

Series: Messages From the Major Prophets

# THOU ART FOUND WANTING

## DANIEL 5

Text: Daniel 5:27

### ***Daniel 5:27***

<sup>27</sup> *TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.*

Introduction:

In this passage we see a grand celebration that Belshazzar the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar is putting on.

Notice an overview of this story:

### **1. The Vile Party (vs. 1-4)**

#### ***Daniel 5:1-4***

<sup>1</sup> *Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.*

<sup>2</sup> *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.* <sup>3</sup> *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. <sup>4</sup> They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.*

A. A big party with thousands (1)

B. He profanes the God of Israel by using Holy instruments for wicked purposes

C. They worshipped other god's

## **2. The Horrible Pause – 5:5-9**

### ***Daniel 5:5-9***

*<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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.* <sup>9</sup> *Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished.*

A. The hand of a man (no body) seen writing on the wall (5)

B. The king goes faint (gutless and weak) (6)

C. All the magicians could not interpret, even being offered third place in the kingdom (7)

### **3. The Queen's Proposal – 5:10-12**

#### ***Daniel 5:10-12***

<sup>10</sup> *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:* <sup>11</sup> *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;* <sup>12</sup> *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.*

A. The queen tries to calm him down (10)

B. She tells him about Daniel (11-12)

#### **4. The King's Plea – 5:13-16**

##### ***Daniel 5:13-16***

*<sup>13</sup> 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? <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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: <sup>16</sup> 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.*

A. Daniel is brought in (13)

B. He tries to flatter Daniel (14)

## 5. The Dismal Prophecy – 5:25-28

### ***Daniel 5:25-28***

<sup>25</sup> *And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.* <sup>26</sup> *This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.* <sup>27</sup> *TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.* <sup>28</sup> *PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.*

With each generation comes the risk of failure. What are these?

## **1. THE RISKS OF EACH GENERATION**

### **A. Each Generation Getting Too Busy**

Is reading the Bible a necessary part of your day or does it have a low priority in your life? George Mueller, after having read the Bible through one hundred times with increasing delight, made this statement: "I look upon it as a lost day when I have not had a good time over the Word of God.

- Busy making money
- Busy making sure we have job security
- Busy with hobbies, friendships, projects

Today, we teach our children it's more important have a career than to find time for the Lord or to serve in church.

Not only is there the risk of getting too busy but also:

### B. Each Generation Getting Too Lazy

Sheer laziness has probably been responsible for more shortcuts, not to mention valuable inventions, than we are ready to admit. Most of us are continually on the lookout, at least subconsciously, for easier ways to perform onerous or routine tasks.

- We are a pleasure oriented society
- We can be entertained whenever we choose. In fact most people view it as an entitlement.

Illustration:

Someone has written that there are four kinds of bones in the world.

The WISH BONES who spend their time wishing someone else would do the work;

The JAW BONES who do all the talking, but very little else;

The KNUCKLE BONES who knock everything that anyone else is trying to do;

The BACK BONES who shoulder the load and do the work.

Not only is there the risk of getting too busy and too lazy but also:

### C. Each generation Getting Too Complacent

Complacency is a blight that saps energy, dulls attitudes, and causes a drain on the brain.

The first symptom is satisfaction with things as they are.

The second is rejection of things as they might be. “Good enough” becomes today’s watchword and tomorrow’s standard.

Complacency makes people fear the unknown, mistrust the untried, and abhor the new.

Like water, complacent people follow the easiest course—downhill.

They draw false strength from looking back.

These are the risk that each generation faces, but notice secondly:

## 2. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH GENERATION

### A. Determination

#### **Joshua 24:15**

*<sup>15</sup> And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

Determine to serve the Lord.

### B. Dedication

#### **1 Samuel 1:27-28**

*<sup>27</sup> For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: <sup>28</sup> Therefore also I have **lent** him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be **lent** to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.*

How many Christian parents have really given their children to God?



## C. Direction

### **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

*<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: <sup>5</sup> And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. <sup>6</sup> And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: <sup>7</sup> And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. <sup>8</sup> And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. <sup>9</sup> And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*

Begins in the heart

## D. Devotion (Prayer)

### **Job 1:5**

*<sup>5</sup> And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.*

- Pray for their salvation
- Pray for their protection
- Pray for their growth
- Pray for their relationship to the Lord

Close:

**Acts 13:36**

<sup>36</sup> For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

How are we serving the next generation?