

HANDWRITING ON THE WALL
Ch. 5

Dan. 5 occurred in the year 539 B.C. That was the year that the Babylonian Empire, the first great Gentile nation fell. You remember in the 2nd Chap. of Dan. - Dan. had told Nebu. that he would be the head; that the gold part of that statute was Nebu. and that it would fall. All right, that was about 606 B.C. Here it's fulfilled. Absolutely. Babylon fell exactly like Dan. had said. 539.

Dan. 5 is the fulfillment of Ps. 9:17 - 'the wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God'. You see, Dan. 5 a fulfillment of Ps. 9:17. All right, it begins with the word Belshazzar, which means Beel protects the King. Remember Beel was one of the great pagan gods of Babylon. Biblical critics, for years, have said that there is no such character as Belshazzar.

Well, you cannot really discover in the Bible. You can't place him down. But when the evidence is in, the Bible always is true. You realize that archeologists have dug up tablets which have fully established now that Belshazzar was a true historical character. He was the oldest of a king by the name of Nabonadius. who ruled in Babylon.

He rules as the second man in the kingdom. There's no question now. This is the reason, you see, that when there appears to be contradictions in the Bible or the Bible appears to be ~~fx~~ false, we need to hold our judgment. Because every time we get additional information, the Biblical record is always true. Belshazzar was, indeed, a king of Babylon and the king at the time the Empire fell.

V. 1(read) now he invited a thousand nobles or lords; they brought their

retinue (or their servants) and we believe there were ten to fifteen thousand people at this feast. One of the great feasts of history. A man by the name of March has written a book entitled 'The Great ~~Nix~~ Nights In The Bible' - here's one of the great nights. What a feast this was.

It was a drunken feast. Belshazzar himself, took the lead in drinking wine before the thousands. He was seated, evidently, on a platform out in front of the banquet, where everyone could see him and he set the pace for the entire drunken, orgastic banquet. You can imagine what a scene it was.

Now on the outside, the Persians are encamped but they are behind walls that are 350 feet high and 87 feet thick. We know from history that the Babylonians have repelled the Persians and it seems that they feel they are secure behind this line. It's kinda like the French, in WW II, behind the marginal line. They thought the marginal line would keep them from the Germans and of course, it didn't help one bit.

The Germans just went in behind it and the guns were turned in the opposite direction - one of the great ~~military~~ military fiascos of ~~all~~ all times. Either this, or Belshazzar just had this feast to build the morale. But what I would believe is that he thought things were pretty well in hand; ~~and~~ that those Babylonians were out there but they'd never get on the inside.

So they're having this big, drunken drawl; ~~xxxx~~ kinda celebrate a victory. Make fun of the God of Judah. But let's move on down into this.

V. 2(read) Now Belshazzar didn't just 'taste' of the wine, he really drank of the wine. Nebu., his father (now it really was his grandfather). You

say 'well, why is it translated 'father'? Well, the word 'father' in Hebrew can be translated twelve ways. And almost all Bible students would translate this 'grandfather'. He says he 'commanded that the golden and silver vessels, which his grandfather, Nebu. had taken out of the Temple, which was in Jerusalem'.... he had these sacred vessels which had been brought over to Babylon in 660 B.C.

You remember in the first chap. and the first verses of that chap., when Nebu. went over and took the Jews, he brought these sacred vessels, that had been used in the Temple. Now his grandfather never used them. He just put them in storage. Here's one of the great Truths that the Bible teaches: what parents do in moderation, children will always do in excess.

Are you listening? If there's anything in the world that I've seen, as a pastor, it's this: what parents do, in moderation, children will do, in ~~the~~ excess. Let a parent drink beer, his boy will drink liquor. Let a parent just come to church occasionally, the child will not come at all. I've seen it in every congregation I've ever served.

What parents do, in moderation; children will do, in excess!! Well, Nebu. he did not misuse the vessels. He had enough respect for them just to put them in storage. But here, his grandson comes along and he commands they be brought to this drunken feast, so that those present could use them. Can you imagine a more repulsive sight? These drunken, immoral people meeting and using the sacred vessels of the Lord to drink from?

