

Divine Graffiti: The End of an Empire

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Daniel 5.

B. Sin brings death to the life of an individual and the life of a nation. (Ezekiel 18:20, Psalm 19:7)

II. The account.

A. Belshazzar was a deeply religious king who was not that a bad man. He was the most capable king since Nebuchadnezzar.

B. Cyrus, the king of the Medo-Persians, was taking over the world and was besieging the city of Babylon where Belshazzar was king.

C. Belshazzar was having a feast during the siege. He felt safe in the securities of his city.

D. God spoke during the feast announcing that his wrath was full.

E. The king sought to interpret the message that was given by the hand.

F. Daniel interpreted the writing and they rewarded him.

G. God humbled Nebuchadnezzar before Belshazzar. He addresses Belshazzar accordingly.

1. He sinned against knowledge. (Matthew 11)

2. He blasphemed God.

3. He engaged idolatry.

H. God's solution.

1. The days Belshazzar's kingdom were numbered.

2. Babylon came to a fast end.

I. Nations fall for the same reasons that Babylon fell. America shares in its sins.

III. The application.

A. America has the sin of "drunkenness." It has it all. Billions are spent on pleasures.

B. America has fallen to sexual immorality.

C. America is crowded with false gods.

D. America willfully rejects the truth.

- E. America is ridden with guilt.
- F. America is characterized by greed and selfish motive.
- G. America is confident in human security.
- H. America is proud.

Application Questions:

1. How does the judgment God brought on Babylon demonstrate that he often deals with people corporately?

2. What difference can one man make in changing his nation? Read through Daniel? How does Daniel intercede for his own nation?

3. Which characteristic of Babylon do you find to be most dangerous for a nation? Explain.
