



**WEST  
SIDE  
CHURCH**

### Week 5

**Sermon Series:** Exiles: Daniel

**Sermon Title:** God's Sovereignty Over the Nations

**Sermon Text:** Daniel 5:1-31

**Study Handout Week of:** August 14, 2022

**Group Week of:** August 21, 2022

**Sermon Date:** August 28, 2022

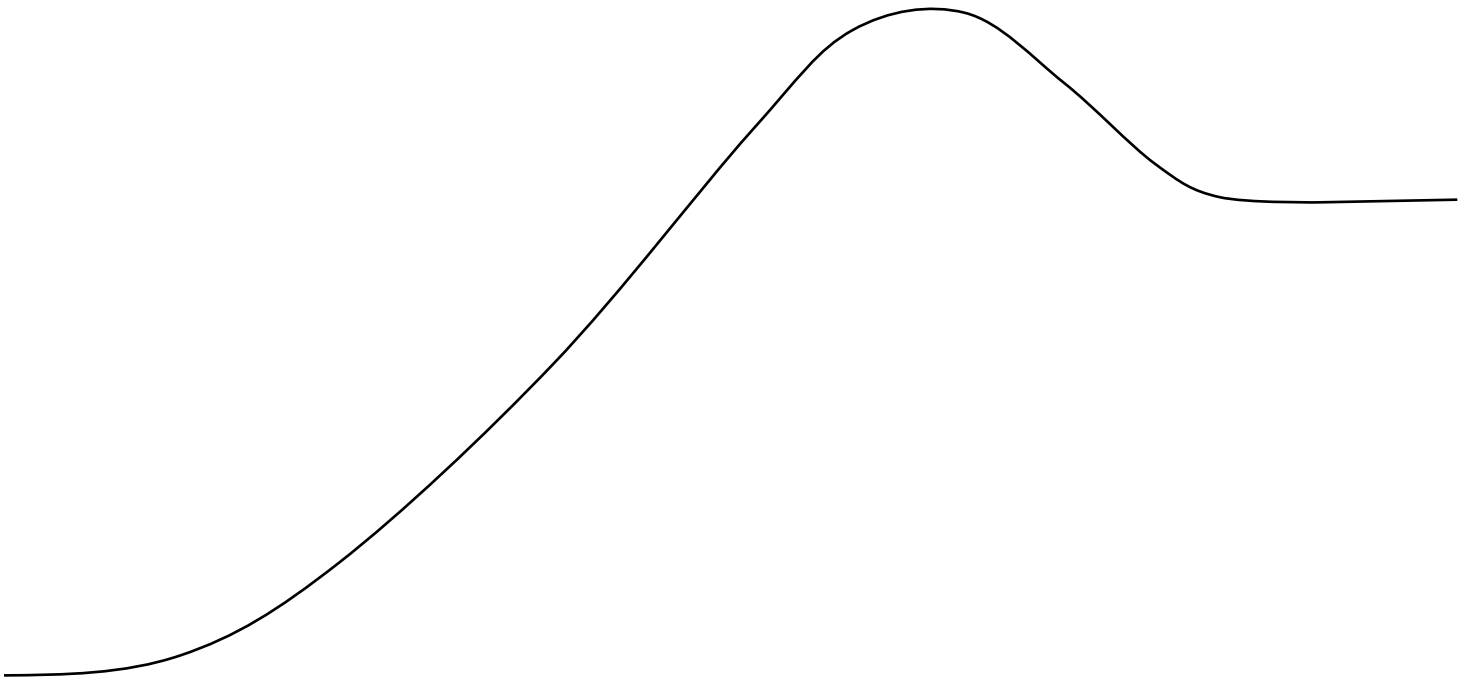
### Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies

<b>Day 1</b>	Mocking God – Psalm 2
<b>Day 2</b>	God's Sovereignty – Colossians 1:15-20
<b>Day 3</b>	Raising Up Cyrus (Darius) – Isa 45:1-13
<b>Day 4</b>	God's Judgement 1 – Rev 20:11-15
<b>Day 5</b>	God's Judgement 2 – 2 Cor 5:5-10

## The Text: Daniel 5:1-31

### Instructions

- 1) Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to His words.
- 2) Read the passage.
- 3) Using the "Story Arc" below, insert the verses according to how you see the story begin, grow, climax, fall, and finish.
- 4) Write out the main lesson of the story.
- 5) Write out some of the other lessons along the way.



### Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the central lesson(s) in this story?
- 2) What did drinking from the goblets of the temple demonstrate to God?
- 3) In what way has the King of Babylon been found wanting?

## Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Belshazzar was not the direct son, but a distant son, of Nebuchadnezzar. Yet, we clearly see God expecting Belshazzar to have learned lessons of God Most High. Does this mean that God holds us accountable to learn the lessons of history and to live accordingly?
- 2) What are some lessons you were warned about but decided not to heed and had to learn “the hard way” instead?
- 3) Belshazzar’s use of the goblets from the temple in Jerusalem to worship his own gods of gold, silver, iron, bronze, and wood, is a clearly blasphemous act. What are the ways in our society today that people take the things of God and use them for idolatrous purposes? What are the ways that Christians take what is dedicated to God and commit idolatry with them?
- 4) Belshazzar’s blasphemous deed demonstrated his view of Babylon’s superiority over the nations of the world. Darius (Cyrus) was welcomed as a new king because he was kind to nations he ruled over. When Belshazzar is “found wanting”, what do you think God measured him by? What can we learn about how to wield God-given authority from this example?
- 5) Daniel’s charge against Belshazzar is found in verse <sup>22</sup> “you have not humbled yourself, though you know all this. <sup>23</sup> Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven.” If willful disobedience against God was wrong for Belshazzar, how much more than for the Christian? Should Christians ever commit willful sin? Will Christians commit willful sin? How should we understand patterns of willful sin in a “believer”?
- 6) We know from history that the Persians did invade the city of Babylon the night of this festival, took power, and executed Belshazzar within a few hours. In fact, the Persians invaded because they knew the festival was going on. Although from the outside we see the chain links of cause and effect, we know that it is God’s sovereignty that brings these things to pass. If God is sovereign over kings and nations, what does that mean about our president, governor, etc?
- 7) God’s sovereignty is our comfort in all circumstances of life. What area of life feels out of control? How can you apply God’s sovereignty to that area in a way that brings true peace?