

The Writing is on the wall

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[0:00] Daniel chapter 5.

Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords and drank wine before the thousand. Belshazzar, whilst he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple, which was in Jerusalem. That the king and his princes, his wives and his concubines might drink therein. And then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God, which was at Jerusalem.

And the king and his princes, his wives and his concubines drank in them. They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and of silver and of brass and of iron, of wood and of stone.

In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace.

[1:02] And the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king's countenance was changed and his thoughts troubled him so that the joints of his lines were loosed and his knees smote, one against another.

The handwriting is on the wall. The handwriting is on the wall. The king cried out for people to come and interpret what it all meant.

Nobody could. Then they called for Daniel. Verse 25, we'll pick it up again. Verse 25. Daniel interpreted the writing.

Daniel 5.25. And this is the writing that was written. Many, many, take all a person. This is the interpretation of the thing. Many, God, have numbered thy kingdom and finished it.

Take all. Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting. Peres, thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and the Persians. Then commanded Belshazzar and they clothed Daniel with scarlet and put a chain of gold about his neck and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

[2:20] In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. It was a night to remember. A night to remember a thousand of his lords.

All the entourage of the princes, the wives, the concubines. A right royal drunken orgy. In Babylon's great hall.

The party was happening. The wine was flowing. There would have been lots of mirth and laughter. King Belshazzar was praising the pagan gods of Babylon as he filled those vessels, those holy vessels from the holy temple and drank wine from them.

Suddenly a divine hand appeared and God's judgment was against him. Daniel gave the meaning of the writing. God has numbered thy kingdom and finished it.

Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting. Thy kingdom is divided. That very same night judgment fell. The means of the Persians invaded and conquered the city and the king was slain.

[3:29] It was all over. The mighty kingdom of Babylon was finished. This is the amazing account from which we get that common saying today. The handwriting is on the wall.

We use it still today. It means we're truly warned of a looming disaster up ahead. That we face terrible times of reckoning. We are at a crossroads.

It's been said that history repeats itself. History repeats itself. As I mentioned just yesterday, I was at an important meeting about the nation of Congo.

The nation of the Democratic Republic of Congo. And where we see today a genocide going on. A planned, systematic deconstruction and destruction of a people.

An invasion. A hostile army. Invading, subjugating, destroying a people. A demolition job.

[4:30] And work is underway. Following that meeting of yesterday. To speak to the leaders of our nation. To send a delegation to Canberra.

To voice the concern about this horrific, travesty. This awful disaster that is happening in this nation. Of which many of our brothers and sisters are here with us today.

From that nation. I put it to you today. The handwriting is on the wall for our nation. For this nation of Australia.

God is not mocked. And we face a judgement. A judgement. The signs are all around us in Australia today. Of a systematic, subtle, yet planned invasion.

If you like. Amen. An attack against our nation. And yet it's not of a foreign power. It's of a spiritual power.

[5:31] Spiritual forces of wickedness in high places. And the signs are all around of this systematic, systemic, subtle, yet planned attack.

The breakdown of our morals as a nation. The rise in vice and crime and lawlessness. It's planned. It's not just happening by chance.

The addiction to gambling and vanities that is endemic in our culture of Australia today. And our government is failing in this war against drug abuse, child abuse, substance abuse.

Our society is marked by a blight of broken homes, of damaged families, of drunkenness, of violence. Our culture is ever degenerating. It's like there's a feeding frenzy going on.

Of a toxic diet of humanism, of materialism, of secularism. I was reading just lately of our regard for life as our nation. Our regard just for life.

[6:32] For life. It's being killed off. It's being killed off. As 43%, 43% of South Australian children are aborted.

That's massive, isn't it? That's incredible. That is a shocking statistic. That is a current statistic. And life is under threat.

Euthanasia is promoted by some. Now, just to explain. Euthanasia, it means the deliberate act to end life prematurely by a definite act.

Such as lethal injury. It's not a turning off of a life support system when it's the only thing keeping someone alive artificially. It's not stopping or refusing medical treatment. It's just drugs.

Euthanasia is a deliberate act. A definite act. And the Bible is against such a thing. Life is sacred. It's God's gift.

