

THE KING OF KINGS

DANIEL 5

OUR KING CALCULATES WEIGHT



FIRST BYRON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

DAVID MURRAY
FEBRUARY 21, 2021 (PM)

INTRODUCTION

Inaccurate weighing can lead to costly results. For example, many of us have weighed our suitcases wrongly and ended up paying a lot more at the airport. Or, even worse, with the contents of our suitcases spread over the terminal floor as we stuffed various items into our pockets to lighten our cases. Inaccurate weighing cost us dollars or dignity.

I remember once trying my hand at cooking when I was a teen, and although I only made one mistake in my weighing, it ruined the recipe and our family supper. Inaccurate weighing cost seven people a meal. We paid with hunger.

But although weighing a suitcase or an ingredient wrong can have some short-term cost, there is one weight, which, if we get wrong, will cost us far more for far longer. It will cost us everything forever. It's how we weigh God. Get that wrong and we get everything wrong and lose everything right. Which leads us to this question: **How accurate is your God scale?** How heavy is God in your life? How heavily or lightly does God weigh upon you? I want to help you answer this with Daniel 5.

BACKGROUND

Theme of Daniel: The King of kings is still King.

Structure of Daniel:

- Faithful Living in Hostile Times (1-6)
- Forward Looking in Hostile Times (7-12)

The story so far:

- Be faithful because our King Cares for us (Daniel 1)
- Be faithful because our King Communicates with us (Daniel 2:1-30)
- Be faithful because our King Conquers for us (Daniel 2:31-49)
- Be faithful because our King Commands us (Daniel 3)
- Be faithful because our King Condemns the Proud (Daniel 4:1-33)
- Be faithful because our King Converts the Lost (Daniel 4:34-37)
- Be faithful because our King Calculates Spiritual Weight (Daniel 5)

After four chapters of King Nebuchadnezzar, his son is now on the throne of Babylon. We join him at his last supper, though he didn't know it at the time. He'll help us answer the question: **How accurate is your God scale?**



What is our God-scale and what does it read?



1. WE WEIGH GOD INACCURATELY (1-16)

The biblical word 'glory' is from a Hebrew word meaning 'be weighty' or 'be heavy.' The glory of God is the weightiness of God. When we know the glory of God, we will feel the weight of God. To glorify God is to sense, feel, and express his weight accurately and adoringly in every area of life. As Paul put it: **Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God** (1 Cor. 10:31). Or, as the Westminster Shorter Catechism reminds us in its first answer: **Our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.** Experiencing and expressing the weight of God leads to enjoyment of God. Nothing, therefore, is more important than that we weigh God rightly. Belshazzar helps us identify four ways in which we weigh God:

He weighed God with his works (1, 2, 3, 4)

Belshazzar threw an enormous drinking party with over a thousand in attendance. By putting so much weight in alcohol, he was putting little weight upon God. If he had weighed God rightly, he would have weighed out less drink. His works said, God weighs nothing.

He weighed God with his words (2)

Drink lowered Belshazzar's restraints so much, that he commanded the golden cups and pieces from God's temple be used to help them get drunk and worship idols. There was no worse way to express his rebellious heart than in this blasphemous irreverence towards the only remaining symbols of the true God. His words said, God weighs nothing.

He weighed God with his worship (4)

He not only blasphemed the true God, but also praised false gods, pieces of metal, wood, and stone. He was basically saying, Israel's God was less than a piece of material. His worship said, God weighs nothing.

He weighed God with his wisdom (4)

Despite God having taught him a massive lesson about the danger of pride through what happened to his father, Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar had learned nothing from it. He rejected God's wisdom and followed his own (22). His wisdom, or lack of it, said, God weighs nothing.

Daniel sums it all up: And you his son Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored (22-23).



CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

Confess our bad scales. What does your scale read when you put God on it? Put your works, your words, your worship, and your wisdom on the scale and you'll get an accurate reading of how much God weighs in your life. Let's confess that none of us weigh God accurately.

Pray for more weight. And let's pray for a more accurate reflection of God's weight in our works, words, worship, and wisdom. God is worth far more weight in our lives, and the more we glorify him, the more we will enjoy him.

GREATER GOD-PRESSURE
MEANS GREATER GOD-PLEASURE.



Our scales are so inaccurate.
Are there any accurate scales around?



2. GOD WEIGHS US ACCURATELY (17-30)

In the midst of all the drunken debauchery and rampant blasphemy, fingers appeared and started writing on the palace wall. Immediately, there was stunned and petrified silence. Red-faced drunks became white-faced and sober. The King was shaking so much, you could hear his knees knocking. Four words stared him in the face: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. He had no idea what they meant, but he knows it's God's judgment and it's bad. Four words from God end the party and reduce it to panic, fear, terror, and confusion. The palace walls that usually portrayed the king in all his glory is now engraved like a tombstone epitaph.