A terrible thing, indeed. It mentions his wives and concubines. The Oriental king had a harem and the harem consisted of two parts: the wives - they were of the high standing; and the concubines - they were just a little

lower. Belshazzar had all of these and they raised in the hundreds. Now Bel. wife was there (or his wives). We need to understand that, for something else a little later in the narrative.

V. 3(read) you see, how serious the sin was? Notice what it says? 'They brought the golden vessels that were taken OUT of the Temple of the house of God, which was at Jerusalem'... now this is repeated from V. 2 for emphasis. They were brought OUT of God's Holy House.

V. 4(read) you see, they were drinking the wine; they were drinking it out of the golden (or the sacred vessels) and it was a worship service, which makes it even worse. They were praising the idol gods and drinking out of the sacred vessels of the Lord's House in Jerusalem. It was an occasion of wine, women and song. But it also was a religious occasion. Of course, it was a form of blasphemy of the highest form; this God will never tolerate. We're gonna see this. Nebu. would never have done this.

His son- grandson; DID do this. What parents do, in moderation; their children will do, in excess. But you see, you can take that on a positive note. You take a parent that's dedicated unto the Lord and who put Jesus first, the child will be more zealous than the parent often. What the parent does, in moderation; the child will generally do, in excess. We have it, certainly, in this ~~xxx~~ story.

Now, they're there in this drunken feast; ten or fifteen thousand of them. The official family of Babylon. You talk about the brass and the high-ups, man, this is a State dinner. They could not have met in the White House. Not at all. Do you realize in the White HOuse of the U. S. of Am., which has a 107 rooms, that the largest crowd that can meet there is in the State

Dining Room, which is the West Room and only about 150 people can meet in it. That's one of my disappointments when I was invited to the Pres. Prayer Breakfast. I thought we were gonna meet at the White House and they said 'we'd like to meet at the White House, but there's three thousand of us and we have to meet at the Washington-Hilton Hotel'.

I don't know of a banquet hall that could seat this many people. Man, what a gathering this was. Well, they're gathered around the table; they have the Holy vessels; all this crowd of people, drinking... but suddenly, they quit drinking. A deathly silence falls over the place and Bel. drops his cup; and if he had false teeth, guess he'd a dropped them. The Lord CAN get our attention. He really can.

He got old Bel. Attention, in

V. 5(read) 'candlestick' (that would be the lampstand) 'on the plaster'-- the Hebrew says 'upon the chalk of the wall of the kings palace'. The king saw this hand. The Hebrew says 'the extremity of the hand'. Which would be from the wrist to the fingertips - that's the extremity. That's what he saw. He saw the wrist; he saw from the wrist to the fingertips.

It looked like the hand and the fingers of a man. Now, actually, what it was - it was the finger of God, undoubtedly. When you read the Bible, you run across this phrase 'the finger of God' over ~~and~~ and over again. The finger of God is the way God gets His message to man so often. For instance, in the Book of Exodus, the magician said to Pharaoh, after God sent the plagues, they said to Pharaoh 'this is the finger of God'. Ax

Also in the Book of Ex. it tells us that the finger of God wrote the ten

commandments. In 11th Chap. of John, we have Jesus writing - 'the finger of God writing'. It could be what he wrote in the sand in John 11, was 'mene, mene, tedel, upharsin'. It could be the very word that was written on the wall -- I've wondered. Jesus in the N. T. says 'that He by the finger of God, cast out demons'.

'The finger of God' in the Bible is the way God gets His message . Of course, God has no fingers. This is what we call an 'anthropomorphism'-- that is:: attributing to God the attributes of the form of man. It looked like the extremity of ~~xx~~ a mans head, from his wrist to his tips. But he saw this thing writing on the wall of chalk and the writing was over near the lampstand, where it could be seen.

It was in the full light, you see? Can you imagine being in a big room and suddenly you see a mans hand start writing? See? You say 'well, why didn't God do this through a dream?' This is more dramatic than any dream that's ever been. You see, the dream is basically private; it comes to one individual and it can't be seen.

