

## Handwriting on the Wall

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Script - James 1:5-8

A. Intro - What do we see in our world today?

1. Chaos and confusion. Rioting and looting. People out of control. A lack of restraint and reason. An attempt to tear down statues, forget and erase the past. A disregard for personal property. An assault on law and order. An upheaval in society. Some might call it “growing pains. Others might refer to it as progress. It’s called the downward spiral. Where will it end? The second coming of Jesus.

2. Synonyms of “Handwriting on the wall” - anxiety; apprehension; apprehensiveness; bad vibes; chill; dread; fear; foreshadowing; foretold; forewarning; funny feeling; handwriting on the wall; portent; prediction; premonition; pre-notion; presage; presentiment; prognostic; prophecy; sinking feeling; vibes; warning; wind change

3. The setting

a. Babylon, 54 miles So. Of Bagdad. Called the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldean’s pride (Isa. 13:19).

b. The Ishtar gate in the Pergamum Museum, Berlin, Germany.

B. The story of Fall of Babylon (Dan. 5).

1. The drunken party (vs. 1-40).

2. The handwriting on the wall (vs. 5).

3. The kings reaction and offer of rewards (vs. 6-9).

4. The queens suggestion (vs. 10-12).

5. Daniel’s counsel (vs. 18-23).

a. Belshazzar wanted to ignore or forget history, like some today want to ignore or forget history, but that is rampant in the world today of people wanting to forget God (2 Pet. 3:5; Gal. 6:7).

6. Notice the details about Belshazzar;

a. Willfully forgot the history of God’s dealings w/ his father

- b. Did not humble himself.
  - c. Mocked God & sacred things.
  - d. Was fearful & unhinged when he saw the handwriting.
  - e. Led others to their downfall.
  - f. Defiled his body.
  - g. Did not worship or honor God.
7. Notice the details about Daniel;
- a. He is called “the dissolver of doubt”. (KJV).
  - b. God granted him special wisdom.
  - c. The spirit of God is in him.
  - d. Believes that he is accountable to God for everything.
  - e. Seeks God’s wisdom by prayer.
  - f. Is not afraid to say and do what he believes.
  - g. Influenced others to stand up for what they believed.
  - h. Although he is an official in the kingdom he does not attend the drunken party until requested.
8. We are counseled to not even doubt in our heart (Mt. 21:21-22; James 1:5-8; 1 Cor. 5:6)

C. What can we learn from this story?

1. Remember His leading in the past, to give you confidence to face the current chaos.
  2. Acknowledge and worship Him as the owner of all your ways and means.
  3. Seek His counsel through prayer to receive His wisdom and guidance.
  4. Humble yourself, be dedicated to His cause, so He can use you to touch others.
5. Conclusion: Joel 3:16 We are counseled to shelter in God, The verse in Joel comes from one of the stories about the end of time and the battle in the Valley of Judgment. (Ps. 50:3-5).