



## *PARTY LIKE ITS 539 (B.C.)*

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all right we're in Daniel chapter 5 find it in your Bible or on your phone and what's interesting is we live in this day where the world has gotten very small and information travels very quickly all of a sudden call text email whatever the case may be social media platform news alert we're constantly bombarded with information most of it is troubling to us it frustrates us it makes us discouraged or anxious or fearful or even angry and I would say that that explains in large part the current mood the more we know the worse we feel all of a sudden we know what's going on around the world we know what's going on in the lives of people that we love and it's very frustrating and it's very troubling now that being said I want to emotionally connect with you and have you change perspective think for a moment what it must be like to be God God knows everything right he can't just cancel his internet subscription you know can't just throw away his phone can't just you know ignore all that is happening God sees everything God hears everything God knows everything and if we have a right to get frustrated or angry or upset or demand change God has that same right and God has been viewing and hearing all of human conduct for all of human history and what's going to happen in Daniel chapter 5 you're going to see where God finally reaches his boiling point and he responds with Justice okay so let me just tell you in advance this is going to be a little bit of an intense sermon not like Daniel to this point has all he's been all bunnies and roses and you know tooth fairy and hugs and giggles but this is the dark portion of the text and so we're going to jump right in and we're going to hear This Magnificent day in history where God showed up in power and the first thing we learn is God will not be mocked Daniel chapter 5 1-4 King Bazar um tell you a little bit about him in a moment made a great feast a huge party a un holiday for a thousand of his Lords those are the Sith Lords they're the dark side of the force and drank wine in front of the Thousand Bazar when he tasted the wine commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver that Nebuchadnezzar his father it's actually his grandfather so they would refer to their father and their grandfather as their fathers had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought that he his Kings his Lords his wies his concubines yes that means what you think it does this is going to be a naughty night might drink for 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 his concubines drank from them they drank wine and praised they're having Church the gods of gold silver bronze iron wood Stone this is all a counterfeit everything that God creates Satan counterfeits throughout the Bible God has feasts and F Festival this is where his people are supposed to take a day off get together have something to eat have something to drink throw a party celebrate rejoice in his kingdom we call these holidays which literally means holy days they're days set apart for the Lord this is the counterfeit this is a different King than Jesus this is a different Kingdom than gods and this is a different kind of party than the one that we throw every Sunday for the Lord Jesus and they're getting together to do that which is abominable in the sight of God and this uh this grandson here he's just a uh he's just a spoiled third generation trust fun rich kid he's just he he just is I mean his his grandpa is Nebuchadnezzar who was a mighty king and Warrior and he was sort of prominent in the story line up till chapter 4 his dad was King and then his dad was away and so this kid is assuming the throne this is literally a high school movie right Dad's away the spoiled rich kid throws a big drinking party at his house that's exactly what this is this is every 8s movie that I ever saw as a kid that's all that this is he's just he's throwing a party while his dad is away and here's who shows up a thousand of his Lords these would have been certain political leaders of status in addition there would have been other men present and there's the wives and the concubines and the servants so commentators will estimate that there were upwards of 15,000 people at the party this is a big party this is a big big big party in their equivalent of the White

House so everybody's dressed up this is a big deal there's a red carpet everybody's taking selfies you know underwear is now outerwear none of this is right this is all going the wrong direction and they have Unearthed this uh Palace U the archaeologists have and it is a about the same size as the main section of the White House so just think in kind of those terms and they throw this massive gigantic party now let me just say this let me ask it as a question has anything changed does this still happen people wear things they shouldn't in public to drink things that they shouldn't in public to enjoy a party they shouldn't we do that do you think this happened last night in Old Town yes yes and if you're under 30 we forgive you for going there but welcome to church now how about this what we do we create whole days where we sort of make exceptions we're like well on that day you get to do this kind of naughty thing what would those let's just have this conversation I got nothing else to do what would some of those days be Marty gr Marty gr Marty gr is for sure a Babylonian holiday it just for sure is Right St Patrick's day I'm Irish we're like oh let's get drunk why that's been a problem for the Irishman for a long time I would just encourage the Irishman don't get drunk right don't get drunk just pray eat potatoes move forward you know just have a plan B what other holidays do we New Year's Eve it's a new year I'm gonna I'm gonna throw up wooo what better way to start aresh than throwing up okay what else Super Bowl oh grown men are going to carry a dead pig over a line let's all get drunk and eat nachos and and and watch the halftime show okay that is his concubines okay what else oh it's going to get worse what else what else do we have for the H for the days where we get to celebrate like this Halloween mom dresses up like a naughty nurse dad does shots and we terrorize children well yeah that's a great idea who came up with that anything else CCO demo let's get drunk like Mexicans let's get drunk like Irishmen too I mean it's just it's crazy CCO de is the Greek word for bad morning the next day that's what it is okay so we do this all the we say things like it's my birthday I'm getting engaged I'm getting married we're having a baby it's Friday it's Saturday it's Tuesday right let me just say that we