



# THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

PART THREE

TURN ON THE LIGHTS--THE PARTY'S OVER! DANIEL 5:29-31

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com. This passage can be found in the Pew Bible, in the Old Testament on pages 633.

## STUDY SECTION

# A SUDDEN CONDEMNATION

**Daniel 5:29–31, NASB95** -<sup>29</sup> Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a necklace of gold around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he now had authority as the third ruler in the kingdom. [the King fulfilled his promise]<sup>30</sup> That same night [“That very night” – ESV; “He who is often reproved, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy” (Prov. 29:1, NKJV) Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain.<sup>31</sup> So Darius the Mede [we don't know much about this Darius; his name is not recorded in history except here in the biblical text; it may have been a general under Cyrus the Great] received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two. [NOTE: This fulfilled numerous biblical predictions of Babylon's fall, including Is. 13:17–22 and Jer. 50–51.]

The Medo-Persian army surprised the Babylonians by lowering the level of the Euphrates River on the outskirts of the city, thereby passing under its walls. The surprise element was enhanced by the fact that Babylonian leaders were engaged in some sort of celebration that King Belshazzar was throwing. Their attention was on the party and not on the army attacking the great city of Babylon. The attack brought the city and the nation to an end.

- Herodotus, the Greek Historian (Circa 440BC), *Historia* (The Histories) Bk.1; P. 178, ¶4, ln.1]

# A SUDDEN CONDEMNATION

## 1. Belshazzar fulfilled his promise.

**Daniel 5:29, TLB** -<sup>29</sup> Then at Belshazzar's command, Daniel was robbed in purple, a gold chain was hung around his neck, and he was proclaimed third ruler in the kingdom.

## 2. Holy God fulfilled His promise.

**Daniel 5:30–31, TLB** -<sup>30</sup> That very night Belshazzar, the Chaldean king, was killed,<sup>31</sup> and Darius the Mede entered the city and began reigning at the age of sixty-two.

**Isaiah 13:17–20, TLB (circa 700BC)** -<sup>17</sup> For I will stir up the Medes against Babylon, and no amount of silver or gold will buy them off.<sup>18</sup> The attacking armies will have no mercy on the young people of Babylon or the babies or the children.<sup>19</sup> And so Babylon, the most glorious of kingdoms, the flower of Chaldean culture, will be as utterly destroyed as Sodom and Gomorrah were when God sent fire from heaven;<sup>20</sup> Babylon will never rise again. Generation after generation will come and go, but the land will never again be lived in. The nomads will not even camp there. The shepherds won't let their sheep stay overnight.

## LIFE APPLICATION SECTION

# WHAT'S THE LEARN HERE?

## A. Without Jesus— We ALL stand condemned.

**John 3:18, ESV** -<sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

## B. With Jesus—You will never face condemnation (so don't fear!)

**Romans 8:1, NIV** -<sup>1</sup> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus....

**Colossians 2:13–14, NKJV** -<sup>13</sup> And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,<sup>14</sup> having wiped out the handwriting of requirements. [referring to the OT law] that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it [our condemnation] out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.