

30 - Prof. May 4, 70 PM 11:17
Above Park July 29, 90 PM 11:17
Lake Drummond Jan 5, 97 AM, 11:17

(New Years Eve) -
THE WILD NIGHT PARTY

Daniel 5

INTRODUCTION:

Belshazzar was the last of the Babylon kings. The great feast which he made for a thousand of his Lords as the last night of his reign. He belonged to a proud race of people, whom the Hebrew prophets described as dedicated and given to pleasure, trusting in wickedness. Their own young men were showy, sensual, and self-indulgent. They dressed themselves in dyed garments of brilliant colors. They curled their hair. Used perfumes. Wore jewelry. Carried walking sticks with the beak of a bird or the head of a serpent carved on the handle. They were fond of silver plate and splendid carpets, costly furniture, and great suppers. They frequented dramatic entertainments. In which female singers and dancers appeared on the stage, with little dress and less decency for amusement. They drank wine and sang lude songs, and were out late at night, and they did everything else that wild, half-intoxicated young men are most likely to do.

All of this is abundantly shown by the Hebrew prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. And from the Greek historians, telling us that they were not surprised that Babylon became a desolation. The day of doom is not far off for any city when it's young men become tender and delicate, and given to pleasure, self-indulgence, and fond of amusements, and afraid of work. When they are excited and passionate about trinkets and trifles, nerveless and spiritless about the nobler things of duty.

There is no more effective way of destroying a great and a mighty nation than to give young men all the money they want, provide them with plays and with festivals, dances, wine, and then leave them to go through their manhood in the hot bed of pleasure and self-indulgence. That is the way Babylon was ruined.

The way Christian (Constanople) was destroyed. The way Venice ended her thousand years of independance and glorious history in shame. And of course, if our generation continues without energy, without principle, without conscience, and with money enough to support their pleasures and costly vices, they will be giving tone to public opinion. And the young men today will soon be taking lead in higher circles of society. And they can soon make Sodom of America.

Belshazzar was flattered by his pride and indulged in his passions. He is absolute monarch - holding the life and property of thousands of his lords - and people in his hand. His servants, his capitol, was enriched with the spoils of nations. And his providences were cultivated by captive people. He was a hasty, violent man with temper and lived in luxury at the habit of life.

Our night scenes from the Bible take us tonight to the wildest night party perhaps ever held. We want to discuss it under the following heads.

✓ First, riches - V. 1. ✓ Second, reveling - V. 2. ✓ Third, revelation. ✓ Fourth, retribution.

I. RICHES - V. 1

We come now to the great hall of the palace in which he is feasting his thousand lords reclined upon couches. It was large enough to accommodate many many guests. And they each had their individual tables or places for service. It was adorn with carvings and sculpture. It was profane by the feast that was in progress. It fluriously with corruption, as a part of society.

There was never a place more depraved or abominable than this place of riches.

The dimensions of Babylon are so immense that it exaggerates even our minds to think about them. This was a great city - it was 15 miles square. It had a wall around it, 700 feet at the bottom - thick. 300-350 feet tall. And on top of this wall six chariots could race side by side abreast.

Outside the wall was a moat and beyond that was another wall - it was about 200 feet tall and the top was solid and the soldiers lived on top of that wall. There were so many feet apart - 14 feet exact was a hot pot of molten (lead). And this was ready to be poured on any who tried to scale that wall. The soldiers lived there and guarded it 24 hours a day.

Now the Euphrates (river) ran right down through the center of the city. And they changed the course and put it in the center of the city. It was 60 feet wide and it was walled - both the sides and the bottom. And the bottom of it was tiled - white tile, they tell us. With bluebirds on each tile. It looked like a fantastic swimming pool as we would think of it today.

On either side of the river, was a temple of the (Baal). And this temple had 250 pillars in it. And they were 19 feet in circumference. And they were 80 feet tall. With a platform on top. And there was the golden image on top. And the historians tell us that in this temple young girls often came and sold their virginity. And one historian says that at one time, 10,000 maidens at once came in the view of this temple. And they gave the money to the god Baal.