kind of still have the spirit of Babylon at work amen we we kind of do so that's what's going on here three things are happening deviancy so they have the wives the concubines and the other gals and in most ancient parties when the guys would start drinking in carousing the women would depart right CU it's going to be a bad situation there's another book of the Bible Bible called Esther where there is a queen that uh is hosting a state party event with her husband and it's time for the guys to drink and carow and so Esther the queen takes the women out to go do something else here they're all together why it's going to get naughty and and some of these gals were likely captured in war we would call them slaves and trafficking victims I mean this whole thing is just ungodly Unholy and unacceptable in addition there is drunkenness this is just a drinking party and the king gets up and he is going to just start taking shots I'm sure there's a pingpong ball involved some guy's being held by his ankles this is just a large fraternity event that's what this is and so what he decides is hey let's go drink out of what cups God's cups we looked in chapter one they went in the Babylonians did they conquered the nation of Israel they plundered the temple they then took back with the slaves the Articles from God's Temple used for the sacred worship of the one true God in uh Ezra chapter 1 it tells us that they actually had 5,000 different items largely of gold that they stole from God this was his grandpa Nebuchadnezzar it's all locked up and he comes up with this crazy idea hey let's go get those and everybody gets a Golden Goblet that belongs to God and we're all going to get hammered and drink out of it to show that our God is the real God and their God is the weak God how many of you you see that this probably isn't going the right direction this is this is deviancy this is drunkenness and ultimately this is public dishonor this is just their way of literally um rebelling against God openly and publicly to give you the

equivalent this would be like imagine last night you're driving by the church and the lights are on and there's a lot of music and the parking lot is packed and you're like is there a Revival what is going on you walk in they're not wearing enough clothes there's naughty stuff on the screens there's a DJ up here you know guy with two turntables and the microphone uh wearing a gold chain wearing purple you'll meet him later and then and then imagine that the baptismal set up but it's turned into a hot tub party and dudes are ripping Pages out of the Bible to roll up joints and and then they break into the communion wine with the goblets and every body's getting hammered okay that's the equivalent of what is happening the question is where's God's line now let me say this we've all got a line right we tell people this don't cross that line don't say that don't do that if you cross the line there will be consequences if we have the right to have a line God has a right to have a line the question is where is God's line let me just say they found it okay here's how the story moves forward God has a line you don't want to find how long after immediately God's like oh no no no no no no this is it it doesn't say he sent them a warning he sent them an angel he gave them 10 years to repent God's like we're done now enough of this immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's Palace opposite the lightstand so there's literally a spotlight it's a dark party Spotlight and a finger not a dude just a finger on a hand like this let me just tell you this this is how you get sober right this will do it for you you're like I like oh that's different um finger shows up just writing on the wall right when God shows up people sober up that that's the moral of the story and all of a sudden God shows up and the King saw the hand as it wrote now this guy probably is thinking how much have I had to drink like I am not in a good place but then he looks around and everybody seeing the same thing the party stop the DJ ends the dancing is over everybody is worried the king saw the hand as a wrote The King's color changed right dude went flush his thoughts alarmed me like because this can't be good his limbs gave way some would say that he had a bowel movement some of the commentators do um and his knees knocked together the dude literally he he was arrogant and now now he's terrified the king called loudly right so the party stops to bring in the enchanters the calans and the astrologers so here comes Larry Curley and mo going to help the situation the king declared to the wise men of Babylon here's my point I don't know why we call them wise men they don't ever get anything done or do anything right there it's just they're like Community College professors like what why why why do we salute them hey look my goal is to offend everyone because I believe in equality so just hang in there here's the point we take ourselves so seriously we take God so lightly okay there you go all right that that was free write that down okay 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 fullon Rick Ross hip hop lifestyle upgrade you get a chariot with rims you get to wear purple the color of Kings you you get a gold grill you can get tattoos up your neck you can wear a gold chain it's going to be amazing for you it's going to be amazing for you you're going to get promoted to hip-hop lifestyle okay so it's and it's weird how things never change then all the king's wise men came in so every guy's like I I I I I want to go Rick Ross they all give it a shot but they could not read the writing or make known to the king its interpretation then King Bazar was greatly alarmed his color changed his Lords were perplexed they've got a god-sized problem sometimes you got a god-sized problem the queen because of the words of the king and his Lords came into the banqueting hall and the queen declared now this queen is not his wife it's his grandma we already told in chapter 5:2 that the wives were present this is his grandma this is Nebuchadnezzar's wife she's she's an older woman but she would have been regarded like the queen mother so the queen mother comes in Catching her

