◆ The pen and hand then vanish.
- ◆ And only the writing remains to be seen.

Question: What happens when God shows up and confronts human nature?

- ◆ In v. 6, the king becomes troubled.
- ◆ In v. 7, the king cries out for help, but he is looking in the wrong direction.
- ◆ In v. 13, Daniel is brought in because he's walking with God.
- ◆ In v. 17, Daniel says to Belshazzar, "Keep your presents, I'll interpret the writing on the wall for free".

(And By The Way Belshazzar)

Here's the reason for the party's interruption:

- #1. (V. 22) "You have not humbled your heart, although you knew better"
- #2. (V 23) "You've lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven"
 - ◆ "You drank wine with sacred vessels"
 - ◆ "You praise the gods of silver and gold"
 - ◆ "You haven't glorified God who has your breath in his hands"

(In Other Words Belshazzar)

- ◆ "You know what you're doing, and to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin".

Question: What is the message pastor?

- #1. The intoxication of pleasure can bring us to the brink of sleepiest ruin.
- #2. It is foolish to rest secure on the feelings of present sinfulness.
- #3. Judgment can show up in the midst of practicing sin.
- #4. It is a delusion to presume that we'll all be warned before we suddenly stand before God.
- #5. It is Satan who leads us to party and push God from our thoughts.
- #6. When reverence for God is lost the door opens wide for the flesh to take over.
- #7. The consequences of rebellion may be delayed, but they can never be denied.

Question: Pastor, why is this such a sobering passage of scripture?

Answer: Because at a time when the lord needed a leader the most, Belshazzar was at his worst and offering the least!

(I Appeal To Your Conscience Today:)

- ◆ God needs your witness now more than ever!
- ◆ God needs your life now more than ever!
- ◆ With Satan's power being unleashed to steal this generation, God needs you now more than ever!
- ◆ Because Satan is a liar and deceiver and thief and destroyer, God needs you now more than ever!

III. The Calling Of You Today (Vs. 25-29)

Question: Pastor, what is the message to Belshazzar, to the church, and to my life today?

(V. 25) "Mene, Mene, Tekel UPHARSIN"

Question: Why such an important message?

Answer: Because it is a revelation of what happens to anyone who misuses their opportunity to serve God.

Question: What did God write on the wall?

Answer: Four cryptic words glowed on the plaster wall. (They were written in Chaldean – but what do they mean?)

(Daniel explains each word clearly)

- #1. "Mene, Mene" (v. 26) which means:
 - ◆ "God has numbered you"

#2. (V. 27) "Tekel" which means:

- ◆ "God is weighing you"

#3. (V. 28) Peres (or Pharsin) which means:

- ◆ "Fragmented, broken & divided"

Question: Pastor, what do these 3 words mean to us? (Numbered, Weighed, Divided)

#1. **Numbered** (means:)

- ◆ Our days are numbered and every life has its limit.
- ◆ (In other words), we have no excuse to neglect to do what we know that we must do.
- ◆ "Numbered" means that no one can waste the opportunity one day in serving God.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ It is God calling all of us to seize the day and so number our days not wasting one of them in sin.

#2. **Weighed** (means:)

- ◆ All of us will be held accountable in the day of judgment.
- ◆ Our future will be determined by our present choices.
- ◆ All will be exposed, revealed, tested, examined, proved and weighed in light of the truth.
- ◆ "Found wanting" means that it is possible to be unprepared today for the day we all must face".

#3. **Divided** (means:)

- ◆ For Belshazzar, the Babylonian kingdom is divided, and given over to Media and Persia.
- ◆ For you and I it means; after every verdict – there must be the reaping and separation from God of what was holy (and what was sinful).

(In Other Words)

- ◆ If I don't separate from sin now, sin will separate me from God later.

#1. **Numbered** (life has its limit of days)

#2. **Weighed** (judgment will escape no one)

#3. **Divided** (we will live in eternity, with our choices on earth)

IV. **The Consequences Of Sin** (Vs. 30 & 31)

Question: Pastor, what's the big deal about Daniel 5 and Belshazzar?

- ◆ In (v. 30) - The night of the party, Belshazzar was slain.
- ◆ In (v. 31) – The kingdom was lost to the invasion of the enemy.

(An Interesting Note Here:)

- ◆ Solid evidence indicates that King Cyrus didn't break through the city walls and divide the kingdom.
- ◆ Solid evidence shows that insurrectionists from within the city opened the city gates and allowed the Persian armies inside.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The Chaldeans didn't lose their city from without, (But)
- ◆ They lost their city from within their own company.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ It's not what is going on outside of you that determines who wins or loses,
- ◆ It's what is going on inside of you that determines your future and destiny and usefulness to God.