Across the river were the (hanging gardens) or the palace - where this night party takes place. This was built by Nebuchadnezzar for his queen. It was a banquet hall. It was one mile in length and a quarter of a mile wide. It had a roof that was 100 feet to the top of it. And on top they had growing trees and flowers, and vines - and they had circular holes in the (top) of this roof garden. It was like a flower basket upside down. And through these circular holes, they

said that slaves would spray down perfume upon those in the banquet hall, from time to time.

To see something of the riches, there were 25 magnificent streets running in parallel line 150 feet wide and 15 miles long. They went straight North to South. And then those 25 streets were inter-sected by 25 others of similar dimension from West to East. And the temple of Baal and the royal palaces occupied about 3 square miles here. This hanging gardens, with its terrace, is the place where the night party was to take place.

According to (Herodotus) Nebuchadnezzar was the most magnificent builder the world had ever saw. And he had this pleasure garden and he put this in his capitol. And there were Babylonian bricks a foot square inscribed with the name Nebuchadnezzar. That have been found hundreds of years since. And that was 2500 years ago that this took place.

Belshazzar inherited the pride and the glory and the riches and the power of this palace and this great capitol from his father.

He inherited enough to ruin any young man. Who was not fortified with a great character. He was admitted to a share and came of power at the age of 15. And the glory of this was too great even for the mighty Nebuchadnezzar. That it would turn the head of this young leader. And so this is something about the riches. And he lifted himself up against the Lord of Heaven. And he despised the kings and the armies of the earth.

So with his riches he summons all his lords to come. And he is going to have a great banquet.

II. REVELING - V. 2

Now the first four verses tell us that Belshazzar wanted his name to be great and with these thousands of lords, he employed the hottest dancers and orchestra, food, and bands were playing. And it was night, as these lords arrived for this great feast. Now the city had been under a seige from an Army. But of course, Babylon was so strong and so great that he decided to go on and forget the enemy and indulge in every form of riotous excess. And of course the hanging gardens were hung with lanterns and torches. It seemed like a mountain of fire at midnight. The torches of processions flowed like rivers - flame through the broad streets. And a thousand dark nobles all bent at his board, fruits glistened, flowers blossomed, meats steam, and a flood of the wine that man loveth runs redder than blood.

Wild dancers are there and a riot of myrth. And the beauty that maddens the passions of earth.

And the (crowds all shout) while the vast roof rings. (All praise to Belshazzar, Belshazzar, the king.) The music, the banquet, and the wine, the rose odors, the flowers, the sparkling eyes, the flashing ornaments, the jeweled arms, the ravant hair, the bracelets, the braids, the thin robes, floating like clouds. It was a busy scene. And it takes away all reason and all reverence, of those who are here reveling at this night party.

There is (nothing) too sacred for them to (profane). And they tell us as the Lords came in, they had their wives, their concubines all seated. Now, I don't know how they worked out this seating arrangement. But they came in gold-leaf covered chariots and Belshazzar started. And he had these lords seated. And they were served their food by a chariot that was drawn by peacocks through this huge banquet palace.

Handwritten notes:
 - so hot not eat
 - nothing too sacred for them to profane
 - gold-leaf covered
 - drawn by peacocks
 - huge banquet

Handwritten notes:
 - Mother - children told her not lift hand - Got out 3 Pots 2 Frypan
 - 1 Double Boiler, 3 Mixing Bowls, 1 Chopping Board, 6 Mass spoons
 - 8 Sizing dishes & she was delighted, said best Jello she ever Tasted.
 - A (trumpet) would sound and they would write a (toast) on the board. And they would

drink their wine.

