

Daniel 5: W.H.O. Is In Charge

Daniel 5:1-4 (ESV)

King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords and drank wine in front of the thousand. 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. 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. They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Wild Parties

Psalm 115:4-8 (ESV)

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

Hosea 9:1-3 (MSG)

Don't waste your life in wild orgies, Israel. Don't party away your life with the heathen. You walk away from your God at the drop of a hat and like a whore sell yourself promiscuously at every sex-and-religion party on the street. All that party food won't fill you up. You'll end up hungrier than ever. At this rate you'll not last long in GOD's land: Some of you are going to end up bankrupt in Egypt. Some of you will be disillusioned in Assyria. As refugees in Egypt and Assyria, you won't have much chance to worship GOD –

Romans 13:13-14 (NIV)

Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Wild parties, drunkenness, and carousing will never satisfy but ultimately will bring God's Hand of Judgement

Daniel 5:5-9 (ESV)

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. Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together. 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." Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation. Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, and his color changed, and his lords were perplexed.

Hand of God

Writing

God writes out His judgement upon the wicked king. God has written His word down for us. Give us the book of God!

"God himself has condescended to teach the Way. For this end He came from Heaven. He has written it down in a Book, give me that Book! At any price give me the Book of God!" – John Wesley

Winnowing

Matthew 3:11-12 (NIV)

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

When Jesus talks about being baptized in the Holy Spirit and Fire He includes the picture of God with a winnowing fork in His hand!

The winnowing fork was used for threshing out the grain. Getting rid of the husks and outward junk.

Judging

Psalm 75:7-10 (MSG)

God rules: he brings this one down to his knees, pulls that one up on her feet. GOD has a cup in his hand, a bowl of wine, full to the brim. He draws from it and pours; it's drained to the dregs. Earth's wicked ones drink it all, drink it down to the last bitter drop! And I'm telling the story of God Eternal, singing the praises of Jacob's God. The fists of the wicked are bloody stumps, the arms of the righteous are lofty green branches.

Isaiah 51:17 (NIV)

Awake, awake! Rise up, Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, you who have drained to its dregs the goblet that makes people stagger.

Helping

Acts 11:20-21 (ESV)

But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

Psalm 60:5 (NIV)

Save us and help us with your right hand, that those you love may be delivered.

W – Wild parties

H – Hand of God

O – Over all ruler!

The message of Daniel 5 to the wicked king and the wicked kingdom is this: God is THE OVER ALL RULER!

Daniel 5:18-21 (NIV)

Your Majesty, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor. Because of the high position he gave him, all the nations and peoples of every language dreaded and feared him. Those the king wanted to put to death, he put to death; those he wanted to spare, he spared; those he wanted to promote, he promoted; and those he wanted to humble, he humbled. But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory. He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal; he lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like the ox; and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and sets over them anyone he wishes.

Daniel 5:21 (MSG)

He was thrown out of human company, lost his mind, and lived like a wild animal. He ate grass like an ox and was soaked by heaven's dew until he learned his lesson: that the High God rules human kingdoms and puts anyone he wants in charge.

Daniel 5:21 (NLT)

He was driven from human society. He was given the mind of a wild animal, and he lived among the wild donkeys. He ate grass like a cow, and he was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he learned that the Most High God rules over the kingdoms of the world and appoints anyone he desires to rule over them.

God rules OVER ALL

He appoints who He wants to rule over men

Psalm 22:28 (ESV)

For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

Psalm 47:2, 8 (ESV)

For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, and great king over all the earth.
...God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

Psalm 83:18 (ESV)

...that they may know that you alone, whose name is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth.

Psalm 103:19 (ESV)

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Ephesians 1:20-23 (MSG)

All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but *forever*. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.

WHO is in charge?

The Lord Jesus Christ