[7:32] It's His gift. He gives it and He takes it away. It's not for us to decide of such a thing. The handwriting is on the wall, brothers and sisters.

The handwriting is on the wall. Here's an article I just read just this morning. The newspaper, The Australian. As of November 21st, 2011.

It says, Medicaid ADHD kids or else, parents told. Experts have warned that parents who don't medicate children with ADHD could be referred to child protection authorities.

Under controversial draft guidelines being considered by the National Health and Medical Research Council. It goes on. There's an implied threat of this talk. That a parent's refusal to allow their child to be medicated with amphetamines may see their child put in care.

So take it away from them. It says here, some US states have had to legislate to prevent schools and child protection authorities from telling parents they must put their children on drugs.

[8:39] There's a child drugging epidemic going on worldwide. The drugging of Australian children is something that's not always talked about.

But it's a fact that nearly 89,000 Australian children are on antidepressants and antipsychotics. Even preschoolers. In the US, ADHD drugs are prescribed for at least 6 million children.

So they've got a bit of a way to go to catch up with the US. But who do we tend to follow? The US. 20 million children are taking psychiatric drugs worldwide. Mind-altering drugs.

Highly addicted. It's been said in Australia there's been a 645% increase expenditure on psychiatric drugs since 1993.

645% since 1993. These are alarming statistics. The drugging of a nation. You know, what does the Bible speak of in Revelation?

[9:46] It uses the word sorcery, which is allied to our word pharmacia. Pharmacies. So drugs and such things that there's dangers there.

That's not to say there's helpful medication, but there's some things that are just plain mind-altering. And you wonder, what's going on with such a thing? There's a deliberate seducing of our young children and young people.

It's planned, deliberate, intentional. It's a bit like this propaganda campaign about the Congo. It's saying it's rebels within the nation, but it's actually an invading force.

You know, there's a propaganda campaign. You know, there's a propaganda campaign and it's deliberate, it's planned, it's intentional. And in our nation too, there's a deliberate, planned and intentional attack against children.

We see it, for example, in many of the TV shows. In pushing increasingly immoral lifestyles and themes. Even comic books that are coming out with gay characters, so-called gay.

[10:59] And Disney movies. It's endemic. If you scratch beneath the surface and see the underlying themes, it's intrinsic. It's definitely underlying, the philosophy underlying these things are there.

And what do parents tend to do these days? Just park them in front of the idiot box and just let it all penetrate and soak in the grey matter of their brains.

And we wonder why we're in such a state. And we see the popularity of these things, the promotion of these things. Such things as Harry Potter. Some people think it's innocent, harmless fun.

Mindless, violent video games are becoming the norm. With their satanic and bloodthirsty themes. Demonic rock music with its vile lyrics. And many who profess to be Christians are woefully ignorant of what is going on.

They're ignorant of this. Even justifying it. Excusing it. This fascination with death. The goth culture with dragons and piercings.

[12:07] And unisex styles. There's a conditioning going on that many are ignorant of. I've heard it said that witchcraft is the fastest growing religion in the United States.

We're right behind them, people. We're following in the same track. What does God think of it all? Thou art way in the balance and found one thing. An invasion is being unleashed. And we're ignorant of it, by and large.

We're in the midst of an all-out war for the next generation. I read this article again this morning. This is from the Sunday Mail, Queensland, as of today.

Technology overload. Junk food and poor fitness take toll on kids trying to cope. It's comparing children in 1962 to 2012. So 50 years apart.

[13:11] It says today's average 12-year-old boy is not as healthy as his 1962 counterpart. So what happened to our children? Back pain, anxiety, depression, obesity, mood swings, diabetes.

Junk food, sugar-laden drinks. Technology overload. Lack of sleep. Lack of outdoor activity. The impact of technology has segmented society.

This writer says fitness in boys of 2012 compared with 50 years ago was damning. 2011, both parents had jobs in 21% of couples.

Today's parents and children are busier. There's a higher diversity of fast food, processed food. It says one in five Queensland children are overweight and another one in ten are obese.

Almost 200,000 are overweight or obese. The study talks about low self-esteem, stress, anxiety, loneliness, anger, antisocial behaviour.