The most dramatic thing is always visual aid. What you can see with your eyes. I say one of the greatest instruments for good that God's ever given us is television! But it has not been an instrument for good, but it has been an instrument for damnation. Television has greatly degraded Am. lives. Radio had some effect but NOTHING to compare with television, because people see on television.

When immorality is on television, when crime is on television and all these terrible things are on television and our children look at them, day in and

day out, how can we expect them to escape ~~being~~ the impressions and television, in my opinion, is one of the most serious instruments in the hands of satan. We'll never know because television is a type of handwriting on the walls.

So God wrote it on the wall so the whole crowd could see it. Now it seems that Bel. was the first to see it, but, undoubtedly, the whole crowd finally saw it. Can you imagine - ten to fifteen thousand people seeing that mysterious handwriting on the wall? But not only that, it tarried there! It tarried there, it stayed on the wall, where the people could come. It was there when Dan. came in.

It was there when the wise men came in. You talk about drama -- I don't know whether Hollywood has ever done this in a movie or not, but you talk about drama - man, if you're connected with Hollywood and you want to produce the film that will sell more pictures than any film in history, you just do the handwriting on the wall.

Everybody wants to see something like this. The drama ~~xx~~ of it cannot even be discribed. Well, he's sittingthere and he sees this hand, which looks like the hand of man, but it's the message of God on the wall. Look at

V. 6(read) 'countenance'(literally 'brightness')was changed. Now up until this time, his face is bright. It's flushed with wine and liquor. But then the it changes. 'Knees smote (knocked) against another!' We still use this expression 'Our knees knocking against each other'. Just a symbolic way of expressing extreme fear but it was expressed in emotional reaction.

The man is frightened. He is frightened to death. Why is he frightened?

Why could this not be an omen of good? Maybe the handwriting is a great message from God. It's all according to our conscious. You see, his conscious was bothering him. He knew that he was doing wrong. He knew it was wrong to take those vessels out of the House of God. You see, many people are scared to death because they're not right in their hearts.

They're not right with God and they're not right with ~~an~~ man and they're afraid of the knock on the door; they're afraid of the dark because their conscious is judging them. If ~~xxx~~ his conscious had been clear and he'd have been right with God, he would have thought 'well, here's a message from Heaven'. All the difference in the world.

The handwriting is in our conscious. So it was with him and he's overwhelmed with his fear, because he KNOWS - he knows he's wrong.

V. 7(read) he's in hysteria. This mighty king. He brings in the brain ~~tx~~ trust again. He brings in these fortune tellers and the occult people. He just does this. This is just a part of policy. They're losers; they never can tell, but he always brings them in. Keeps bringing them in. They're just losers, they never tell it, but it's required by law that he consult them.

'Clothed with scarlet' - what does that mean? That means a royal standing. You'll be given the rank of royalty. 'Chain of Gold' that meant 'special honor'. You remember that was given to Joseph in Gen. 41. 'Third ruler in the kingdom' - how marvelous this is. The critis used to say 'now, that's a n error. That's an error. Third ruler in the kingdom'. Do you realize that we now know from archeology - not from the Bible - but from archeology,

what's archeology? Digging up of that beneath the surface of the earth, in the area of old Babylon. It's been discovered from tablets that's been dug up that Nebunitis was #1. That was the son of Nebuchadnezzar. Or maybe the grandson - we can't be sure. But Nebunitis was the first man; Belshazzar was the second ruler and the third ruler - he's offering it to these people. He's gonna offer it to Dan.

It's marvelous. When all the information is in, the Bible is always true. Now if you go to school, and you study under certain critics, sometimes they will attack the Bible severely. They'll say 'oh, this is error'. Sometimes we don't even have the information; there's still some riddles in the Bible that can't be explained.