grandson trashing dad's house having a big party the queen because of the words of the king and his Lords came into the banqueting hall and the queen declared oh King live forever and we all will just somewhere let not your thought army or your color change there is a man I know a guy there is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the Holy gods or the spirit of God the holy spirit in the days of your father a long time ago light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him and King Nebuchadnezzar your father your father the king made him Chief overseer of The Magicians the enchanters the calans the astrologers because of an excellent Spirit knowledge and understanding to interpret dreams explain riddles and solve problems were found in this Daniel whom the king named Belsazar now let Daniel be called and he will show the interpretation it's really interesting here Daniel is his god-given name Belshazzar was his Babylonian given name his god-given name means God is my judge and they refer to him here by his god-given name because it doesn't matter what they call him he doesn't accept it he knows who he is by his identity and relationship to God that's how he can make it through Babylon and what happens here the queen says we got a guy and he could be helpful we need to bring him into the equation now what you may not know about this at this time Daniel is in his 80s okay chapter one he was in his teens chapter 5 is roughly 70 years later he's an older guy he's been faithful to God and at this point he's basically retired not working for the government he's just kind of off to the side of history and as we look at Daniel's life we've covered 70 years in just five chapters and the question is why are there gaps the same reason that there are gaps in your life and mind sometimes God shows up in an amazing way and then we just brush our teeth do our dishes do our laundry go to work pay our taxes it's boring for a decade and then something else happens okay as you read Daniel don't just look at what happened but the timeline and say God shows up in his life life like God shows up in my life but it's not every single day that something extraordinary happens there's been large gaps of mundane time where he was just working his job and living his life now what's interesting here it's something called an anthropomorphism the Bible says that God is spirit that God is not a man but the Bible will use human language and God will use human imagery to portray truth and so the Finger of God is here what is typified and what it's literally saying is this if God wants to get something done it's this hard God wants to take down a nation there you go God wants to take down a king there you go it's what is impossible is for Any Nation to conquer Babylon and God just flicks his finger and it will come down and this is where it doesn't matter how much power you have he who is all powerful cannot be thwarted cannot be overcome cannot be defeated and he works often times by his finger okay and what it's saying is God doesn't have to fully exert himself this is not difficult imagine you watching a let's say an Olympic weightlifting competition one dude comes out and he's like just picks it up with his finger he'd be like that that dude's amazing okay it's God's way of saying this is not heavy or hard for me and God uses his finger it says in Exodus 8 to take down the entire nation of Egypt in uh Exodus 31 as well God shows up and he writes The Ten Commandments with his with his finger says so hey kids these are the house rules for God's family uh Jesus shows up and says that he cast out demons by the Finger of God Demon possess people that others are terrified of and people can't extricate this evil presence from their life Jesus shows up just does this and it's over and there's one occasion I think it's in John chapter 8 where there's a woman caught in adultery by a bunch of religious guys and it makes you wonder if it wasn't a trap because why are these religious guys all outside of her window in the middle of the night right I mean oh we caught her in adultery my question would be like what were you doing there so they catch her in adultery it seems to be an entrapment and they want to put her to death by stoning and Jesus gets down and what does he do he writes

something in the dirt with his finger we don't know what it is it may be their sin or the name of their girlfriends and all of a sudden every religious leader leaves from oldest to youngest God gets a lot done just with his finger and here the Finger of God shows up in the palace and then the key to the whole story here as well is that Daniel is chosen because he has the Holy Spirit three times in Daniel 4 Nebuchadnezzar the king said said that he had the spirit of God here um his wife the queen mother says Daniel has the spirit of God here's the point you and I need to live our faith openly and publicly and unashamedly okay if everybody else gets to be proud of their thing we get to be proud of Jesus in everything now the pressure in the culture is this keep it to yourself that's a faith is a private matter not a public matter Daniel's faith is private and it's public everybody knows who his God is that's who he worships that's who he prays to that's who he serves you and I live in Babylon there will constantly be Temptations to participate in that which is evil there will also be pressure to have our faith not be public so that we don't pay some sort of negative price but if we don't live our faith publicly then they don't know that we know God and when they need God they don't call us because they don't know that we know him he lives his faith publicly and all of a sudden it's like okay we have a god-sized problem we need God does anybody know God she I know one guy the spirit of God lives in him the same holy spirit that empowered Daniel empowered the life of Jesus Christ the same holy spirit is given to to the children of God to live by the power of God and to demonstrate the character of Daniel in Jesus and so what Nebuchadnezzar has he has Fame he has money he has power he has Glory he has pleasure the one thing he doesn't have is the spirit of God because the spirit of God is the one thing that you can't achieve you can't conquer you can't obtain you need to humble yourself and receive the presence of God's power Daniel has the only thing that Nebuchadnezzar does not have though Nebuchadnezzar has everything that Daniel doesn't have let me just show you this if you have the spirit you're the rich one okay you're the rich one you're the rich one so the question is where is God's line and the main idea I want to just drive home from Daniel is this is that character counts okay character counts he has been Faithfully serving in Babylon by the spirit of God and when they need help the queen remembers I know a guy who has character you can depend on him he will tell you the truth even if you don't want to hear it he'll do what's right even if you were hoping that that was not the future that was coming so the story then continues that we all have a day of judgment then Daniel was brought in before the king the king answered and said to Daniel you are that Daniel I it's interesting again