[14:13] It says if diabetes continues to rise at the current rate up to 3 million Australians over the age of 25 will have diabetes by 2025.

There's an increased demand for sugary drinks. One in four Aussie children consume one in four Aussie children consume one soft drink per day. One in four consume one soft drink per day.

A treat that was only occasionally enjoyed 50 years ago. And as much as it could be said, nearly two thirds of children between 7 and 14 have a television in their bedrooms.

Nearly two thirds. What are they watching? There's no control over the TV set in their bedrooms. God, help us.

An all-out war. Our schools, our universities, the media are a breeding ground for a godless, lawless generation.

[15:12] Devoid of respect for elders, for decency, for morals and truth. It gets worse. It's truly a generation that is soaking in a lewd, fornicating culture.

Where the secular media counts that which is newsworthy and marketable as that which is most vile and gross. How gross is it going to get? I fear for my children and my grandchildren.

Hollywood has a greater influence over children than their parents or churches have. And the Pied Pipers, the Pied Poppers, the change agents, are having a field day.

And it's planned. It's systematic. It's intentional. Young people are partying all the way to hell. We've seen the recent news reports of Schooley's Week and of the drunken debauchery of this sick world. This sick nation that is Australia today. And even more shocking is that many ignorant, professing Christians are joining in. They're joining in. They're partying along.

[16:18] They're jiving to the same songs. They're rocking to the same beat. They're adopting the same mindset, the same philosophies, the same culture. Mindlessly. Ignorantly.

Friends, it's a campaign that is being waged against the Church of God. And many are willfully, mindlessly adopting the same culture, the same values, the same situational ethics. Australia, the handwriting is on the wall. I believe if we continue in the same course, Australia will fall.

Everywhere we see the signs, the pride, the arrogance, the disrespect of the name of our blessed Saviour. Bandied around as some gutter word.

A disrespect for the Bible. And biblical values. Just mocked and scorned every chance they can. And our families, our communities, our nation is at peril.

[17:27] Australia is plunging morally, intellectually, economically ever downward. And even the time-honoured, traditional, universal and legal definition of what is marriage, for goodness sake?

Marriage. Does it get any plainer? Does it get any more basic and fundamental of the building block of society as a union between one man and one woman?

It's under threat today. We're at risk of legislating madness in this nation. You know, I think of my brethren from the Congo.

They're concerned about their nation. They're concerned about what is going on. So concerned that they speak to the politicians about it. They speak to the people in power about these things.

And they're planning a delegation to the capital city of Australia, to Canberra, to represent their concerns before the decision makers of this country.

[18:34] Maybe it's time we raised up a delegation. Maybe it's time we spoke to the politicians. Those we have elected and those we haven't elected that are in power. And raise these concerns that we have.

When there's valid concerns that are being spoken of, that are being voted upon, speak out. Speak up. Do not be silent.

We are racing at breakneck speed towards oblivion. And our nation is becoming a foul stench in the nostrils of God.

With its acceptance of perversion and rot and decay. And we see the signs. We see the handwriting on the wall. We hear it on the airwaves. We read it in our newspapers.

We hear it on the talkback. Radio. Our government, our lawmakers, thumb their nose at Almighty God. They reject Bible-based laws, traditions, values, and favour what is perverted, degenerate, and unhealthy.

[19:36] No wonder Australia is headed for disaster. The biblical principles that our nation was founded upon, at least in some measure, are being lost today.

As our nation is changing. It's being changed. It's being changed. It's being transformed. Our nation is on a self-destructive path.

Just like the empires of Greece and Rome before it. We're following Babylon today to our destruction. And our Saviour warned of such a time. He said, The life of many shall wax cold.

Some will grow cold. There is a lack of the fear of God in this nation. A dangerous downward spiral. An escalation of wickedness.

Only God can help us. Only God can help us turn the tide of sin. The Bible says, Righteousness exalted a nation. But sin is a reproach to any people.

[20:37] Proverbs 14, 34. Righteousness means right standing. It means right standing. It means honesty. It means integrity. It means obedience to God's laws and truth.

