

# STANDING STRONG

Sunday, September 2, 2018  
10:30 AM

In Daniel Chapter 1 we talked about Eroding Foundations

In Chapter 2 we said we need to Look to God

In Chapter 3 we saw that Stand Strong mean's Not Bowing Down

Chapter 4 taught us to have a greater perspective of humility towards God, towards ourselves, and toward others

Daniel chapter 5 introduces us to a new king and a new lesson in standing strong

## **Daniel 5 New International Version (NIV)**

### The Writing on the Wall

**5** King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. **2** While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father[\[a\]](#) had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.

**3** So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them.

**4** As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.

**5** Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. **6** His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his legs became weak and his knees were knocking.

**7** The king summoned the enchanters, astrologers[\[b\]](#) and diviners. Then he said to these wise men of Babylon, "Whoever reads this writing and tells me what it means will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around his neck, and he will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom."

**8** Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or tell the king what it meant. **9** So King Belshazzar became even more terrified and his face grew more pale. His nobles were baffled.

**10** The queen,<sup>[c]</sup> hearing the voices of the king and his nobles, came into the banquet hall. “May the king live forever!” she said. “Don’t be alarmed! Don’t look so pale! **11** There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods. Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners. **12** He did this because Daniel, whom the king called Belshazzar, was found to have a keen mind and knowledge and understanding, and also the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means.”

**13** So Daniel was brought before the king, and the king said to him, “Are you Daniel, one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah? **14** I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in you and that you have insight, intelligence and outstanding wisdom. **15** The wise men and enchanters were brought before me to read this writing and tell me what it means, but they could not explain it. **16** Now I have heard that you are able to give interpretations and to solve difficult problems. If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, you will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around your neck, and you will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.”

**17** Then Daniel answered the king, “You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means.

**18** “Your Majesty, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor. **19** 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. **20** But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory. **21** 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.

**22** “But you, Belshazzar, his son,<sup>[d]</sup> have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. **23** Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways. **24** Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription.

**25** “This is the inscription that was written:

mene, mene, tekel, parsin

**26** “Here is what these words mean:

*Mene*<sup>[e]</sup>: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.

**27** *Tekel*<sup>[f]</sup>: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

**28** *Peres*<sup>[g]</sup>: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

**29** Then at Belshazzar’s command, Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

**30** That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians,<sup>[h]</sup> was slain, **31** and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two.<sup>[i]</sup>

God doesn’t leave us in the dark about our sins or their consequences (romans 1:21) or his judgement

We are without excuse

### **Romans 1:19-21 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

<sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Belshazzar was given an opportunity to repent but he didn’t. He was weighed on God Scales and found wanting

**27** *Tekel*<sup>[f]</sup>: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

God will convict. He will bring his light into the darkness he will reveal the consequences of his judgement

But will we respond with humbleness of heart and repentance?

### **John 16:8 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**8** And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

## Daniel Chapter 5 Tipping The Scales

What is it God is looking for? How do we tip the scales of God in our favor?

The key to this is repentance...

### Boxing terms for weight classes

**Strawweight, Pinweight or Flyweight** - doesn't tip the scales (mocks God)

**5** King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. **2** While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father[[a](#)] had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. **3** So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. **4** As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.

**Featherweight or Lightweight** - Those who have a knowledge of the truth and perhaps a measure of fear; but don't change their ways

**10** The queen,[[c](#)] hearing the voices of the king and his nobles, came into the banquet hall. "May the king live forever!" she said. "Don't be alarmed! Don't look so pale! **11** There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods. Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners. **12** He did this because Daniel, whom the king called Belteshazzar, was found to have a keen mind and knowledge and understanding, and also the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means."

Knowledge isn't enough... we must act upon the knowledge that we have

**James 2:14-17 New International Version (NIV)**

**14** What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? **15** Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. **16** If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? **17** In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

**John 6:28-29 New International Version (NIV)**

**28** Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”  
**29** Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

**Middleweight** - Mixes Christianity and the world

**22** “But you, Belshazzar, his son, [d] have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. **23** Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways.

**Heavyweight** - Those who spend all their effort working to balance the scales

We can't buy our way out of judgement

**13** So Daniel was brought before the king, and the king said to him, “Are you Daniel, one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah? **14** I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in you and that you have insight, intelligence and outstanding wisdom. **15** The wise men and enchanters were brought before me to read this writing and tell me what it means, but they could not explain it. **16** Now I have heard that you are able to give interpretations and to solve difficult problems. If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, you will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around your neck, and you will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.”

**17** Then Daniel answered the king, “You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means.

**Super Heavy (Unlimited)** - Those who though repentance allow Jesus to tip the scales for them (i.e stand on the scales with us)

**2 Peter 3:9 New International Version (NIV)**

**9** The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

**Acts 3:19**

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that He will forgive your sins.

Jacob Bock's new comic

What does it mean to repent?

**REPENTANCE DEFINED**

1. Awareness of Sin and its consequences

**Luke 15:17 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!'

**2 Timothy 2:25-26 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>25</sup> Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup> and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

2. A Remorse for Sin

**2 Corinthians 7:10-11 New International Version (NIV)**

**10** Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. **11** See what this godly sorrow has produced in you...

3. A Confession of you sin

**Proverbs 28:13**

You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up; then God will show mercy to you.

**1 John 1:9-10 New International Version (NIV)**

**9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

4. A Desire to leave sin behind

**Matthew 4:17**

From that time Jesus began to preach his message: "Turn away from your sins, because the Kingdom of heaven is near!"

5. A Hunger for more of Jesus

**Matthew 3:8**

Do those things that will show that you have turned from your sins.

**John 6:53 New International Version (NIV)**

**53** Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

6. Acceptance of the work Christ has done for us

**Isaiah 30:15**

This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it."

**Romans 12:9 New International Version (NIV)**

**9** Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

7. A growing hatred of sin and love of Christ

**Hebrews 1:9 New International Version (NIV)**

**9** You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

**Luke 15:10**

In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.