

# "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

# Daniel 5

## Daniel 5

Daniel chapter five is the unusual story of a pompous king and how God dealt with him and brought dread and fear to him in a descriptive way unlike any in scripture. Belshazzar, a co-regent with his father Nabonidus, son of Nebuchadnezzar, had a party in the palace at Babylon and in a smug and defiant way, brought out the holy vessels of the great temple in Jerusalem that his grandfather had brought to Babylon when Jerusalem was taken. This was the last straw for the kingdom of Babylon in the eyes of God. Such arrogance and defilement of the sacred vessels that had been used in the worship of the true God, now desecrated, would cost him the kingdom. They worshipped the gods of gold and silver. In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared opposite the "lampstand" on the wall. Could this mean that this heathen king even brought in the "golden lampstand" from the Temple of Solomon and lit it as disrespectfully, at the party. It seems that way, otherwise the notation of a lampstand would seem out of place.

The king and evidently all his party saw the "handwriting on the wall." They were terrified. **"Then the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints**

**of his hips were loosened, and his knees knocked against each other."** (v.6) At this point Belshazzar's hips, that is the hip sockets that were tight, became loose in the joints and the knees broke off diplomatic relations and went to war! Men on the battlefield who are truly scared, what some would call truly terrified, have given testimony that their knees and hips literally began to shake as they contemplated dying. This is what took place in Belshazzar's mind. He realized this was not a normal night and that something was happening beyond natural. This was a supernatural occurrence. After a short period of time, as before, Daniel the Jewish man, was brought in to interpret what was obviously a work of God, literally the hand of God. The words written on the wall were, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN, interpreted by Daniel, **"You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting."** (v.25) That night the Medes and Persians captured the city of Babylon. That night!

### Prayer and Action Steps

*Father, thank you that you have the last say in all matters in heaven and earth and you know how to deal with evil and evil men.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture \_\_\_\_\_

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

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What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

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Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

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Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

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Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

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Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?

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