

Daniel: The Hand Is Writing on the Wall

Sermon Based Small Groups

Introductions (pick one or two):

- 1) What is one puzzle or riddle that took you a long time to solve?
- 2) What is one value you hope to pass on to your children?
- 3) What is one way the people in your home town (those that watched you grow up) identify you?

Getting into the Word:

There are two distinct sections in the Book of Daniel: history and prophecy. The history gives us an introduction to the life and person of Daniel, as well as telling about Israel in Babylon. We learn that God was working through Daniel to interpret dreams, solve riddles and explain visions as well as Daniel's devotion to God. This is important because in the second half Daniel is given God's visions or prophecy and interprets them. The main theme in Daniel is the sovereignty of God; God's sovereignty or rule over nations and all kingdoms throughout time.

Scripture Questions:

In your discussion of the text and the sermon, please use the questions that are most helpful for you to better understand the core teaching of the text.

Read **Daniel 4:28-5:31**:

What was Daniel's intent in recording these events?

How does it fit into the book of Daniel as a whole?

What was the sin of King Nebuchadnezzar and King Belshazzar?

How were the actions of these two Kings offensive and belittling to God?

Where did the kings place themselves in relationship to God?

Why did it matter if King Belshazzar drank out of the Lord's vessels?

What does this reflect about his heart?

Why do you think God chose to confront King Belshazzar with a hand with unclear writing on a wall instead of a clear voice like his father or just killing him on the spot?

What was the purpose of involving Daniel?

What did this show to the Kingdom of Babylon and those in the royal court?

What were some of the ways the queen described Daniel?

How did this support the fact that God was working in and through Daniel?

How did the interpretation of the vision pronounce judgment on the king and the Kingdom of Babylon?

How did God show himself to be sovereign over the Kingdom of Babylon?

How does the character of Daniel stand in a contrast to the two kings?

Who was Daniel representing and serving and who were the Kings serving?

What is God saying in this text (the core teaching)?

Discussion:

Please use only the questions in your discussion that help you to apply the main point of the text to your life.

What is one thing that you learned from the sermon?

What are some of the things in your life that God has power over; areas that you have no control or power over?

How can you surrender or submit those areas of your life to God?

In what way does this surrender take a lot of trust in God?

If those around you were to describe you, what would they say about you?

How would it compare to the reputation that Daniel had in Babylon?

Share with others a time when someone came to you with a question about faith or God and you were able to answer it well.

What gave you the wisdom to answer this question?

What are some of the ways God has used to point out your sin or places in your life that you were in rebellion to God?

How has God used another believer in your life to help you see God in a clearer way?

How do people in this culture put their hope or trust in themselves or their accomplishments instead in God?

What have you learned from this lesson?

Prayer:

Have each member of the group pray for someone they know that is going through a rough time.

For Further Study:

Daniel, Beth Moore (DVD study)

Desiring God, John Piper

Becoming A Contagious Christian, Bill Hybels, Mark Mittelberg

Practicing the Presence of God, Brother Lawrence

The Barbarian Way: Unleash the Untamed Faith Within, Erwin Raphael Mc