V. 3 - At midnight the reveling becomes reckless and profane. As Belshazzar orders the vessels that were taken from the temple of Jerusalem by his father, as trophies to be brought in and to worship the false god with them. And they were excited over wine. And he said, we are going to make a toast to drink wine and praised, the Bible says they were on the brink of destruction with their greatest gaiety and thoughtlessness. And they praised the gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and of stone.

V. 4
There was no mention of Jehovah God.]

There was no want of Jehovah God. There was no need felt for Jehovah God. They did not want God. Away with God. They sounded like a college student - some years back on a state university campus in Idaho who ^{even ~~said~~} said, "to hell with your God". And that is what Belshazzar was doing. Even the last words of warning that he had - the last opportunity for any good work. He let all of this go that night, on that night.

There are many people who go to places they wish they had not gone. There are people who go to places when the messenger of death comes, they would have changed it if they could have. Many today are living in indulgence of habits and they are very willing to continue on. But if they knew this was the last year if their life, they would perhaps change.

And so this is going to be a regret for the king, because this is one of the last acts of his life.

In his apparent recklessness, he said, bring out these temple vessels, the sacred vessels, and we are going to worship the god of gold, silver, brass, iron,

One historian describes this as saying that Babylon was greatly given to wine and to those things which followed intoxication.

This was idolatrous - this feast and this revel.

He defied the judgement that had been set upon him. The enemies were coming and he paid no attention to it. Second, he was idolatrous in that he defied the temple of God and used the vessels for other uses.

And third, he defied God because he gave tribute to the gods of gold, silver, and of wood and stone.

So he became ruthless and reckless and profane in this revel.

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Friday High School - 2500 Driver Ed. Students -

85% drink -

90% said at least one of their parents

Survey

III. REVELATION

V. 5

V. 5 - The Bible says in the same hour God came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. And his countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.

Now the revelation here is the record of the great judge of all time coming upon the scene. And there is a handwriting that appears upon the wall of a banquet room in the palace at an hour when the party is at its wildest. And it

Unbelievable

shows that God was there.

Man & wife shopping for a Man's Suit. As salesman measured Husband's waist
" remained its amazing when you realize a coconut palm
that wide at the bottom would be at least 90' tall.

Now God is in every scene of wickedness. And the finger of God is ever writing
the witness of his presence with us upon the living tablet of our heart.

(So) long as we have a conscience, there is a voice in us, telling us that God's
eye is ever fixed upon us. That we must give an account to Him for all we do and
for all we are.

*First Day School - Kindergarten - Each child - Note teacher -
Read Dear Parents: if you promise NOT to believe all your child says happens at school,
I'll " " " " " He says " " Home.*

That infinite and awful witness is in every storehouse, workshop, and business
every day of the week, and every place of pleasure. His eye is searching. His
ear catches every word that we speak.

He stands as a silent witness on every occasion. And there is nothing said or
done that his eye does not catch - act, word, or deed.

The hand wrote in flaming letters upon the walls of Belshazzar's palace. God
is here. (God is everywhere.)

Now it is wisdom for us to also note that God's pleasure is with us. We cannot
hide anything from him. Why then do we do things that we do not wish him to know.
We cannot escape our accountability to him. For all we do, why then do we live as
though we will never have to give an account unto him.

The record is being written. The revelation of this record is being placed on
the wall.

V.6 The recollections or the conscience of Belshazzar becomes mighty. And he

becomes mastered by this and his countenance changes. His thoughts trouble him. And he trembles like a leaf before the writing and the record on the wall. He was afraid. He was terribly guilty.

You're wrong - the supreme creator is an absolute power. And he is pronouncing a sentence upon the conduct at that wild party.

This was sudden - V. 5 - in the midst of the feast. There was no noise, no threat to their lives, no one said a word.

✓
V. 7
It was real. All could see it. It was alarming - V. 6-7. There was the panic of fear, the trembling like a leaf. And why was he alarmed. His conscience came up. And God truly can speak to hearts and there was perspiration and the goblet falls from his hands, his knees smote one another.

Why should he be afraid?