he calls him Daniel see it doesn't matter what other people call you if God says you're loved you're loved if God says you're forgiven you're forgiven if God says you're clean you're clean if God says you're saved you're saved it doesn't matter what they say it only matters what he says amen okay so for his whole life they keep calling him belto shazar and he's like that ain't me I'm Daniel finally they're like okay you're Daniel you're Daniel you are that Daniel one of the Exiles of Judah whom the king my father brought from Judah ski the hole conquered your land robbed your God enslaved you castrated you it it's interesting how sometimes we skip the details when we're dealing with people oh yeah you my you work for my dad well that's not exactly how it went out I have heard of you that the spirit of the Gods is in you might we live in such a way that people know who God's Spirit-filled people are and that light because they're in a dark place and understanding because they're in a foolish and evil place and excellent wisdom are found in you now the wise men the enchanters have been brought in before me to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation this is their whole job but they could not show the interpretation of the matter but I've heard that you can give interpretation and solve problems now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation you shall be clothed grand prize show them

what he won Johnny purple and a chain of gold around your neck and you get to be number three in the Kingdom because it was his dad and then this kid and then he would be number three it seems like a promotion but it's not he already works for a king okay he's already going to inherit a kingdom and this kingdom is going to go down that night so it's not like this job has got a real Future Okay story continues next slide uh then Daniel answered and said before the king let your gifts be for yourself I don't work for money I work for God I am not for hire I am not a hirling the way you get a hirling is you hire somebody and sometimes people will give a lot of money to have a leader especially a religious or spiritual leader tell them what they want to hear so that they can justify that which God does not and what Daniel is saying is I ain't in this for money I'm in this for the Lord I'm Not For Hire he's going to be a prophet not a politician this world has too many politicians it needs more prophets let your gifts be for yourself and give your rewards to another nevertheless I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation O King the most high God that's a major theme of Daniel the most high God over all gods religion spiritualities ideologies rulers Kings and kingdoms is the most high God he gave nezar your father kingship greatness Glory Majesty everything you have son that came from God you're just a spoiled kid and because of the greatness that he gave him all people's Nations languages trembled and feared before him whom he would he killed whom he would he kept alive whom he would he raised up and whom he would he humbled your grandpa acted like God but when his heart was lifted up and his Spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly was brought down from his kingly throne and His glory was taken from him let me just pause here here's Daniel old guy okay I think he looks like Clint Eastwood I'm just going to put it out there I think you want some of this I mean he's he's old but he's still in the game and then here's the young guy here's the young guy okay this conversation is the old guy taking the young guy to the to the Woodshed or taking him to school or taking him to the school Woodshed whatever you prefer this is the old guy looking at the young guy saying son you have no idea how you got here you have no gratitude for God you're just spoiled and arrogant and let me tell you a story about what God has done for your family okay sometimes people need not just receive an encouragement sometimes they need a rebuke what happens in Daniel 5 is that it is an intense and difficult section of scripture and part of the reason that some people avoid it or struggle with it is that we live in a day when the Bible is really in some regards just to be treated as motivational quotes right so positive uplifting safe for the whole family hope you read Daniel 5 you're like finger on the wall dead people I don't know what category that fits in if it's in the category of judgment if it's in the category of sin if it's in the category of the wrath of God and when we're saved we're saved from sin we're saved from the wrath of God we're safe from the Judgment of God if all you ever want are soft words from God you'll end up with a hard heart against God sometimes God allows hard words to produce soft people okay and when we read of this we're reading of judgment and we're we're reading of Wrath and we're reading of consequence and we see this man rebuking that man it is still God's grace giving that guilty man an opportunity to repent he's still alive he's not dead there's still an opportunity for him to turn from his ways and to trust in God and to receive forgiveness and to join Daniel in the service of the real king what does it mean what does it mean what does it mean to act act like act like a man there are many places in this world that are here to help help men What's worst most churches nowadays are run by guys you could knock over with a stiff breeze is it okay for a woman to make more than a man absolutely I think okay are you a man yeah I am okay then describe yourself I'm the bread winner and he is more of like the state home type I know he takes on a lot of more quote unquote feminine roles same thing with women there's I'm pretty sure that could

