

The Fall of a Nation, Pt. 1 (45 Minutes)
Daniel 5:1-31, NKJV, 2023-11-26A, #2

Introduction: Today, I want to begin talking to you about the factors contributing to the fall of a nation. 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, or wisdom: “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).

Today, we will focus on some of the factors contributing to the fall of Babylon.

- I. The Feeling of Security Was a Factor Contributing to the Fall of Babylon (Daniel 5:1).**
 - A. Babylon was surrounded by the armies of the Medes and Persians.**
 - B. Reasons for the feeling of security: Babylon was built to be a city that could not be conquered by the three main means of conquests in ancient times:**
 - 1. Battering rams – according to the Greek historian Herodotus, the two sets of walls surrounding Babylon were over 80 feet thick with a 30 foot moat between the two sets of walls.**
 - 2. Scaling or climbing over the walls – according to Herodotus, the walls surrounding Babylon were 35 feet below ground level and over 300 feet high with 250 watchtowers 100 feet high.**
 - 3. Laying of siege – The inhabitants of Babylon had enough food to last for 20 years.**
 - a. Food was grown within the city of Babylon...**
 - b. The Euphrates River flowed through the city of Babylon.**
 - C. The results of the feeling of security:**
 - 1. The Belshazzar the king decided to have a party and to mock the God of Israel (Daniel 5:1-4).**
 - 2. The hand writing on the wall (Daniel 5:5-8).**
- 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 (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 (Isaiah 43:7; Revelation 4:11):
 - 1) The Red Sea (Exodus 14),
 - 2) Gideon's army (Judges 6 & 7),
 - 3) The fiery furnace (Daniel 3),
 - 4) The lion's den (Daniel 6),
 - 5) 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).

III. Longsuffering Is An Attribute of God (Exodus 34:6).

- A. The longsuffering of God is to lead to repentance (Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).
- B. 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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