Think about it, the best fortified city in the world. But he was afraid.

He had the best army in the world of any city, but he was afraid.

He had the best friends with him at this time - his thousands of lords. But he was afraid.

He had the gods of gold, silver, wood, and stone. But he was afraid.

Riches, pleasures, glory, absolute Master - in the greatest palace, in the greatest city the world had ever seen.

But what is life now. And what is the world worth now. And here is this

wretched man. He is going to die as a fool. He has lifted himself up against God.

Why is he afraid. He is face to face with the super-natural God. And the hand on the wall is without an arm.

We cannot help but be impressed about his position, his pride, his condition - he was drunk. He was in the company of his crowd. And yet he was alarmed by what he could see.

I think he was also alarmed by what he could not see. And he perhaps was alarmed at what he had done. Well, might your thoughts trouble you tonight. There are some of you that have been trifling with holy things. Just like the king trifled with the vessels that had come from the temple in Jerusalem.

You have but to look at the Bible and find out that people have consciences. Pilate was disturbed by what he felt on the day that he had to deal with Jesus. And tried to wash his hands. The thief on the cross knew that he was dying justly. And there are people even tonight we would say that no man is out of reach of God. God can reach your life and your heart.

It is a horrible thought to think that a man has lived in such a godless way as Belshazzar had been living.

He had laughed. He had said ha ha. Who ever heard of anybody taking us over. Go back to your drinking.

They called in immediately for the soothsayers to interpret these words to the king and to the crowd.

V. 10
Then in V. 10-12, the queen comes in, and she wants to comfort the king in V. 10.

V. 12

She praises Daniel. She says, now here is a man that had a good head and a good heart. And Nebuchadnezzar respected Daniel. And so V. 12 - he urges that they call him.

*Daniel - one of Jews taken Captive from Jer 605 BC - By Nebuchadnezzar
Babylonian Army - Prime Minister. Dan Belshazzar ascended Throne -
young - rich - happy - go lucky - sensual things pleasure -*

Daniel comes before the king - V. 13-29.

The king speaks to Daniel in V. 13-16. Tell us what he had heard, and he admits that things are baffling and he promises them a reward.

V. 17

V. 17 Daniel begins to rebuke and rebuff the king. This is a great revelation. He describes Nebuchadnezzar in 18 and 19 as one who had authority and absolute - but in V. 20 he told about his daddy's sin which was pride. V. 21 he told about the judgement of God upon his father.

V. 22-23

He told about him sinning against light in V. 22-23. Now Belshazzar knew all about his father's pride and fall, as an ox. And yet, he went on in his life of sin. There are many people who see the effects and the influence of sin, but they ignore and go on against knowledge.

V. 24

Next Daniel reveals and reviews what the writing meant - V. 24-29.

V. 25

Mene means numbered. And that means - or is repeated for emphasis - it means numbered numbered. That God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it. The days of your rule or your empire are numbered and now come to an end, is what that means. The days have run out. And he hasn't changed.

There is no more time for you even to repent.

V. 27

Tekel means weighed. Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting.

IV. RETRIBUTION

Now Belshazzar after receiving the information from Daniel went on in his drinking and the Bible says in V. (30) - that ~~night~~ was Belshazzar, the king, slain. Retribution, judgement, the terrible night in which the penalty was executed. It was not even deferred until the dawn. The king was dead.

And a third of a million ~~the~~ next morning were lying around in the hanging gardens ~~murdered~~. Slain by the enemy.

And Babylon was in the hands of the Persians. Cyrus who had besieged the city - had entered through the canal under the wall, diverted the water, and his troops had taken the city.

When God gives his warning, he means what he says.

And his instruments of judgement we cannot escape. Think of Noah and the Ark. There was no escape outside the Ark. Think of Lot and Sodom - there was no escape less you leave the city. Think of Pharaoh going down into the Red Sea. Our lives are in the hands of the same God who brought an end to that night of sin in the palace.