be women that could be men it's more of like patriarchy that's like the thing to act like a man I don't think there's like generally any way anyone's supposed to act anymore how in the world are we supposed to know what it means to act like a man been waiting more than 30 years to write my first ever men's book and help you learn how to act like a [Music] man man we're all just like this guy aren't we I mean let's just be honest let's not just look at him and say I can't believe he did that if you had that much money and that much power truth be told we'd probably do the same thing we probably would and what he's saying here the problem with your grandfather was pride and he became hard-hearted pride is demonic the first being to ever become proud was Satan we live in a culture that honors Pride we have we have pride movements we have pride parades don't make it the goal of your child raising to have them have good self-esteem but humility and repentance and faith in God our entire educational system is for Pride self-esteem there's nothing wrong with you you're amazing everybody should celebrate you nothing needs to change you're awesome God shows up through Daniel and says your lifestyle is unacceptable to me it may be pop popular there may be a whole parade behind you but I am against it and it's a call to repentance it's the same call that Daniel gave to his grandfather and this is a courageous moment do you think the king wants to hear this in front of his party in his Palace but it's the truth Daniel has a a tender heart a soft heart so he can communicate hard truth and his hope would be that that man's heart would not Harden like his grandfather's but it would soften so the story continues he was driven from among the children of mankind he's telling the story of his grandfather we looked at this in chapter four his mind was made like that of a beast his dwelling was with the wild donkeys he was fed grass like an ox his body was wet with the Dew of Heaven your your grandpa lost his mind son he his nails grew out his hair grew out he lived in the yard and ate stuff like grass for seven years and slept outside pride is a problem with God he was fed grass until he knew that the most high God rules the kingdoms of mankind and sets over it whom he will and you his son elazar have not humbled your heart though you knew all of this how many of us God showed up in our parents' life God showed up in our grandparents life and we know that God showed up and we ignore him that's what's happening but you have lifted yourself up that's Pride against the Lord of Heaven and the vessels of his house have been brought in before you and you and your Lords your wives your concubines have drunk from them and you have praised the gods of silver gold bronze iron wood Stone which do not see or hear or know but the god in whose hands your bre but the god in whose hand is your breath son your breath is a gift and those and whose are all your ways you have not honored this is really about Pride versus humility that's what he's saying Nebuchadnezzar in chapter 4 we looked God gave him a warning one year you need to repent apologize worship Daniel's God be forgiven we call it getting born again God gave him a prophecy you got one year then you're going to lose your mind the end of one year chapter 4 Nebuchadnezzar is up on the roof of his Palace what's he doing he's looking down on everyone else and he becomes full of Pride he says look at my kingdom and what I've done and how awesome I am and and what achievements I've I've made and he loses his mind for seven years when you're proud you start to go crazy and then he says at the end of chapter 4 he said when I looked up to the king of Heaven the most high God my mind returned to me the point is this pride is what happens when we will look down on other people humility is what happens when we look up to God his problem was he looked down on people or looked in a mirror at himself but he didn't look up to God the goal is not to focus on your humility the goal is to focus on the Lord and that produces humility here what he is saying is son you've never looked up to God you just look down at everyone that you rule and Conquer and all that you have and possess God wants you to look up to him otherwise he's going to come down



and deal with you let me pull a few principles here from the life of Daniel in the life of Bazar these are two men's that two men that serve his case studies uh regarding Daniel don't get caught up in power praise possessions or pleasure right cuz what the king is telling them is you could be third and command power praise I'm going to tell everybody what you've done if you help me possessions you're going to get gold pleasure here's a party here's a herum welcome to the party don't get caught up in those things those things are fleeting and passing and the joy of the Lord is deeper and richer and never ends okay number two the only way to conquer fear of man is with fear of God Proverbs 29:25 says that fear of man is a trap or a snare how terrified would you be if you had to do Daniel's job I mean this family is a situation right they've already thrown his friends into a fiery furnace I mean his his Grandpa's the Adolf Hitler of the Old Testament through military Blitz C he conquers Nations plunders them burns them to the ground enslaves them and if the Jewish people get out of line he puts them in a furnace I mean this is not a family that you pick a fight with but Daniel is going to overcome fear of man with a fear of God some of you don't like to have hard conversations some of you don't like conflict some of you don't like consequences some of you don't want any trouble you have fear of man he has love for his enemies because he has fear of God so he no longer fears his enemies he just knows what is right he seeks to say and do that which is right no matter the consequences number three regarding this man Daniel we saw earlier that he would kneel before God and then he will stand before a king everyone else bowed down except for Daniel and his buddies here we see that if you will kneel before God you can stand before Kings this is where God opposes the proud but he gives grace to the humble humble yourself and he'll Lift You Up When It's Time kneeling in prayer kneeling in worship is a demonstration of humility in the heart and in the soul and if you have humility then you'll have the Integrity as you kneel before God to stand before Kings that's the story of Daniel in addition regarding this man's life he doesn't edit or write the mail he lets God write the mail and he just delivers it as a faithful mailman when he stands before these men and he has these hard complex difficult conversations he doesn't he doesn't withhold those things that could be a little controversial and he also doesn't add things that could be a little personal how many of you if you're God's like okay go tell that King I'm done I'm sick of him how many of you would add a little bit of your own oh while we're here um I'm castrated in Iraq and a vegetarian and uh you know God's going to kill you and yay you know so he doesn't do that when you take it personal you make it personal the next point is if somebody has a problem with God leave the problem between them and God don't put yourself in the middle right he's like okay God's got a problem with you you and God got a problem I'm not putting myself in the middle this between you and God sometimes we get frustrated with people and we get ourselves in the middle and that means it's harder for God to deal with them because we've complicated the situation Daniel just leaves it as it is between this man and God how about Bazar well one thing we learn is unless God is your father it's always like father like son see we have this evolutionary myth of progress if we just wait everybody gets better I don't know about you it doesn't feel like it it doesn't seem like the world is a more loving safe kind benevolent generous patient place the only way people change is they need to meet God and God becomes their father they then join the family of God they're filled with the spirit of God they're conformed to the image of the Son of God that's the only way the change happens otherwise it's like father like son this is just generations of just drunken brutality after Nebuchadnezzar left the throne uh his successor was murdered by his brother they put another guy on the throne he got killed in battle so then they throw up this grandson and he gets drunk and throws a party and literally declares war on God it's three generations how many of us we don't learn from our family history we just repeat it like

