





King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. While the king was drinking, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem, so he, his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them...As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold, silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.



Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lamp-stand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. His face turned pale; he was so afraid that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way. He called the enchanters, astrologers and diviners, but they couldn't read the writing or tell him what it meant.



So Belshazzar became even more terrified...[He sent for Daniel, who said, "unlike your forefather], O king, you have not humbled yourself...you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways. Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription.



This is what the words mean: Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting. Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians."



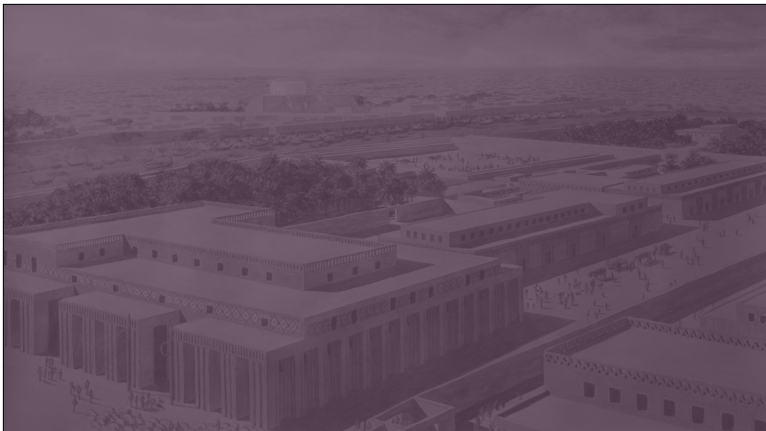
That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain.

DANIEL 5:1-9, 22-30

THE STORYLINE

Belshazzar's party sends a clear message that Babylon's gods are superior to Daniel's God.

So God hand-delivers a note:
"We'll see about that!"



THE BIG IDEA

Eventually, God's patience runs out with those who defy him, and he will 'instant message' them:
"We'll see about that!"

BELSHAZZAR or US?

Godship—the defiant attempt to retain dominion—is a pervasive issue for all human beings, including each of us.

There is a payday, someday, for unrepentant sinfulness.

GOD'S EXHAUSTED PATIENCE IS ALWAYS PRECEDED BY OTHER HANDWRITING:

1

A note of fair warning

2

A plan for a way out when we have sinned

The first handwritten message from God gave us the code for living as his distinct people.



"The Lord gave me the two tablets at the mountain on which he had written with his own finger [his law] for you..."

DEUTERONOMY 9:10

BOUNDARIES OF BLESSING

MUST DO

1. Put God first
2. Worship God only
3. Revere God's name
4. Observe Sabbath
5. Respect your parents

MUST NOT DO

6. Don't murder
7. Don't adulterate
8. Don't steal
9. Don't lie
10. Don't covet

GOD'S HANDWRITTEN NOTES

The **FIRST** spells out the moral code for living as his distinct people.

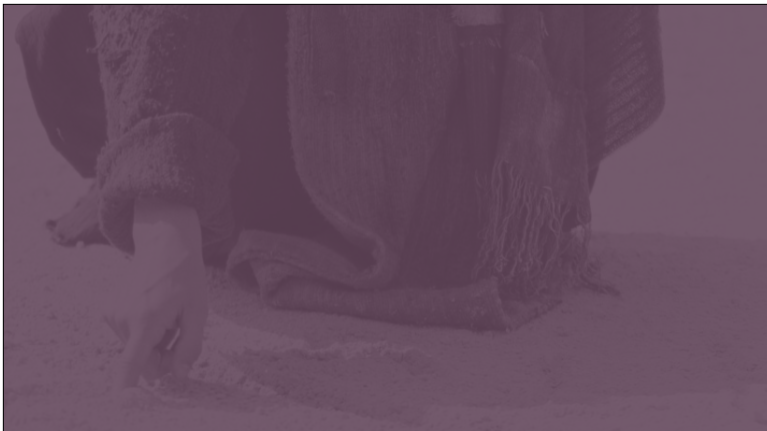
The **SECOND** spells out the divine consequences of not.

The **THIRD** spells out the grace covering for violating his code.



"Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the 'Code' Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"

JOHN 8:1-11





JOHN 8:1-11

"Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

Jesus said, "Where are your accusers?"

She said, "They're gone, they didn't judge me guilty."

Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

"Not Guilty...Completely forgiven.
Paid in full by my all-sufficient grace."

THRIVING IN BABYLON

PART 7

WHEN GOD INSTANT MESSAGES