On what will we build our nation, our communities? Will it be on that which is truth? Will righteousness exalt a nation, this nation?
Or will sin be its downfall? Will God say he's finished with us? As he did to this man with this kingdom in Daniel 5.
What of the moral character of our nation's leaders? There's much question of that. God will hold responsible those who create unjust laws to accommodate sin.
Perhaps it's time to urge the politicians of our land to stem the tide. To build that strong foundation. There's godly Christian organisations today that do raise these issues before us.
[21:38] And we ought to listen to what they have to say. We might learn something. When we build on a strong foundation of what is honourable, what is pure, what is of good report, sin is a reproach.
It's something shameful. It's a disgrace. It's destructive. Friends, I don't want you to leave this place under a total cloud this morning. But I want you to get a picture of this.
Because it's truth that I'm saying here today. This is truth today. This is not some pat you on the back kind of feel good message. I'm telling you the truth this morning.
Sin is a reproach to any people. And we're living in an ever godless land. It's like a rudderless ship spinning into an evil vortex. Do we see the handwriting on the wall?
Or do we just turn aside when we see God's judgement is against us? For its abortions, this nation is under judgement. The shedding of innocent blood.
[22:42] For its profanity, the judgement of God is against us. For its Mardi Gras, the judgement of God is against this nation. And God is against Australians. For covetousness, for spiritual blindness, for departure from God.
God's judgement is on Australia today. For not standing up for Israel. There's a lessening of that support. For its secularised media. And schools for its destruction of the family.
Where some don't even bother to get married. And those who want to live in perversion want to call it marriage. God help us people. God help us in this land.
Where are we going? Even more shocking but true is the fact that God is against many so-called churches in this land. For their rejection of the word of God.
Where we see some who deny the fundamentals of the faith. The virgin birth. The inspiration of the Bible. God is against such a church. God is against a church that will supposedly ordain perversion.
[23:51] And non-scriptural actions in the offices of its church. In ordaining women to preach, for example. People. It's not biblical people.
It's not biblical. And we see that God is against these churches for their compromise and ignorance of biblical doctrine. For their carnality. For their disobedience.
For their lack of holiness. For their new extra-biblical revelations. It's here. This is the revelation. For their apostasy.
For their lukewarmness. God is against that. And we see churches and preachers today that won't speak out against sin. They won't warn people. They won't urge people to be saved.
We see Ichabod is the brand now. If you like. Ichabod. The glory of God is departed.
[24:49] God's written Ichabod. The glory has gone from such churches. If it ever was there. And we're making. We're seeing a spirit of apostasy at work. In the churches today.
We ought to be alarmed about that people. The mixing of the holy with the profane. It shouldn't be the unholy mixture. The making merchandise of people. Of Jezebels.
2 Timothy 3.13. It says. But evil men and seducers shall wax. Worse and worse. Deceiving and being deceived. Some don't even realise it.
The church is being white-handed. You know. In the building next door. I've noticed some termites. If I don't do something about it. That building will one day just crumble and fall to the ground.
And churches are being white-handed. White-handed. It's deliberate. It's intentional. It's systematic. A falling away from the faith.
[25:49] It's planned. By the enemy of our soul. By the enemy of the church of God. In truth. There's an abundance of doctrines of devils. Of biblical illiteracy.

The most basic of doctrines. Christians are ignorant of. Why don't they come to Bible study? Biblical illiteracy. Adulterated, phony translations of the Bible.

There's just a plethora of them. And people wonder. There's such a confusion. Surely we have false Bibles. False doctrines. And false prophets today.

A huge lack of discernment. A lack of godly living. Like the church at Ephesus. We've left our first love. Like the church of Laodicea.

We're neither hot nor cold. And many are like the salt that has lost its savour. It's good for nothing. And many have ceased to be that light on the hill that we're meant to be.

[26:45] Shining as lights in this darkened world. Pastors and churches have abandoned sound, godly, biblical worship for some false gospel of entertainment, health and wealth.

It's a message that is foreign to the scriptures. It's not here. It's not here. It's slaying in the spirit. It's not here. Amen. Why are you doing it?