father like son that's the story of this family number two pride is a problem pride is a problem  
forg God all of this is ultimately the fruit of the root of Pride and I'm not saying that that pride is  
something that that some people struggle with all people struggle with pride the only difference  
is whether or not it's a problem for us and we're fighting against it or we're succumbing to it in  
what areas of your life are you proud you look down on others you're defiant you feel like you're  
the acception to the rule that you are above the law that you get to write your own life story and  
rules that govern your conduct that's the heart of Pride that's the heart of Satan number three if  
you don't worship the Creator you will worship the created they worship the god of gold silver  
they go down the line says this in Romans 1 they exchanged the truth of God for the lie and  
worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator God who's forever praised amen I'll  
hit that this summer we're going to jump into Romans after Daniel right so this is the easy book  
just brace yourself we're going to get into Romans but Romans 1 says that if you don't worship  
the Creator you worship that which is created we're all worshippers we're all passionate about  
someone or something we all take our money and give it somewhere we take our days and put  
them somewhere we take our energy and invest it somewhere this can be a created thing that  
God made this can be worshipping the environment this can be worshipping Beauty this can be  
worshipping your pet if people cared as much for their soul as they did for their pet the world  
would be a better place I get people all the time like is my dog going to heaven or are you going  
to heaven I would start with that if the dog does make it and you don't who's going to throw the  
frisbee right like created things can be our GPA it can be our income it can be our place in the  
pecking order at the company it can be our retirement account it can be our sports team it can be  
our political party it can be our favorite hobby we we worship with with religious devotion  
created things created things and what happens in idolatry a good thing takes God's Place thereby  
making it a bad thing so I'm not saying that food or you know good stewardship or a relationship  
or a pet or a hobby or a job are bad they're good they're just a bad God okay and that's what's  
happening here they they worship the gods of created things so this last point I want to make it  
very personal they had judgment come from God for using holy vessels in Unholy ways true  
today we are the people of God part of the kingdom of God we're under the rulership of King  
Jesus to use the analogy here in this house what are the holy vessels you are you are I I'll prove  
it to you picking up on this theme Paul in 2 Timothy 2 20 and 21 says 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 is Holy useful to the master of the house ready for every good work  
you are God's holy vessels in this house you you are the holy vessels so what we can do we can  
look at the story and say I can't believe they did that with God's cup then we also need to ask  
what am I doing with God's body they not only were partaking in a way of using the vessels as  
Unholy the body that God gave them they also made Unholy vessels repentance change Holiness  
it's God's way of cleansing us so that we can be pure vessels rightly used not wrongly used but  
we can look at these people and say I can't believe what they did with a cup and God would say I  
can't believe what you do with your body I'm just going to say it some people are Glutton they  
don't care for the holy vessel some people are drunkards they don't care for the holy vessel some  
people are perverted they don't care for the the holy vessel some people are self-medicating they  
don't care for the holy vessel and here's what I want you to know it doesn't matter how dirty  
you've made the vessel Jesus is the one who can make it clean okay Jesus is the one who can  
make it clean and so what tends to happen we think okay I've dirtied up my vessel I'm dirty no  
Jesus comes to not only forgive your sin but to make you clean and he does so by putting the

holy the holy spirit of God in you to make you a holy vessel so the same spirit of God that lived in Daniel the same spirit of God that lived in Jesus the Same Spirit of God that lives in you makes you clean and pure see in this story um these people were using an Unholy vessel and they were treating their bodies as Unholy vessels Daniel is still a holy vessel you see that he comes clean pure serving God being used for God's purposes I didn't have this in my notes I didn't share it in the first service I just feel inclined to say something I believe that some of you are not serving God because you believe you're too dirty I believe that some of you are not freed from your past to enjoy your future because you are haunted with guilt shame and condemnation from mistakes errors sins faults flaws and failures of your past some of you are haunted you say I can't believe I did that with my body I can't believe I touched that I can't believe I smoked that I can't believe I drank that I can't believe I can't believe I did that with that person or persons I am so dirty if we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness okay the one thing that this man doesn't do is repent of his sin so he's never made clean this man Daniel repented of his sin and God made him clean how do you clean up your life you be honest about the parts that are dirty and you invite God to come clean it up so that your body can be used as a holy vessel for God's purposes but the moral of the story is don't mistreat