But as we go along and the scholars search and they did beneath, every time, EVERY time, without exception, something is discovered and it always confirms the Bible. That's one of the gratifying things about studying the Bible. No archeologist has ever disproved one thing that's in the Bible. So we have Nebunitis, Belshazzar and they said 'you'll be the third man'. Belshazzar said 'the one who tells me what the handwriting is, we'll make him the third man'. Well, they could not do that. In V.

V. 8 (read) now they COUld read the writing, in my judgment. What he's saying is 'they could not read it's interpretation'. The writing was in Aramaic. I don't think there's any question but what it was in a language that these people could read. But they could not interpret it.

It's the same thing of the Bible. Anybody who can read, can read the Bible, but not anyone who can read, can interpret the Bible. The Bible says 'the natural man receiveth not the things of God (I. Cor. 2 13)'. Now the natural

man can read the Bible, but the natural man cannot interpret the Bible. 'Because he receiveth not the things of God'. They read that; they could read 'Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin' but they could not interpret it.

It was in the Aramaic language; they knew the Aramaic language, but it had a much deeper meaning. The same thing is true of the Bible today. Many can read it, who simply can never interpret it, because it's a Spiritual Book.

V. 9(read) the verb 'troubled' is in the present tense which means that he was overwhelmed and was just in continual and perpetual trouble. He was troubled now for two reasons. He was troubled because of the handwriting but now his trouble has been doubled; he's troubled because the wise men can't interpret it. He's really got a problem on his hands.

'His countenance' (his brightness) changed; his lords were astonished'. The nobles - his official family - was also frightened by now. Now at this point, a very interesting thing occurs. A woman comes in to give a message.

V. 10(read) in the KJV, it says 'now the queen' - well, if it had been literally the queen, it probably would have been Belshazzar's wife. We've already seen that his wives were at the feast there: V. 1 & 2. The queen here is the queen mother; probably the wife of Nebuchadnezzar, but not the wife of Belshazzar. See? What we would call 'the queen mother' and the Hebrew can be so translated.

Now the queen mother, having heard their outcry and their tremendous con-

cern, came and spoke to Bel. 'Oh, king, live forever'. Now this was just the customary way of addressing the king. 'God save the king' you see. 'Oh, king, live forever'. Now the queen mother said two things to him:

First: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, not let thy countenance (or the brightness) be changed. That's #1 thing she said. Queen mother said 'don't be overcome with fear'. But then she said something else in

V. 11(read) there is a man who can tell you what the writing is. ~~thexxxx~~ 'Holy gods' (I believe it ought to be God - not plural). The queen mother knew about Dan. If she was the wife of Nebu., indeed she had to know about Him. There is no question that she knew about this Godly man. She knew that the Spirit of the Living God lived in him; she knew that he had already interpreted dreams and had exhibited tremendous prophetic powers.

She knew this. Well, you say, how about Belshazzar? If he knew this, he had not honored it. We cannot know how much he knew about Dan. In one sense, it appears he doesn't know him and yet, in other ways, it seems he did ~~nk~~ know him. It's not that important. But, anyhow, she is bringing in this message that there IS one who knows and you need to consult him.

Second sentence in V. 11 - of course, that should be grandfather - or forefather. Evidently she was referring to ~~the~~ Nebu., who, incidentally, has been dead for about 30 yrs. Nebu. died in 562 B.C. We know when he died, from archeology. So she is refer~~ring~~ing back to his relationship to Nebu. And we studied this in Ch. 2 and 3 and 4. We've already seen this in what we've studied of Dan., up to this time.

V. 12(read) 'king named Belteshazzar'... it's very interesting - Nebu. named

him Belteshazzar. Now the man ruling is BELshazzar and the names are almost identical. They both are built upon the pagan god, Beel. Belteshazzar = Belshazzar. And there is a close relationship and we don't know, of course, whether this appeals to Belshazzar or not. But they certainly are closely related in their names, if you take the pagan name of Dan.

'Let Dan. be called' (this is the word of the queen mother) 'he will show the interpretation'. So Dan. is summonsed and in the next verse, we have the conversation between Belshazzar and this great man of God.

