**Salendine Nook Baptist Church – Church Together**

**Sunday 10th August 2025 – The Writing Is On The Wall**

**Welcome**

In today’s Service we will be looking at: **Daniel 5 v. 1 - 31**

The theme for our service today is: **The Writing Is On The Wall**

Today our service also includes: **Communion**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for today’s service and that you would be able to **Understand What God Is Saying To You And Then To Act On It!**

**Call To Worship**

**Psalm 18 v. 1 - 3 NLT**

I love you, Lord; you are my strength.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my Saviour;

My God is my rock, in whom I find protection.

He is my shield, the strength of my

Salvation, and my stronghold.

I will call on the Lord, who is worthy of praise,

for he saves me from my enemies.

**Song Suggestion**

May The Fragrance Of Jesus Fill This Place

**Opening Prayer**

God our Creator, Father and Friend, we give thanks today for the wonderful gift of life, with all its joys and responsibilities, its experiences and opportunities.

We thank you for the teaching and example of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness and salvation we have received through him, for his presence with us always and for the service into which he has called us.

Help us to express our thanks not only in our praises and prayers today, but also through the lives we lead; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray.

**Amen**

**Moment of Reflection**

Mene = God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it

Tekel = You have been weighed on the sacles and found deficient

Peres = Your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians

**Bible Reading**

**Daniel 5 v. 1 – 31 NIV**

**The Writing on the Wall**

5King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. 2 While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. 3 So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. 4 As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.

5 Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. 6 His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his legs became weak and his knees were knocking.

7 The king summoned the enchanters, astrologers and diviners. Then he said to these wise men of Babylon, “Whoever reads this writing and tells me what it means will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around his neck, and he will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.”

8 Then all the king’s wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or tell the king what it meant. 9 So King Belshazzar became even more terrified and his face grew more pale. His nobles were baffled.

10 The queen, hearing the voices of the king and his nobles, came into the banquet hall. “May the king live forever!” she said. “Don’t be alarmed! Don’t look so pale! 11 There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods. Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners. 12 He did this because Daniel, whom the king called Belteshazzar, was found to have a keen mind and knowledge and understanding, and also the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means.”

13 So Daniel was brought before the king, and the king said to him, “Are you Daniel, one of the exiles my father the king brought from Judah? 14 I have heard that the spirit of the gods is in you and that you have insight, intelligence and outstanding wisdom. 15 The wise men and enchanters were brought before me to read this writing and tell me what it means, but they could not explain it. 16 Now I have heard that you are able to give interpretations and to solve difficult problems. If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, you will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around your neck, and you will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.”

17 Then Daniel answered the king, “You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means.

18 “Your Majesty, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendour. 19 Because of the high position he gave him, all the nations and peoples of every language dreaded and feared him. Those the king wanted to put to death, he put to death; those he wanted to spare, he spared; those he wanted to promote, he promoted; and those he wanted to humble, he humbled. 20 But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory. 21 He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal; he lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like the ox; and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and sets over them anyone he wishes.

22 “But you, Belshazzar, his son, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. 23 Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honour the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways. 24 Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription.

25 “This is the inscription that was written:

mene, mene, tekel, parsin

26 “Here is what these words mean:

Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.

27 Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

28 Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

29 Then at Belshazzar’s command, Daniel was clothed in purple, a gold chain was placed around his neck, and he was proclaimed the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

30 That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain, 31 and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two.

**Song Suggestion**

Jesus Is King And I Will Extol Him

**Moment Of Reflection**

If we want to know the Glory of God, if we want to experience the beauty of God, and if we want to be used by the hand of God, then we must LIVE in the WORD of God.

**Communion**

Jesus said: ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty’. ***Romans 5 v. 8*** also tells us: ‘God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us’.

**An Invitation to the Table:**

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body, his People.