Why are you entertaining the thought of it? Why are you watching the TV preachers who promote it? We need to pray for revival.

We need to pray for revival. For reformation. For God's protection from these troubling trends.

These times we are in. It's like the days of Jeroboam. Of compromising worship.

An unholy mixture. As he tried to mingle the idols with the worship of the holy. And God says in Amos 5.21.

[27:42] I hate. I despise. Despise your feast days. And I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.

Though you offer me burnt offerings. And your meek offerings. I will not accept them. Neither will I regard the peace offering of your fat beast. Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs.

I will not hear the melody of thy vials. He didn't want to hear the melody of the instruments. Maybe they were professionals that were playing. Maybe it was the latest and greatest.

The top of the pops. God says I will not hear the melody. I don't want to hear it. I refuse it. Thou art weighed in the balance. And art found wanting.

Friends we're witnessing the degeneration of a nation today. We're proud of being a tolerant people. Who welcome perverts. And abomination into our homes.

[28:42] Through that TV pipe. We see the leadership of our land. Much to be desired. Wake up Australia before it's too late.

Amos the farmer. He was just a farmer. The book of Amos. A humble farmer. He says. He writes of a plum line. He writes of this line of this stream. With the plumb bob at the bottom of it.

A plum line. A pointed weight. Strung on a line. A plum line. That God was holding. And that plum line.

As he held it up. As God held it up. In his hand. It pointed straight up and down. Of what was vertical. Of what was straight. And then showed what was crooked.

God determines what is right and wrong. God determines righteousness and truth. The plum bob measures vertically. As if it's from the heavens. What is in tune with the God of the heavens.

[29:47] Our God. God's plum line showed. That Israel was out of plum. With God. God will measure a nation. He will measure a nation.

And Australia will be measured. By God's plum line. The word of God. And when we measure up against God's plum line. We can see how morally bankrupt we are.

We might try to use all the excuses. The situational ethics. The kind of the political speak. To try to excuse or allow or condone.

But God is the judge. God is the judge. His word is the plum line. His word sets the parameters. For what is truth. For what is warped.

For what is good. And what is evil. In a world where man calls good evil. And evil good. Because God will judge sin people. And friends. I urge you today. That God.

[30:44] Our righteous judge. Will be the one. That we'll pay attention to. Before it's too late. That we'll see that the handwriting is on the wall. That Australia's culture. Is shifting in the wrong direction.

Where we're living in a world where ignorant tolerance of just about anything but biblical truth seems the way to go.

Where it's becoming a hate crime to speak about things that the Bible says are abomination. We should not hesitate to speak it. If God says it we should speak it. There's an overwhelming trend today for political correctness. Turning the blind eye to wickedness. More so celebrating it. Celebrating it.

That's what our children are being trained in. They're being trained to celebrate wickedness. And there's a suppression of dissent today.

[31:43] Australia has turned its back on God. There's a sabotage. There's a planned, intentional demolition job going on. Culturally and spiritually.

We're impoverished and in chain. Hell bent on a destructive path. And I was just reading, well listening actually as I was going for a jog one day.

I'm still doing it. I was listening to the iPod. Romans chapter 1. And it struck me how it said God gives up sometimes.

He gives up. It's interesting isn't it? A tragic truth that sometimes God gives some people up. When they've gone so far, He gives them up.

Romans 1 verse 24. It says in part, God gave them up to uncleanness. Through the lusts of their own heart. Verse 26.

[32:42] God gave them up unto vile affections for even their women. They've changed the natural use into that which is against nature. And verse 28 of Romans 1.

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind. To do those things which are not convenient. God sometimes gives up.

He says, time's up. I'm not going to mess. I'm not going to persevere with these ones anymore.

I'm going to give them up. Give them over. Give them over to their sinful desires. Give them over to their destructive ways. And ultimately to their damnation. God will give some people up.

The prophet Daniel recorded the downfall of the Babylonian Empire of King Belshazzar. He recorded the supernatural handwriting on the wall of that royal ballroom that spelled out the nation's doom.

[33:41] Australia is cursed. It's in danger today. Morally bankrupt. The fiscal cliff of its ultimate impossible debt of sin will one day be called up.