V. 13(read) now this indicates the type of knowlege he had of Dan. But it may not have been too personal. Maybe he'd just been told this or read about this. But he says 'are you the Dan. that my grandfather brought from Judah'? Now you understand this is in 539 B.C. Dan. was brought in to Babylon in 606 B.C. So if you add 61 and 6, you can see that's been 66 yrs.(?)
(this is what you said)

Of course, Belshazzar was not living at that time. We do not know exactly what he knew about Dan. but he certainly had an intellectual of Dan. He knew that there was a Dan. that his grandfather had brought and he said 'are you the one that my grandfather brought out of Judah?'

V. 14(read) 'I have heard of thee' see? "Even" is not in the Hebrew. It's just that 'I have heard of thee'. I think it's just God - it's 'Eloheim', which is plural, (as I've explained to you) but it's always translated singular, but it's referring to the True God. Referring to God, in three persons. Now Dan. is 84 yrs. old now. Real old man. Belshazzar had heard of him but evidently had never seen him in action and not had personal contact with him.

V. 15(read) and V.16: 'scarlet' (you'll be made as one of the royal household). You say 'well, I thought Dan. already had been'. Well, he had been at one time, but you know Dan., he slinks out of the picture and it seems that he had lost this standing, somewhere along. We can't be sure, but after Nebu., we just don't hear of him.

So for about a generation, we don't hear of him. He's now 84 Yrs. old. But he's offering to him a bribe, we might say. he says 'I will dress you in purple, which indicated royalty and I will give you a chain of gold, which indicated special honor and standing, around thy neck. All right, now Belshazzar had promised this to the fortune tellers; to the magicians. Well, they couldn't produce. Here he comes along and says 'the third ruler in the kingdom'.

Why not the second? We have discovered 'why not the second'. Archeologists have. Do you realize there is a document known as the 'Nabidinas Chronicle'. which has been discovered by archeology? Which shows that Nabidinas was the First ruler; Belshazzar the Second; and there was a place for a Third. That's Dan. Later on, he's called the Triunvere (?) which, in Latin, means The Third Ruler.

You remember - you who read the Roman history - about the Triumphant who ruled Rome at one time? That means three men. The same word is in Dan. 5; Triunvere, which is Latin for three men, Dan. being the Third Ruler. Now if you read in the literature and you read good books, you'll have every knowledgeable man who'll refer to this. You need to read GOOD books. Don't just read Ironside.

Now Ironside is good, but Ironside doesn't go deep. If you're gonna be a

Bible scholar, read some scholars. ~~xxx~~ REad these people who know what all schools are saying. Then you can really interpret it, in the way that the Lord would have us to interpret. All right.

This is the questioning of Dan. --by Belshazzar, V. 13 thru 16. All right, when we come to 17 thru 23, Dan. preaches a sermon to Belshazzar. This is what I call 'Daniels' Sermon'. He just preaches a sermon to him.

V. 17 (read) now Daniels cool. I told you last Sunday that Dan. was cool. He knows exactly when to speak and what to speak. I would call Dan. 'Mr. Cool!'. If I ~~was~~ were gonna preach a sermon on DAN. I'd call him 'Mr. Cool!'. The young people talk about being cool. Well, now Dan. is cool! He knows EXACTLY what to say; he knows WHEN to say it and he comes in at exactly the right time. This is wisdom.

Some people have this. Not many people do. Because here is the greatest wisdom of the ages. But a real wise person and leader, knows when to come in. Sometimes, people simply do not know. Some of the most sensitive people I've ever known had no sense of WHEN to say something; when to act. I wrestle with this myself. I don't claim to be good with it, but I do know this: that the extent which a leader knows WHEN to speak and WHAT to speak is the extent to which he can lead.

Dan. is one of the greatest leaders of all times. He is cool and we see it here in V. 17, following.

Man, what is he saying in the first part of the verse? 'I am not impressed by your gifts. I will not be bribed. Your money will have no influence

on me'. He would receive nothing because he wanted to be free. You see, if he'd received the gifts, maybe there'd have been a temptation to mis-read the writing and have read it in favor of the king.