And the king perhaps thinking that retribution was a long way off - he had no thought of the swiftness of the judgement.

Now the completeness of his doom was not partial. It was one stroke and his power ceased. And he awoke in Hell to discover, all had been lost.

The warning tonight is like the warning there. The man who goes on in unhallowed pleasure will certainly face divine retribution. He will be overtaken in his wickedness. Note this, God gives warnings and if you do not heed these warnings,

And this is the cause of the approaching doom. You have been weighed. You are light. Now if God weighed you today - how would you weigh. *for your love for his Church?*

V. 128 / Upharsin is a plural word here which means divided. The kingdom is going to be divided - the Medes and the Persians are going to take over the empire.

What Daniel said was that you have sinned away your days of grace. You have rejected the council of the Lord - now it is too late. And grace has been shut off for you. *A dying man was round to shaken by a friend, & he said "let me alone, can't you see I'm busy dying?" many people are saying that today - I'm pershing -*
Too late, these words, my friends are often.

The same God is counting out the days of life to all of us. He is weighing our character, our conduct, our motives, and the balance of infinite truth. He is in charge, and if we are found wanting before God. Now a man may be weighed and found wanting at the bank. Or at the board of trade, or at some circle of fashion or social respectability. And to be wanting in God's ways is to be wanting in life and soul.

Whatever we do, wherever we are, we can never cease to be responsible to God. For he has appointed us to do his work.

Thus our accountability to God must be fully accepted. And faithfully met.

And if we do this, we will raise us above that which is selfish and impure. And give us something good and glorious to live for.

Therefore the riches that he enjoyed and the reveling that they participated in dealt the terrible revelation.

you are going to be a stupid person. ^{not} a man ^{can't} kick from God. ^{not} that shall be also reap ^{for} what you sow.

Cal
6:7-8

God is still in the weighing business every man must stand before his maker.

Some of you have a form of godliness without the power thereof. Some of you need to be changed. Now the ship that sinks goes down not because of the water on the outside of it, but because of the water on the inside.

It is hard to get people to say that I have sinned. They would rather do any thing else than to say I have sinned.

And there is so much apathy today.

Remember that retribution, V. 30 - can be summarized in these words.

Banker / Midwestern ^{city}
Historic Study / Jim / open / Bank - Man
and / my / confession / on / bank -
embarrassed / frank / & / loud -
Turned / self / w.B. / Marshal -

Trial

One of the finest preachers and best writers Oklahoma Baptists have ever had is S. U. "Cal" Butts, who now lives at 522 S. First Place, Broken Arrow 74012. He retired from active work in 1972 but is still busy preaching and helping people.

Recently he received a letter from a man in another state whom he knew 65 years ago. There is a lesson for all of us in the burden which that man bore for so many years and from which he escaped.

This is what he wrote: "Silas, I guess you will be surprised to get this letter. I hope you and yours are all O.K. . . . I am 82 and my wife is 77. So you see we are not able to do much. Silas, I am sending you a little check. I owed your Dad. I loved your Dad and Mother both. I was just mean s all I know to say. Me and some other boys stole five watermelons from your Dad. It was just pure meanness. I don't remember who the other boys were. I hope you will except (sic.) this check for him. Your Dad and Mother was as fine a people as I ever knew. And I hope the good Lord has forgiven me for my meanness. I don't know your address, so I will give this to C— D— to send on to you. So, thanks a lot. And God bless all of you."

say that Cyrus was beseiging Babylon and knew

Judge - I'm a Christian - I have 2 questions: (1) How could you lie down & sleep at night? (2) you could have gone on independently & since why didn't you go on as you had?

When God warns, he means it.

When the enemy came in through the canal and no one else was there because the king was slain and all of the gold and the riches was plundered and such was the end of the godless feast.

And the wild party that night.

am - wrote his book. Judge it was in here, I was afraid. I know & know. I could not stand it any longer. I had to confess.

To night - perhaps some one had confess - perhaps sit down & write out your