

Daniel
Gail Arterburn – 2025

Monday, 9:30 – 11:00 am
To be discussed –08/04/25

Daniel – Lesson 6
Daniel 5:1-31

King Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 BC; Darius the Mede captured Babylon on October 12, 539 BC; so at least 23 years have passed since the events of chapter 4. Belshazzar was believed to be Nebuchadnezzar's grandson and was co-regent with his father, Nabonidus, who was Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law. The Queen in this chapter was most probably the Queen Mother, Nebuchadnezzar's widow.

1. Read Daniel 1:1-2, 5:1-5, 30-31. What was the king doing as the story opens? How foolish was he being in light of vv. 30-31? What specific act prompted the handwriting on the wall?
2. Read 5:6-12. What was Belshazzar's immediate reaction? To whom did he first turn for advice? What did he offer them as incentive?
3. Who then entered the story in v. 10 and brought a voice of reason and advice? Why?
4. Read 5:13-28. How does the king reveal a condescending, arrogant attitude toward Daniel?
5. How does Daniel manifest a different attitude towards Belshazzar than he did to Nebuchadnezzar? What was the first thing he said to him? Did Daniel have any respect for Belshazzar?
6. According to Daniel, why did God send the hand that wrote the inscription? (vv. 22-23) Should Belshazzar have known better?
7. What was the meaning of the inscription?
8. Read 5:29-30. Both Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar were guilty of pride. Why was Belshazzar's fate different from that of Nebuchadnezzar?
9. What is God saying to us through this story? What does it teach about God?