Daniel denounced the king for his sins and then turned to the four words. "Mene, mene, tekem, parsin" is a series of weights going from the highest to the lowest (mina, mina, shekel, a half). It's 'Heavy, heavy, light, very light.' That didn't make much sense, which is why Daniel was needed. He saw a message in these words when read as verbs: "Numbered, numbered, weighed, divided."

Numbered

God was saying to Belshazzar, "I set and counted your days, and they've come to an end. Your days are finished, over, expired." Belshazzar had stepped over the invisible line of God's patience and now God says, "It's over. The end. Finished."

There is a line, by us unseen,
That crosses every path,
The hidden boundary between
God's patience and his wrath.

Weighed

God's eyes weigh our works, words, worship, and wisdom. He weighs nothing, though, unless it's perfect in action, motive, and aim. God's scales are perfect scales. In Belshazzar's cases, they say, "Found Wanting." God looked for some of his glory in the King's life and found nothing but lightness, emptiness, vanity. He was a man of no weight or significance (1 Sam. 2:3).

Divided

God was going to separate Belshazzar from his kingdom, wealth, friends, life, and all hope of mercy. All he had would be taken from him and given to another. That same night Babylon was conquered, Belshazzar slain, and taken in his drunkenness into the presence of his Maker (Lk. 21:34; 12:20). The writing was on the wall in more ways than one. Chapters 2, 3, 4 all end with a confession, but this one doesn't.



CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

What does God's scale read when he puts you on it? Does it say, "Numbered, numbered, weighed, and divided." Or maybe, "Zero, zero, zero, and zero"? That's not a mistake, because there's nothing to weigh. If you don't have God's glory with you on the scale, you have no weight.

Ask the weighty King to stand with you on the scale. Jesus is the glory of God. He knew God's weight perfectly, and expressed it so perfectly that the Apostle John could say, And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth (Jn. 1:14).

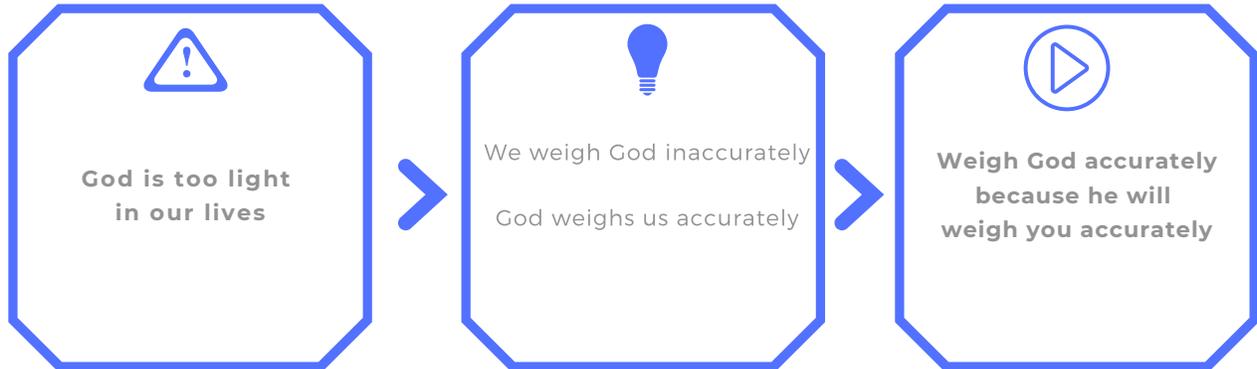
WITHOUT WEIGHT,
WE'LL FALL FOREVER.



Hear God's Story > Change your story > Tell the story



CONCLUSION



PRAYER: Glorious God, you are awesomely weighty and we are amazingly light. Help us to weigh you accurately and find all our glory in you. Amen

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Recall a time when inaccurate weighing cost you.
2. What do your works, words, worship, and wisdom say about God's weight in your life?
3. What times in your life have you most felt God's weight?
4. Weigh Christ's words, works, worship and wisdom. How do you get his glorious weight on your side of the scale?
5. How will you help your family, friends, and others weigh God more accurately?

First Byron Christian Reformed Church
8541 Byron Center Ave SW, Byron Center, MI 49315
Phone: (616) 878-9768
www.firstbyroncrc.org

Pastor David Murray
www.HeadHeartHand.org
www.livingthebible.net