Now later on, he'll receive a gift. There's nothing wrong with receiving the gift at the right time. Here's another sign of wisdom, is to know when to receive the gift. Nothing wrong with receiving a gift. As a matter of fact, we MUST learn to receive as well as to give, as Xtns. But there's a time to receive. Dan. receives in V. 29, but it's not the time to receive.

Last part of the verse: Dan. says 'I want to review a little history with you'.

V. 18(read) and 19, 20, 21 'sons of' it just means 'men'. 'Sons of men' means 'men', so you can mark out the 'sons of'. When you see that in the Bible, that's all it means. 'He was driven from men' (from human beings). Did Belshazzar know this? He's reminding Bel. of what happened to his grandfather, when he did not honor the Lord.

He's reminding of Lycanthrophy - you remember I told you last Sunday, not technically like lycanthrophy, but boanthrophy. Lycanthrophy - being made a wolf - literally, being made a cow. Boanthrophy. ~~AAAAA~~ ^{A wolf} doesn't eat grass. A cow does. He was converted or reverted back to the state of a cow, because of his pride and he says in

V. 22(read) all right. Now, he's gonna level three serious sins against Belshazzar.

XXX HE DIDN'T KNOW HISTORY. You didn't know what had happened

to your grandfather. You know why history is so valuable? Is because it teaches us, if we read it aright, the ways of God with man. That's the reason the Bible - the O.T. - is so valuable. It shows what God did with man. If we learned the lessons, we would not repeat the error.

Haggle, the great philosopher said 'the only thing that we've learned from history is that we've learned NOTHING from history'. Bel. did not learn the lesson that God intended. Did he know that his grandfather had Lycanthrophy? Did he know that his grandfather reverted back to the beast level, because of his pride? Yes, I believe he did.

But yet, he heeded it not. If we will not learn from our parents; if we will not learn from the experiences, then we're unteachable. One of the greatest definitions I ever learned of intelligence is this: the ability to learn from our experience! If we will not learn from our experience, what will we learn FROM? And certainly when it's God, Himself, who's acting in our lives.

So, Dan. laccuses Bel. of three serious sins. He says, at the latter part of V. 22: 'though thou knewest all this'. That's

SIN #1: HE SINNED AGAINST THE LIGHT. That's always the most serious sin. You see, God is not gonna judge you and me, according to the number of sins we commit. Not primarily. Judgment will in proportion to the Light we had; and followed or rejected. If we have MUCH Light, much is required of us.

I've always felt a tremendous amount is required of me and I'll tell you why. My father was such a wise man. My father's understanding of the Bible

was so far beyond his peers, as I understood it. He taught me this indepth interpretation. Before I ever went to college, I knew something about the power of the resurrection of Jesus; the miracle work of the H.S. My father, in his teaching and in his preaching, preached 'indepth'. He preached FAR beyond what was generally preached.

I've always felt that I had a responsibility because I was given Light. Light. So when we have Light, that places upon us tremendous responsibility. God will never hold us responsible for that we don't know and that which we CAN'T know. But He WILL hold us ~~responsibile~~ responsible for that which we KNOW. When we know and yet we go against the Light, that makes ^{our} ~~mx~~ sin much more serious.

Jesus preached in Capernaum. He preached in Bethsaida; he preached in Koras. They would not repent. He says to these cities 'if I had preached in Sidon and Tyre (these were pagan cities) what I have preached unto you, they would have repented.' He goes on to say 'these pagan cities ~~were~~ will rise up in the Judgment and condemn you, because you have the Light and would not repent'.

This is what the Bible teaches. There was this serious sin against Bel. The handwriting on the wall, and everything, he sinned

Side 2 of Tape

against the Lord of Heaven and they have brought the vessels of His House before thee.... /V 23 (read) all right,

SIN #2: HE DELIBERATELY BLASPHEMED THE ~~NEXT~~ HOLY. He profaned the Holy. That, God will not tolerate. When we profane the Holy, we are

in danger of the Judgment. Absolutely. When we take Holy things and profane them, that is a very, very serious sin. There's a tampering going on today, even with the name of God. One denomination is saying that the word 'King' and 'Ruler' is sexist. Can you imagine? So they're gonna cut 'King' and 'Ruler' out of the Bible, saying that it's sexy.