**A prayer of Approach:**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secret is hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

**As we prepare to receive the bread and the cup, we hear the words of The Institution:**

The Apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord’s Supper, when he says: ‘For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night that he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me’. In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying: ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me’. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11 v. 23 ***-*** 26

**A Prayer of Thanksgiving before we eat the bread and drink the cup:**

Loving God, we praise and thank you for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ. We thank you for his life and ministry, announcing the good news of your kingdom and demonstrating its power in the lifting of the downtrodden, and the healing of the sick, and the loving of the loveless. We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross, for the redemption of the world, and for your raising him to life again, as a foretaste of the glory we shall share. We give you thanks for this bread and wine, symbols of our world and signs of your transforming love. Send your Holy Spirit, we pray, that we might be renewed into the likeness of Jesus Christ and formed into his body. This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

**WE NOW SHARE AND EAT OF THE BREAD AND SHARE AND DRINK OF THE CUP**

**A Final Prayer of Acclamation:**

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate. Your resurrection we confess. Your final coming we await. Glory be to you, O Christ.

**Amen**

**Prayers Of Intercession**

Let us pray this week and as we do so, let’s **Pause & Pray**:

We come before you today, heavenly Father, and we thank you for teaching us how to pray simply and sincerely to you. We thank you for hearing us when we cry out to you in moments of despair and anguish, and we also thank you for the ability to praise you and glorify your Holy name.

**Pause & Pray**

We praise you for good health and daily food, for the shelter and care of our homes, the love and loyalty of our family and friends. Thank you for the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, who is both our Lord and Saviour. Thank you for forgiveness and salvation, for his presence with us always and for the service into which he has called us. Help us today, to thank you not only with our lips, in praise and prayer, but also in lives that are full of hope and love; for you and for each other.

**Pause & Pray**

Loving Lord, we would thank you for all the bright things of life; for the wonder of creation that is around us and the joy that that brings to us. Help us to see the wonderful things in life and the beauty of your creation, to remember them and to count our blessings, that our lives would flow in ceaseless praise of you.

**Pause & Pray**

Heavenly Father, we pray for those who govern over us. We pray for our Prime Minister who leads this country and his elected cabinet. We lift before you our Royal Family, and all the complexity of their lives at this present time. We pray for those countries around the world that are at war, and in conflict. We also pray for those countries that are hostile to other countries at this present moment.

**Pause & Pray**

Loving Lord Jesus, we pray for our families and friends. We thank you that Jesus knows our every situation. Help us today we pray to face the different situations we face with dignity and love, and give us peace in our hearts and minds.

**Pause & Pray**

We continue to pray for those who are unwell, both at home and in hospital, or hospice. We think of the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes. We pray for all those who care for their needs, both professionally and in the family. So again, as we share a moment of silence together today, we bring before you those known only to ourselves and name them before you, Lord Jesus.

**Pause & Pray**

And finally, Lord we pray for ourselves. Help us Lord to follow your example in all that we do and say as we journey with you. We place ourselves, this Church and all your people into your loving care.

**Pause & Pray**

**Amen**

**Church Together Thought**

The Bible makes it very clear that God is in control. Yet, if we’re honest, are there not times when the opposite seems to be true? Times when arbitrary circumstances, politicians or world events seem to be the true power.

The exile to Babylon was a traumatic time for the Jewish people. This time of religious and social upheaval forced a major review of their beliefs. It’s a period that features so heavily in the Old Testament that we may have something of a misconception about it.

The all - conquering Babylonian empire was only short - lived. It lasted a mere couple of generations, from their conquest of the mighty and much longer lasting Assyrian empire to their own downfall to the Medes and Persians. Over this period several different people ruled Babylon, some of whom are not mentioned in the Bible. What we can see, both through Scripture and other historical accounts, is that Babylon was in a much more precarious and fragile state than it would have appeared at the time. To the Jews, no doubt though, it seemed like the power of the Babylonian machine was immense and unmoveable.

King Belshazzar was not as powerful as his forefather Nebuchadnezzar. Like many weak people he chose to show off; to give the appearance of power as described in **Daniel 5 v. 1 – 4** which says: ‘King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. 2While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father[a] had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. 3So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. 4As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone’.

