

Response Determines Destiny - Daniel 05

ABCC'B'A' Chap 2-7 literary style = Chiasm - easy to memorize - written in Aramaic, language of people
A-A' Four kingdoms. Neb's dream Dan's vision, God rules over kingdoms and replaces all with eternal kingdom
B-B' Deliver from Fire and Lion - God is able to deliver those who are faithful even in hostile environments
C-C' main message, **God rules over men** ... able to humble but our destiny is determined by our response

Chap 4 God humbles Nebuchadnezzar and he responds. → chap 5 summary of Belshazzar's pride...

- **Slide 2** King Belshazzar - great feast, using sacred vessels, praising false gods - Dan 5:3-4
- **Slide 3** Writing on the wall - king is terrified - no one can interpret the message Dan 5:5-9
- **Slide 4** Queen remembers **Daniel** - known for wisdom to interpret - king offers reward Dan 5:10-16
- **Slide 5** Daniel refuses reward - Recounts humbling Nebuchadnezzar - Rebukes Belshazzar for pride

You have not humbled your heart, THOUGH YOU KNEW ALL THIS

Slide 6 Dan 5:21-22 He (*Nebuchadnezzar*) was driven from among the children of mankind, and his mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. He was fed grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, **until he knew** that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will. (22) And **you** his son, Belshazzar, **have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this,**

Slide 7 Daniel interprets the handwriting - it is Belshazzar's judgment for not responding **though he knew** Mene Tekel Peres - God has measured your life, found it lacking, and is bringing your rule to an end - 5:26-28

- **Belshazzar is killed THAT NIGHT, kingdom conquered by Medes** Dan 5:29-31 (silver chest & arms)

Point of the story - **God deals with hearts but our response determines our destiny**

- Nebuchadnezzar **knew** humility RESTORED → Belshazzar **knew** did not humble self DESTROYED

What keeps us from responding to what we know God is saying

- **Pride like Belshazzar** Dan 5:22 "...you have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this"
 - I hear it, don't need it, not open to correction, justifying sin, not a big deal, resist accountability
- **Procrastination or hard heart** - Heb 3:15 "...Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts..."
 - I'll fix it someday, put off repentance, exposure to truth and no action numbs the heart
- **Spiritually dull** Mat 13:15 "For this people's heart has grown dull...they can barely hear..."
 - Spiritual drift, life shaped by culture, media or daily routine than by God's word
- **Substitute for obedience** 1Sa 15:22 -to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams
 - Activity over obedience (serve, give) fast or pray rather than obey, busyness over surrender

What Can Help Us? Jesus taught this as the greatest commandment

Deu 6:4-7 "**Hear**, O Israel: The LORD our God, **the LORD is one**. (5) You shall **love** the LORD your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **might**. (6) And these words that I command you today shall be on your **heart**. (7) You shall **teach** them diligently to your **children**...

- **Shema** - *Hear* - not sound in the ear, but to listen attentively - in such a way as to respond in obedience
- **LORD** (covenant name) **our God** (relational) **is one** (not many Gods, only one) → undivided loyalty
- **Love not primarily an emotion** = it is the way we express our covenant loyalty through obedience
- Teach your children...it is the greatest gift you can give them, their destiny is tied to their response

Joh 14:15 [Jesus said] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.