

9. How does this story help us understand Jesus' Kingship better?

Look at verse v18–21 again and Philippians 2:5–8. Compare Jesus with King Nebuchadnezzar and King Belshazzar and fill in the table with yes/no.

|   | Nebuchadnezzar | Belshazzar | Jesus |
|---|----------------|------------|-------|
| God gave him power and greatness to rule    |                |            |       |
| all peoples and nations feared Him          |                |            |       |
| He had the power to give life and take life |                |            |       |
| God humbled him                             |                |            |       |
| he was humble and acknowledged God          |                |            |       |

10. How did this passage challenge, change, or affirm your understanding of God?

11. How does it give us comfort to know that God is sovereign over both the good and the evil in the world?

# The Book of Daniel

## chapter 5

God's warning: The writing on the wall

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### Introduction

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The exile was Israel's most tragic period of history. Their leaders were exiled in Babylon and Jerusalem was in ruins. And yet in the last study, we saw God's power displayed against King Nebuchadnezzar as God humbled the king to worship Him. It is another way God shows His supreme authority. God is Lord over all the nations of the earth, not just the Jews. King Belshazzar (who came after King Nebuchadnezzar) is the King in this next story of Daniel.

## Opening discussion

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1. How big is your God? Read the following statements about God. Try to identify which of these you think are true and which are false. Give your reasons as you go.

- a. God sends nations and governments to persecute Christians.
- b. God allows nations and governments to persecute Christians.
- c. God is in control of both the good and bad things that happen to us.
- d. God only allows good things to happen to people who are faithful to Him.
- e. God only punishes those who are evil and proud.
- f. God blesses the evil and proud as well as those who are faithful.

## Read the passage: *Daniel 5*.

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2. According to Daniel 5, what happened to King Nebuchadnezzar and why did it happen? (See v18–21.)

3. What did King Belshazzar do that was so offensive to God?

4. How did God warn the King about his actions?

(See Romans 1:18–20 and observe God's response to idolatry.)

5. What did the words in the vision mean?

*Mene:*

*Tekel:*

*Peres:*

## Meaning and Relevance

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Look at the world's political affairs today. In your opinion does it look like God is in control or that human governments are in control?

6. What does the passage say about God appointing rulers? (See v18–19.)

7. Do you think God knew what he was doing when he was appointing these rulers (even the bad ones)? If He did, why did he appoint them anyway?

8. If this is true, how will it change your views expressed earlier in question 1?