God's holy vessels and I would just say this includes your kids don't hit them or harm them this would include your wife don't lay hands on her don't mistreat God's holy vessels okay this is all very sober but it's very hopeful there's two men here and the point is you can be like this one or this one God welcomes you to receive his King Jesus be part of his kingdom the kingdom of God be filled with his spirit so you can be like this man Daniel than this other man who ultimately dies the story concludes you never know how much time you have true and have you lost somebody and you didn't see it coming yeah you're like cancer car wreck what gone life moves very very quickly and people are making plans for days they don't have therefore we read this and I just want you to know friend you never know how much time you have then from his presence the hand was sent and this writing was inscribed and this is the writing that was inscribed many many tle in Parson this is the interpretation of the matter Daniel's just going to get right to it many God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end it's over now it took generations to build an Empire it took minutes for God to take it down tle you have been weighed in the balance and found wanting your life God's not pleased you have been weighed in the balance and found wanting Paris your kingdom is divided and given to the mes and the Persians these are two joint military forces that come together against a common enemy the mes and the Persians becomes the MEO Persian Empire then Bazar gave the command and Daniel was clothed this Dani you want this no purple that's the color of a chain of gold a proclamation made and he gets to be number three for the kingdom that's going to go down in three minutes the point of the story is even if you get the top of a kingdom on this planet it's not a big deal wait for the kingdom That Never Ends am that very night that very night prophecy given fulfilled the same day that very night Bel shazar the caldian King was killed and Darius the Meade received the kingdom being about 62 years old now we read this and some people will judge God they forget that no God is Judge and some people will say I don't like God doing this in the same way that criminals don't like cops okay like I don't like that well you're the criminal okay criminals don't like cops that's not the cop's fault what happens is people will come to this text about I can't that's why I can't worship a god of the Bible he's just harsh he's mean he's angry he's violent let me say this he's patient I'll prove it to you 150 years prior through the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 13 here's what God says the Oracle concerning Babylon behold this is before they invaded before Daniel this is long before anything behold I am stirring up the mes against

them who have no regard for silver do not Delight in Gold their bows will Slaughter the young men they will have no mercy on the fruit of the womb their eyes will not pity children and Babylon the glory of Kingdoms the Splendor and PP of the caldan will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them its time is close at hand and its days will not be prolonged Daniel being the chief Bible teacher in Babylon was well aware of the Prophecies of Isaiah and would have taught them okay it says right here the clock is set it's coming God Waits 150 years let me ask you this how many of you have waited patiently with love in your heart for your enemy for 150 years God waited a 100 let me say that's amazing I'm not shocked at the end that God judges them I'm shocked that he waited 150 years some people will say I don't know how God can send people to hell I'm still perplexed at how he could get people to heaven right I mean when you do wrong and you get judgment that seems right when you do wrong and Jesus gets judgment we call that Grace okay in addition 50 years before Daniel in Jeremiah 27 this prophecy was given thus says the Lord of hosts the god of Israel this is what you shall say to their masters it is I who by my great power and my outstretched arm have made the Earth with men and animals that are on the earth and I give it to whomever it seems right to me now I've given all these lands into the hands of King Nebuchadnezzar names him and his family the king of Babylon my servant Nebuchadnezzar is still ultimately ruled by a sovereign God he makes Free Will decisions he will have consequences for them but God repeatedly calls this man my servant see it looks like people are defeating God they're not God is ruling over them he is still God's servant and I have also given him the Beast of the field to serve him all the nations Shall Serve him and his son and his grandson this kid knew exactly what God Said until the time his own land comes then many nations and great Kings shall make him their slave we read this 50 years prior God says Hey told you 150 years ago just a reminder 50 more years then he sends Daniel sends him through slavery and Exile gives a dream that he interpreted in Chapter 2 of a mighty warrior king head of gold Babylon that would be overcome and supplanted by the MEO Persian Empire typified with the two arms Meo and Persian the kingdom of silver and Daniel said okay here's where we're going and the family kept saying nah we don't believe the Bible everyone who dies in stands before God without knowing the Lord Jesus Christ after hearing about the Lord Jesus Christ is in the same position as the Babylonians God told you there's judgment God told you there is Heaven and Hell God told you there is life beyond the grave and some people they think number one that's not true number two the Bible can't be trusted or number three I've got plenty of time there's a little bit of Babylon in all of us this is a counterfeit Heaven the reason they feel so secure they have built heaven on Earth their empire is the biggest their military is the strongest their economy is the richest surrounding their capital city of Babylon is a massive walled compound each Empire would throw another height on the wall to show that their kingdom was greater it was so large that you could run a chariot around it and turn the Chariot around it was surrounded by a moat it was a fortified City in which was the king's Palace in addition they had years of food as rations they could grow food within the walls of the city and they have the mighty Euphrates river flowing into it they are impenetrable they are undefeatable this is heaven on Earth We're safe we're rich it's a kingdom of gold we eat and drink and play at our pleasure nothing can topple us and let me me just say this we're all trying to build heaven on Earth we're all trying it's why we have Security on our house not saying we don't need it we put behind a gated communities and we try and pay off our mortgage and we try and P our retirement account and we try and fill up our fridge in our pantry we try and get everything we want and then we feel secure I'm safe I have no debt if Trouble Comes I've got the god of wealth to deliver me it's it's and I'm not saying it's bad to have a house it's not bad to have a job