And it will soon be reckoning time. Accounting time. The days are evil. Our nation is morally corrupt. Our universities, these schools of learning and knowledge are engaged in social engineering against God.

Programming the students to deny God. Every day we're all being reprogrammed. Maybe it's time we spent more time with the book.

Maybe it's time we spent more time in prayer. Maybe it's time we saw this invasion that is going on.

This subtle yet planned and systematic invasion. Satan craves your worship.

He wants you to be deceived. He wants to brainwash and seduce.

[34:49] Sometimes it's in your face. With the mind-warping vulgar music. With the violence, the bloodshed, the gross tattoos, the body mutilations.

But sometimes it's more subtle. It's more subtle. He just wants you to be a casual kind of Christian. Just post along. Just enjoy armchair Christianity.

Just be a casual Christian. Don't take it seriously. Just give lip service to the faith that you profess. Satan will be very happy with that.

He'll rub his hands with glee. And he'll know that you've been sucked in. The handwriting is on the wall. The handwriting is on the wall. Or are we to get serious about the kingdom of God?

Will God give up on Australia? He may do. He may do. If we follow this self-destructive path. Our world's only hope is the redeeming grace of God.

[35:46] It's our only hope. Because these signs are troubling signs. Yet signs of his coming. And he says to us in Luke 21. Our Lord says. And when these things begin to come to pass.

Then look up. And lift up your heads for your redemption. Draweth nigh. In these times of conflict. He offers his peace to us. He says in John 14.

My peace I give unto you. My peace I leave with you. Not as the world giveth. Give I unto you. Handwriting on the wall.

What fear Belshazzar had. He was just quaking in his boots. As the finger of God. Wrote judgment against him.

We see the finger of God. As the finger of God wrote the law. With Moses. That would have been an eye opener wouldn't it? That would have made you quake in your boots wouldn't it?

[36:46] And then as Christ. Wrote in the sand. With his finger. In front of that adulterous woman. Who should have been condemned. To be. Brutally punished.

He wrote in the sand. And said. He that is without sin. Let him. Cast the first stone. He that is without sin. Among you.

Interesting that isn't it? He was the one who was without sin. His finger wrote in the sand. I don't know what he wrote. But that. Maybe it was that same finger that wrote.

The handwriting. Is on the wall. Maybe it was that same finger. Those same hands. From which his blood was shed. For a man such as we. Our only hope is to come to him.

For redeeming hope. His arm is not shortened. That it cannot save. You know. We read of the long arm of the Lord. What about the long arm of the Lord?

[37:45] His arm is not shortened. That it cannot save. He can reach to the foulest. To the vilest. To the furthest. He can reach to you today.

He can reach to me. His arm is not shortened. That it cannot save. He's got power to save. And he is our one. Short and absolute hope. No matter what.

Happens next. No matter what. Happens next. What changes will happen. In the next.

Decade. Decades. What will happen next. We don't know. Is it going to get any better. Noah preached righteousness.

For 120 years. This is the same message today. It's the same message. Of salvation. To a lost and dying world. Time is running out. For you. If you're outside of Christ.

[38:41] This morning. Please. Please consider your soul. Do not neglect your soul today. One day. The wicked will be judged. And they will burn. In an eternal lake of fire.

Don't play around. It's time to get right with God. Blessed is the nation. His God is the Lord. Psalm 33. 12. We need a real revival today. I want to urge you today.

This is not a message. That is meant to leave you miserable. And under. Under awake today. It's meant to be a message that will lift you. To realise that arm. Is not shortened.

That it cannot save. To realise that one. Sure. An absolute hope. For you. To realise that one. Who says. My peace. I give unto you. Look up. Look up.

And lift up your heads for your redemption. Draweth nigh. A real revival. Of godliness. Of truth. Is what we need. To pray. To pray. To intercede.

[39:40] For our nation. For our prime minister. For our parliament. For our state leaders. And premiers. To pray. For everyone.

That is in a position of authority. That God will prevail. That God will intervene. And stay his hand of judgement. May he grant that wisdom. To our leaders today.

May almighty God help us. In this hour of need. Let us pray. Amen. Let us pray.