

“Witnesses, Number Your Days!”



Daniel 5

How would you live differently if you
knew the number of your days?

“Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You return man to dust and say, ‘Return, O children of man!’ For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.”

(Psalm 90:1-4; ESV)

“The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away... So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”

(Psalm 90:10, 12; ESV)

God's witnesses choose to wisely number their days so that they will leave behind a legacy of blessing, not a cautionary tale.

Daniel 5:1-2 (ESV)

1 King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand. 2 Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them.

Daniel 5:3-4 (ESV)

3 Then they brought in the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. 4 They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Belshazzar's Legacy



- DENIAL
- DEVIANCY
- DRUNKENNESS
- DISHONOR

Daniel 5:5 (ESV)

5 Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote. 6 Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together.

Daniel 5:7-8 (ESV)

7 The king called loudly to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers. The king declared to the wise men of Babylon, "Whoever reads this writing, and shows me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around his neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom."

8 Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation.

Daniel 5:9 (ESV)

9 Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, and his color changed, and his lords were perplexed.

Daniel 5:10-11 (ESV)

10 The queen, because of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting hall, and the queen declared, "O king, live forever! Let not your thoughts alarm you or your color change. 11 There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him.

Daniel 5:11-12 (ESV)

11 ...And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers, 12 because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation.”

Daniel 5:22-23 (ESV)

22 And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, 23 but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know...

Daniel 5:23-24 (ESV)

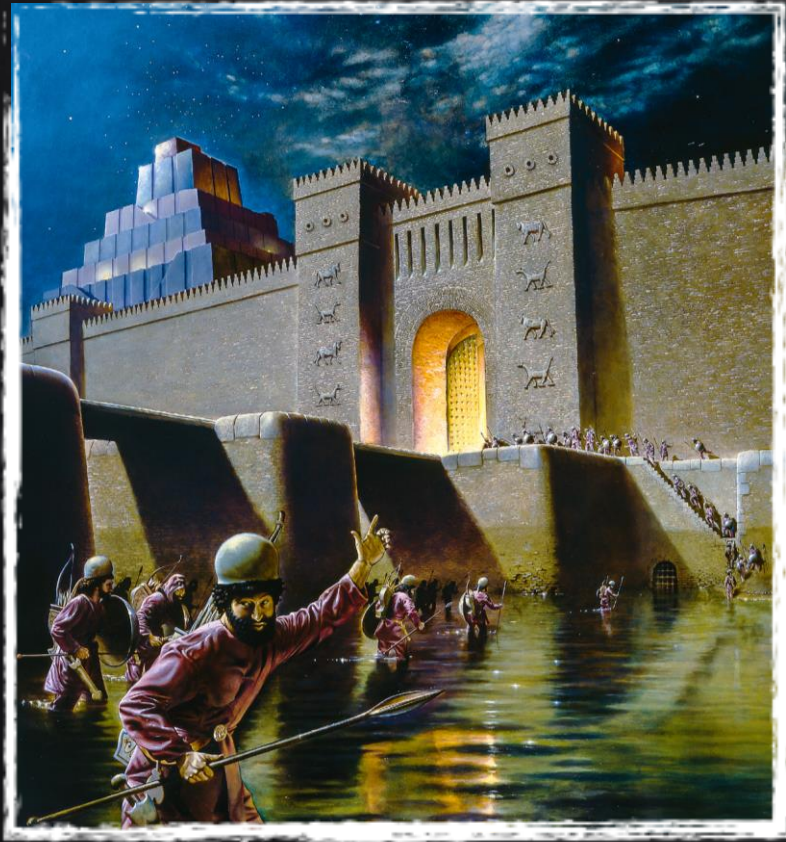
“...but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored. 24 Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed.”

Daniel 5:25-28 (ESV)

25 “And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN. 26 This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; 27 TEKEL, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; 28 PERES, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

Daniel 5:29-30 (ESV)

29 Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. 30 That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. 31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.



“Cyrus turned the Euphrates by a canal. The river sank to such an extent that the natural bed of the stream became fordable. Had the Babylonians noticed their danger, they would never have allowed the Persians to enter the city for they would have made fast all the street gates which gave access to the river. But as they were engaged in a festival, continued dancing and reveling until they learnt about the capture.” (Herodotus)

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number their days so that they will leave
behind a legacy of blessing, not a
cautionary tale.

How to Wisely Number Your Days

1. Acknowledge what Satan has put on your menu and set yourself apart from those things.

“Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”

(2 Timothy 2:20-22; ESV)

How to Wisely Number Your Days

2. Don't ignore the obvious—the writing on the wall.

Is there any obvious warning from God
you need to heed?

We ignore the obvious because we trust
in our fortifications, but those
fortifications can fail us.

How to Wisely Number Your Days

3. You don't know how much time you have, so change direction now. Take action today.

“So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother... If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.”

(Matthew 5:23-24, 29; ESV)

How to Wisely Number Your Days

BONUS LESSON: Just because you are old, doesn't mean you are done.