it's not bad to have a plan but if your plan isn't to trust the Lord whatever happens you've got the wrong plan okay they set up heaven on Earth it's counterfeit this isn't Heaven this isn't the kingdom of God and and and this is one of the most legendary stories in the history of War Herodotus he's an ancient historian reports what happens it's a legendary military move I'll tell you exactly what happened so the part's going on in the walls what's outside of the walls the the joint military forces of the MEO Persian Empire they had marched in and what does the king say nothing to worry about We've Got Heaven on Earth let's all get drunk and throw a party so while these guys are drinking and partying these guys are plotting and planning as their city is under siege they are ignoring reality and they are drinking heavily they can't penetrate the walls so what the what the advancing Army decides is let's divert the Tigris River what happens to a riverbed that dries up now it's a walkway under a wall into the city they just walk right in they walk right in and they conquer and they plunder and everything God promised came to pass let me say this you're going to die you will stand before a king there will be a judgment and you will have an eternal Destiny the Bible is true God will not be mocked we do reap what we sow we do need to be forgiven we are Unholy vessels we need another king and another kingdom and we need forgiveness and to be changed from the inside out by the Holy Spirit okay and so ultimately the moral of the story is everybody needs Jesus and even if it works it doesn't work until you need it most okay that's what's going on here so let me say this the only secure Fortress Is God all the guys in the secure Fortress they're they're dead and Enslaved the one guy Daniel who has God as his secure Fortress he's fine come back next week the next king hires him he still got a job right different King different Kingdom they're like that guy's helpful he's got the Holy Spirit we'll take him the moral of the story is if your ultimate Eternal Fortress your strong place your place of protection your Shield is anything or anyone other than King Jesus you are in grave danger because only God is a secure Fortress okay couple of things this whole story line by the way it's about a king and a kingdom and it's all leading to Jesus as king of kings and Kingdom over all kingdoms that's where we're driving in Daniel 7 that's where we're driving to the resurrection of the Dead in Daniel CH 12 but ultimately I want to have you see how Daniel is filled with the Holy Spirit and he is a type he is an example he is a foreshadowing of King Jesus I want to share this with you Daniel watched Babylon fall in his day and Jesus will make the spirit of Babylon on Fall Forever on the day of his second coming Daniel and Jesus were both filled with the Holy Spirit Daniel and Jesus live far away from home in a hostile Nation Daniel and Jesus traveled through the world with a few Faithful Friends Daniel and Jesus never got to enjoy marriage or parenting Daniel and Jesus loved and served their enemies Daniel saw the hand of God right on a wall Jesus felt the hand of God nailed on a cross Daniel saw a king endure the wrath of God for his sin our King Jesus endured our wrath for our sin and Daniel saw a king drank from a cup in sin our King Jesus drank our cup of sin if you remember the story of the Lord Jesus the night before he died he was in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane and he prayed father take this cup from me it was an unclean vessel it was an Unholy vessel it was a cup filled with your sin and my sin our lives are just like the Babylonians we say and do the same things they said and did and Jesus was a holy vessel and he did not want to partake of that cup to make himself sin and to endure the wrath of God as they endured and then Jesus surrendered his will to the father's will not my will be done but your will be done and Jesus went to the cross and he drank the cup of your sin and God's Wrath so that you would receive what the Babylonians did not receive forgiveness cleansing relationship a king a king that never ends a new life through our King Jesus Christ we remind ourselves of this every time we take communion and we take communion every week it's to say that I was an unclean vessel Jesus was a clean vessel

Jesus drank my cup and made me clean we remind ourselves of that every Sunday why because if the enemy is going to throw parties where people eat and drink against God then church is to be a place where people eat and drink in the presence of God for the glory of God to their Joy that's why we're here that's why we're here let me close with this in the end there's two guys the king and Daniel you got to decide which one you're going to follow do you know Jesus do you love Jesus have you given him your sin are you asking him to make you a holy vessel and to fill you with the Holy Spirit if not you're following the example of this Fallen King if you receive Jesus if you repent of your sin if you acknowledge the goodness of God and your need for cleansing and forgiveness you're following in the example of Daniel my job is to tell the truth your job is to make the most important decision you will ever make and that is which man you will be like and which leader you will follow and which example you will emulate with your life hear me in this you don't know how much time you've got they had no conception that an entire Kingdom that had ruled for decades would come down in minutes don't presume on the grace of God run to the god of Grace give yourself to Jesus get cleaned up and walk in the spirit father God thank you for an opportunity to study Daniel together God I believe that hard words produce people and soft words produce hard people and Lord God with love in my heart and I hope the people hear that and know that we're all unclean vessels we all need to repent we all need forgiveness we need to stop looking down on others and start looking up to our Lord and savior who is coming again on the Clouds Of Heaven to set up a kingdom That Never Ends where the party will be greater than that in b Babylon and no one will have anything to regret or apologize for because it'll just be Joy with Jesus in whose name we pray amen