

7. What is this story teaching us about God?

- a. God will punish any king who does not humble himself.
- b. God will warn people before He punishes them.
- c. God will not let kings be proud and arrogant.
- d. God wants kings and people to honour Him.
- e. Anybody who doesn't honour God will be punished.

8. Why does God judge people who do not humble themselves?

- a. Because God is proud.
- b. Because proud people cannot see their own sinfulness and faults.
- c. Because proud people look down on others and think they are better.
- d. Because humility is important to God.

9. How will you respond to the God of the Bible?

- a. I don't like Him.
- b. My opinion hasn't changed.
- c. He is very interesting, I want to know more.
- d. I am starting to like this God.
- e. I am not sure how I feel about God.
- f. I want to believe in this God.
- g. I still have many questions.

# 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 saddest time of their history. Their leaders were sent to Babylon because God was angry with their sin and their city, and Jerusalem was nearly destroyed as a result of God's punishment. God used Israel's enemy (Babylon) to punish her. And yet in the previous study, we saw how God humbled King Nebuchadnezzar. God is the King of all nations, those who obey Him and those who do not. That is how powerful God is. King Belshazzar (who came after King Nebuchadnezzar) is the King in this next story of Daniel.

## Opening discussion

How big do you think God is? Read the following statements about God. Try to identify which of these you think are true and which are false.

- I think God is someone who should be kind, loving, and care for people.
- I think God is not real because there is no evidence of His existence.
- I think God is not really powerful because he cannot stop people from doing evil things.
- God is God and He can do whatever He likes. It doesn't depend on what people think of Him.
- God is a really powerful person who created the world but then after creating it, He just left it on its own to do whatever it likes. That is why we see so many bad things in the world because God doesn't really care. He isn't involved anymore.
- God loves to help people but only helps those who help themselves.
- I think God is very powerful and He is very good. But I cannot understand why he allows bad things to happen.

## Read the passage: *Daniel 5*.

Are there any difficult words or ideas?

- enchanters, astrologers, diviners** – men who consulted demons, spirits and the stars for answers.
- The writing on the wall** has become a famous English idiom for “your future is clearly fixed”.

1. According to Daniel chapter 5, what happened to King Nebuchadnezzar and why did it happen? (Look at v18–21.)

2. What did King Belshazzar do that offended God so much?

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

4. What did the words in the vision mean?

*Mene:*

*Tekel:*

*Peres:*

## Meaning and Relevance

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

- It looks like God is not in control because my government is bad.
- If God is really there then God doesn't care because my government doesn't look after the people.
- God doesn't exist because my government doesn't believe in God.
- God is really in control because sometimes I can see some good things in my government.
- Even though my government is bad I know that God is in control because He is powerful.

6. How does this story help us understand Jesus' Kingship better? Look at 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			