Many Holy things today, are being tampered with. Somebody described the Holy Trinity, as the Big Father, Junior and Spook. That's very close to profaning the Holies. Much music is profaning the Holy. Profaning the Holy. He profaned that which was Holy. God will not permit that. Then he says, in the middle of V. 23, and the last part of it.

These were the three sins. He confronted him with ~~the~~ his sins, before he would interpret the handwriting. Now, beginning in V. 24 and 25 and 26 and 27 and 28, he gives the interpretation of the handwriting. I've got to cover this real quickly. At 5:30, I will move more quickly and I will spend more time on this.

V. 24(read) and through V.28: let me put up here, in closing, these things one by one.

1. THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL. This was a writing in Aramaic, transliterated into English. You have the word 'mene' and it's repeated for emphasis. Simply meaning 'God has numbered thy kingdom and finished it'. Then you have the word 'Tekel' and that was 'weighed in the balance and found wanting'. God weighed Belshazzar and He found that he simply did not measure up. Says 'you are weighed in the balances'. Course in the background of this was the thought of the gods who weighed the deeds of men, like old Cyrus, the Egyptian said 'Old Cyrus would weigh our deeds in

balances'. The Babylonians believed this. And, of course, that's the reason that's used. Then you have

'Peres' - to begin with, it's ^{uphrasin} ~~uphrasin~~. You say 'well, what's the difference?' You see this word ~~uphrasin~~ 'Upfrasin'? Can you see this up here? That is simply the plural of 'peres'. Except the 'you' is 'and' in Aramaic. But it's the same word; peres is just the singular; uphrasin is the plural. It means 'the kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians'. Did it happen? The concluding verses says it did. The great kingdom of Babylon fell.

That ended Babylon and then you have the Persian Kingdom. The Persian kingdom is gonna fall as we've seen in Ch. 2. It'sll be followed by the Greek Kingdom. I've already mentioned this, but you ought to see this again, because here's one of the greatest teachings of the Chap. His three great sins against God:

1. He sinned against Light.
2. He deliberately blasphemed God.
3. He worshipped idols.

These are the three sins. But I want to conclude on the twelve

TIMELESS TRUTHS IN THE FIFTH CHAPTER OF DANIEL:

They, indeed, are timeless. I hope you can get these down. Tonight, I'm gonna give more time on these, if you want these, you come back.

1. ALCOHOL BRUTALIZES CONSUMERS. You know ~~XXXXX~~ why I use this?

Back in my home state, the alcohol control board is called the ABC. Alcohol Beverage Control. But years ago, when I was a teenager, I said that ABC stands for Alcohol Brutalizes Consumers. That's what ABC stands for. Belshazzar would not even have used those sacred vessels, if he'd been sober, in my judgment. ~~XXX~~ Alcohol makes a beast out of a man.

I had a ~~xxxxxxx~~ roommate in college who was do dignified, until he would criticize you if you did not use your knife and fork like you ought to, at the table; the way you tied your tie. He was highly critical of the South. He came from New England and one night, at 2 A.M. in the morning, I heard something like a horse running down the hall, in the dormitory and I went out.

There was my roommate, running up and down the hall. Drunk. Acting like a wild man and idiot. One of the most dignified men I've ever known. The Bible, in many, many places, warns against what alcohol will do. Prov. 20:1; Prov. 23; Prov. 31 - alcohol brutalizes consumers.

2. WHAT PARENTS DO IN MODERATION, CHILDREN DO IN EXCESS. I've already gone over this.

3. THE JUDGMENT OF GOD SLEEPS AND THEN STRIKES WITH FURY AND SUDDENNESS. The judgment of God is sleeping today, on Am. But it could strike overnight. You see, it slept in Babylon for years but in ONE night God struck. It often is that way. The judgment ~~sixxxx~~ sleeps, but then it strikes.

