

**THE HANDWRITING
ON THE WALL**

-Daniel 5:5 & 6, 24-28.

I. The writing on the wall to Balshazzar

“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.

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”-Daniel 5:5 & 6.

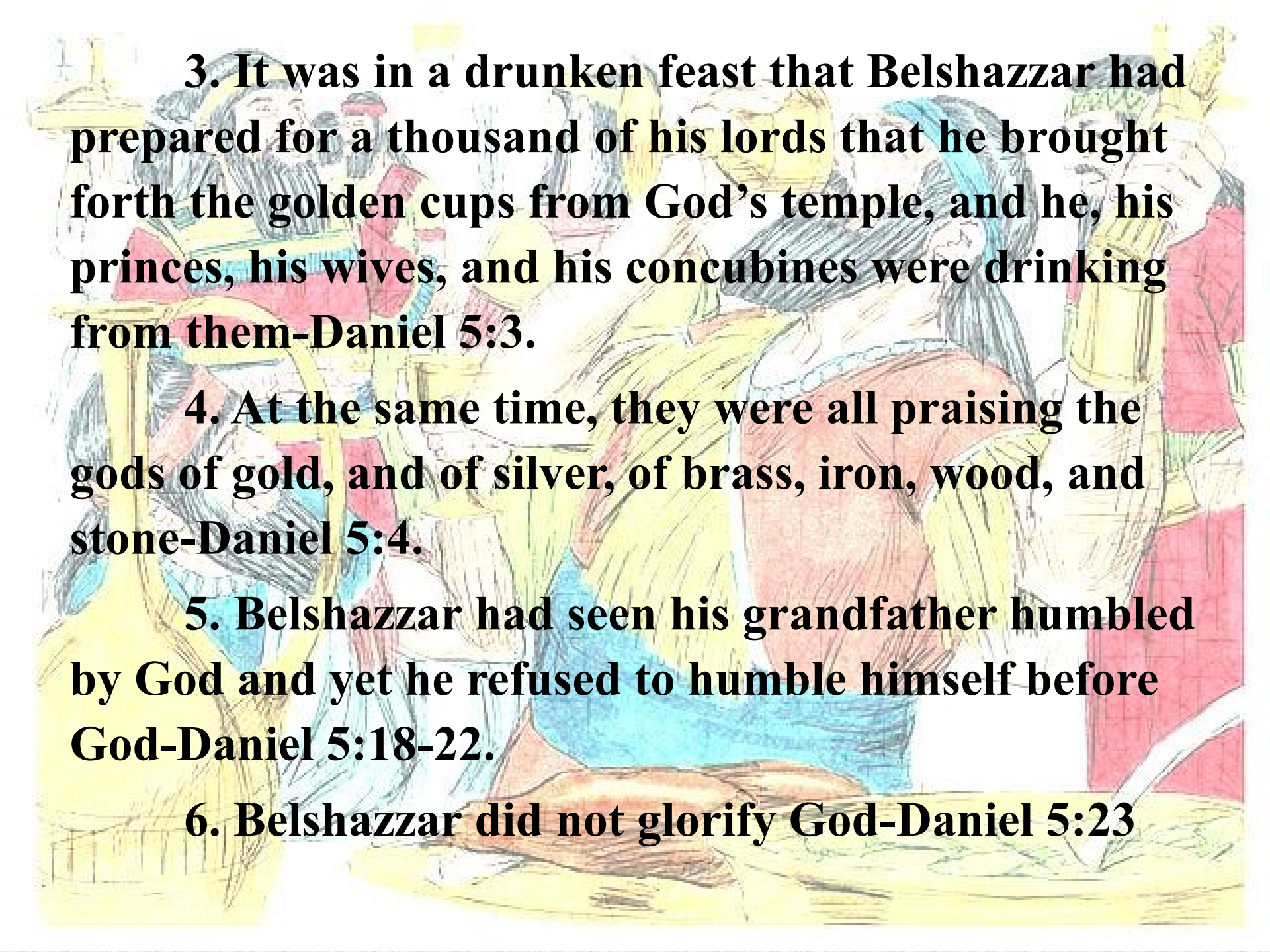
*This handwriting was sent from God-Daniel
5:23 & 24*

A. Some historical context for this strong message of condemnation from God.

1. Belshazzar's grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the temple of God in 586 B. C.-see the record in II Kings 25:1-17 & II Chronicles 36:11-21.

2. Nebuchadnezzar brought the treasures from the temple in Jerusalem to Babylon.

“And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the king, and of the princes; all these he brought to Babylon”-v. 18.



3. It was in a drunken feast that Belshazzar had prepared for a thousand of his lords that he brought forth the golden cups from God's temple, and he, his princes, his wives, and his concubines were drinking from them-Daniel 5:3.

4. At the same time, they were all praising the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, iron, wood, and stone-Daniel 5:4.

5. Belshazzar had seen his grandfather humbled by God and yet he refused to humble himself before God-Daniel 5:18-22.

6. Belshazzar did not glorify God-Daniel 5:23

7. In view of this, God sent the handwriting of the wall.

8. The interpretation was that God was finished with the Babylonian kingdom, and it would be replaced by the Medo-Persian kingdom-Daniel 5:26 & 28.

Belshazzar was weighed and found lacking, and was slain that very night-Daniel 5:27 & 30.

B. A powerful lesson is learned from this account!

God's word is a set of spiritual scales that He uses to "weigh" both kingdoms and men. When they fall short, God brings judgment upon them!

I knew a man once who said to me, “When I die, I’ll be stoking the fires in the Devil’s hell!”

This man knew that he had lived a life contrary to God’s will, and had refused to obey the gospel!

On the walls of his house, he had seen God’s figurative handwriting against him!

He had opportunities and occasions to turn to the Lord just like Belshazzar, but he refused to do so!

II. God’s figurative handwriting on the wall to other men.

A. Some words from the old song, “Sound of Silence.”

**“Fools,” said I, “You do not know
Silence like a cancer grow
Hear my words that I might teach you
Take my arms that I might reach you”
But my words like silent raindrops fell
And echoed in the wells of silence
And the people bowed and prayed
To the neon god they made
And the sign flashed out its warning
In the words that it was forming
And the sign said “The words of the prophets
Are written on subway walls
And tenement halls
And whispered in the sounds of silence”**

1964, Words and Music by Paul Simon

SOMETIMES SILENT MESSAGES ARE POWERFUL!

Question: How many people in America today are worshipping “the neon god?”

AND, as they worship their neon god, they are figuratively putting their own “handwriting on the wall!”
AND, its against them!

“And this is the condemnation, that light should come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God”-

John 3:19-21.

“Jesus answered them, Have I not chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil”-John 6:70.

Wasn't the condemnatory handwriting already on the wall against Judas Iscariot at this time?

Are we surprised that a year later we learn that Judas was a thief and stole from the treasury of the Lord? And, are we surprised that he betrayed the Lord for thirty pieces of silver? And, that he went out and hanged himself? See John 12:6; Matthew 26:14-16; 27:7.

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret”-Ephesians 5:11 & 12.

“Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me.

For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world”-II Timothy 4:9 & 10.

Didn't Demas fall in love with “the neon god” of his day?

“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of reward”-Hebrews 11:24-26.

Moses left Egypt and the evil ways of the Egyptians behind because he didn't want evil handwriting on the wall against himself!

III. CONCLUSION

A. In reality, Belshazzar wrote the handwriting on the wall against himself!

B. What kind of handwriting is being written on the wall about you and me?