

The Fall of a Nation, Pt. 2 (52 Minutes)
Daniel 5:1-31, NKJV, 2023-12-03A, #3

Introduction: Today, I want to continue to talk to you about the factors contributing to the fall of a nation and to the fall of Babylon.

- I. The Feeling of Security Was a Factor Contributing to the Fall of Babylon (Daniel 5:1).**
 - A. Reasons the king of Babylon felt secure even though Babylon was surrounded by the armies of the Medes and Persians.**
 - 1. First, Babylon was built to be a kingdom that could not be conquered: the walls were too thick for battering rams; the walls surrounding Babylon were too high to be scaled with ladders; the Euphrates River flowed through the city; there were enough supplies in the city to last for 20 years...**
 - 2. The second reason for the feeling of security – Babylon was the most powerful kingdom on the earth prior to Daniel 5 because of the promotion and permission of God:**
 - a. The Bible teaches that God is sovereign over all nations kingdoms, empires, and God is sovereign over all rulers (Daniel 5:17-21; cf. Daniel 4:17; Psalm 75:6-7; Isaiah 40:12-17; John 19:11).**
 - b. Nebuchadnezzar is referred to as God’s servant in Jeremiah 25:9; 27:6; 43:10).**
 - c. The Southern Kingdom of Judah fell to the Babylonians because of sins, which we will examine later (Daniel 1:1-2).**
 - 1) God stirred up adversaries against King Solomon because of sins (1 Kings 11:9-14, 23).**
 - 2) God raised up adversaries against His people in the book of Judges. Judges 2;**
 - 3) God promised His people that if they would obey Him He would be an enemy to their enemies (Exodus 23:22).**
 - 4) In Psalm 81:13-16, God gives a list of things that might have been if His people had been obedient to Him.**
 - 5) When the children of Israel were obedient to God, they could not be conquered (cf. Isaiah 37:15-20, 36)...**
 - B. No nation is secure without God: “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchmen stay awake in vain” (Psalm 127:1, NKJV).**
 - 1. In ancient times, warriors, weapons, and walls were needed for defense and to act as a deterrent. Without God, however, the security of a nation is not in its warriors, weapons, walls, wealth, and wisdom.**
 - 2. Babylon fell in one night (Daniel 5:25-31).**
 - C. A feeling of security is also one of the factors contributing to the fall of individuals (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:12; Ephesians 6:10-12; 1 Peter 5:8).**
- II. The Filling Up of the Cup of Iniquity or of Sin Was Another Factor Contributing to the Fall of Babylon.**
 - A. God disciplines and judges when the cup of iniquity is full (Genesis 15:13-21).**

- B. “Godliness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people” (Proverbs 14:34, New Living Translation).**
- C. Some of the sins that filled the cup of iniquity for Babylon:**
- 1. Idolatry – Valuing any person, place, or thing more than God (Daniel 5:4).**
 - 2. Sinful Pride (Daniel 5:17-23):**
 - a. Sinful pride is a declaration of independence from God – A feeling that one does not need God (cf. James 4:6; Romans 8:31).**
 - b. Sinful pride goes before destruction (Proverbs 16:18).**
 - c. Pride is the sin of Satan (Isaiah 14:12-15).**
 - d. Sinful pride is number one on God’s hate list (Proverbs 6:16-19).**
 - e. Nebuchadnezzar lived for seven years as an animal because of his sinful pride (Daniel 4:28-37).**
 - f. Let us pray that God will give us the grace to humble ourselves so that God will not need to humble us (Matthew 23:12; Philippians 2:5-11; James 4:10).**
 - 3. Loving pleasure more than loving God (Daniel 5:1, 23; cf. 2 Timothy 3:4).**
 - 4. Suppression of the truth (Daniel 5: 21-22; cf. Romans 1:18-20).**
 - a. God has revealed Himself in creation (Psalm 19:1-3; Romans 1:18-23).**
 - b. God has revealed Himself in conscience (Romans 2:14-15).**
 - 5. Failure to glorify God (Daniel 5:23; cf. Romans 1:21-23; Acts 12:20-23):**
 - a. According to The West Minister Shorter Catechism, “Man’s primary purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.”**
 - b. God created everyone and everything for His glory (Revelation 4:11; 1 Corinthians 10:31).**
 - c. God does everything for His glory, and He does what gives Him the most glory: The Red Sea (Exodus 14); Gideon’s army (Judges 6 & 7); the fiery furnace (Daniel 3); the lion’s den (Daniel 6); the death of Lazarus (John 11).**
 - d. God holds our breath in His hand (Daniel 5:23; Job 12:10; Luke 12:20; Acts 17:28).**
- D. Assignment: Out of all of the sins of Babylon, how many can you list and say of America – “Not Guilty!”**
- III. Reasons for Delays in Judgment – the Longsuffering of God (Exodus 34:6).**
- A. Long-Suffering is an attribute of God (Exodus 34:6).**
 - B. The reason for the longsuffering of God is to lead to repentance (Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).**
 - C. There is a termination date on the longsuffering of God (Genesis 6:3; Hosea 4:17; Jeremiah 7:16; 11:14; 14:11; Ezekiel 14:12-23).**

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