4. DANIEL MEETS THE TEST OF A TRUE PROPHET. What is a true prophet? One whose prophecy comes true. In the 2nd chap., he said that Babylon was

gonna fall. And the rest of it is gonna come to pass, just like this part of it. It was in four parts. You know, or five parts.

5. WHEN THE EVIDENCE IS IN, THE BIBLE STANDS. We know that there was a Belshazzar now. We knpw that there was an Nabunitis. We know there was a third ~~rmxkx~~ ruler in the kingdom. We did not know that some years ago. Matter of fact, when I was in the Seminaries, we didn't even know about the Nabunitis Chronicle.

My professors didn't know this and they said 'this is error'. They would not say this today. I wonder how they feel?

6. HEGEL (here's a great statement) THE ONLY THING MAN LEARNS FROM HISTORY IS THAT HE LEARNS NOTHING FROM HISTORY. That's what Hegel said. That doesn't have to be true. Xtns who are taught in the Bible, learn from history. The O.T. is history. We are to learn from Dan. these lessons and that's the purpose of it.

7. THE TRUE MAN OF GOD IS NOT FOR SALE. See? Money and gain did not affect the message of Dan.

8. GODS JUDGMENT IN PROPORTION TO OUR LIGHT - NOT THE NUMBER OF OUR SINS.

9. ONLY THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF JESUS WILL WEIGH IN GODS SCALES. Many people think that when they get to the end, if they have good deeds overhere, that weigh more than the bad, that God is gonna get them in to Heaven. That is foreign to the teaching of the Word of God. As a matter

of fact, our good deeds don't even weigh with God. All the goodness we can do will not get us in to Heaven. You know the only thing that weighs with God? The only thing that impresses God? Is the righteousness of Jesus. I can't say it too strong. Nothing will ever get us in to Heaven except the righteousness of Jesus.

We must have Jesus and be clothed in His Righteousness; II. Cor. 5:21(read): Isn't that tremendous?

10. THE NATURAL MAN RECEIVETH NOT THE THINGS OF GOD. He can READ the handwriting; he can read the Bible, but he can't receive it. Because the Bible is spiritually discerned. (I. Cor. 2:13).

11. THE DOOM OF HISTORIS BABYLON FORESHADOWS THE DOOM OF PROPHETIC BABYLON. (Rev. 17:5 (religious Babylon); Rev. 18 (Political Babylon)).

12. THERE IS A HANDWRITING AGAINST EVERY MAN; BUT JESUS NAILED IT TO THE CROSS. Do you realize that Col. 2:14 says there's a handwriting against us. The Greek word is (cheirographon - can you read it?) That literally means hand writing. 'Cheiro' that's 'hand' in Greek. 'Graphon' that's writing.

You know what the handwriting is? It's our sins. But Col. 2:4 says 'Jesus has nailed it to the cross'. This, in closing,

When a criminal, in the Roman Empire, was placed in prison, there was a writing placed on the door of his prison. On one side, it ~~xxx~~ listed the crimes. This was called 'A Certificate of Debt'. On the right side, it showed the Penalty that went with those crimes. That was on the prisoners

door. Do you get it: a Certificate of Debt on the door of the prisoner? On the left, his sins or crimes. On the right, the penalty. They were added up.

When the man served his sentence and could be free, the Certificate of Debt was cancelled with one word: 'Tetelestai'. One word in Greek 'it is finished' or 'it is cancelled'. It is finished or it is cancelled. JC took the handwriting; he took the sin; cancelled them in His own blood, when we trust Jesus - REALLY trust Him - with our lives, He removes the handwriting. It's no longer against us.

And in the scales of God, the righteousness of Jesus. When we stand before the judgment, He will not be interested in how often we attended church, though we'll do that if we're saved. That's not what'll get us in to Heaven. All our goodness - it will be that righteousness; that cancelling of the sin; that addition of His righteousness to our lives.

Let's stand and pray.