He used the sacred vessels from the Jerusalem Temple for his own purposes, without regard for the religious practices of the Jewish population. What occurs next is one of several incidents in Jewish history where conquerors did not take the holiness of the Temple or what was kept in the Temple seriously. They discovered the hard way that they may have power over the Jewish people but not over their God. The Lord demonstrates that he is the one in control and that he is far more powerful than they thought.

Belshazzar experiences personally the ultimate loss of power and, unknowingly, the death of the Babylonian empire as seen in **Daniel 5 v. 30, 31**. Here in the book of Daniel and elsewhere we read of traumatic times in the decades and centuries that followed, with the political power shifting rapidly from one nation to another. One lesson the Jews were to learn, both by divine revelation and by experience, was that whatever circumstances might suggest, God remained in control. At the time of Daniel their hope was little more than a restoration of their own nation, once again under a king of David’s line.

They did, of course, return to Jerusalem and we perhaps take it too much for granted that, unlike Babylon, we can still find Jerusalem on a modern world map.

Even more importantly, centuries on from Daniel the New Testament writers draw upon some of the ideas from the book, as seen in **Daniel 7** to explain a new type of kingdom and a new type of king, as referred to in passages such as **Revelation 1 v. 14**; **Matthew 24 v. 30**. We are never promised world stability. In fact, quite the opposite, as you read in **Luke 21 v. 10 – 28** for example, which says: ‘Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven. 12“But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. 13And so you will bear testimony to me. 14But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. 15For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. 16You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. 17Everyone will hate you because of me. 18But not a hair of your head will perish. 19Stand firm, and you will win life. 20“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. 21Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. 22For this is the time of punishment in fulfilment of all that has been written. 23How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. 24They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. 25“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near’.

A principle that shines out of the book of Daniel is that, despite appearances, God is in control and this is true of our individual lives as much as it is of world events. Like the Jews in Babylon, we too may have trouble seeing it at the time and we need to grow strong in our faith to hold on to that principle. So, what do we learn from **Daniel 5 v. 1 – 31** that helps us in that principle?

**FIRSTLY, WE NEED TO LOOK AT BELSHAZZAR’S BANQUET (Daniel 5 v. 1 – 3)**

He wanted to impress the leaders - it was a great feast (**v. 1**); no expense spared, and drink flowed freely. He wanted to mock the Lord - a great foolishness (**v. 2 - 4**). He used the cups that had God’s name upon them, thinking if they were good enough for God, they were good enough for the false gods! He is an example of spiritual carelessness.

**SECONDLY, WE WITNESS GOD’S GRAFFITI (Daniel 5 v. 4 – 6)**

It silenced the scoffers, perhaps they thought they were seeing things - they were! It also exposed the sham, evoking great fear (**v. 5 - 9**). It is an example of how God can intervene and speak to people in vivid ways.

**THIRDLY, WE SEE BELSHAZZAR’S BLUSTER (Daniel 5 v. 7 – 16)**

He shouted for help before he lost face, though his face had already fallen (**v. 7**). He promised power (**v. 7**) but found there were some things money could not buy (**v. 8, 9**). He needed his mother to help (v. 10 **-** 12)! He tried to buy Daniel - a sign of desperation, which assumed that God’s help can be bought like anything else. It is an example of how we can’t bribe God through his servants.

**FOURTHLY, WE EXPERIENCE DANIEL’S DIRECTNESS (Daniel 5 v. 13 – 28)**

He told Belshazzar to keep his gifts - he wouldn’t have them for long anyway. We cannot compromise faith for cash. He also rejected flattery by saying God would reveal his truth. If Belshazzar had learned from history, he would not repeat it. We should learn from our own mistakes and from those of others.

**FINALLY, WE OBSERVE THE EMPIRE’S END (Daniel 5 v. 29, 30)**

The end came suddenly — Belshazzar had reached the point of no return. We cannot try God’s patience forever. We do not know what previous warnings the king had received. None of us should presume on God’s kindness and patience, and never knowingly continue in sin. We have a reminder of this, when Paul writes to the Church in Rome and says in **Romans 6**: ‘What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

8Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. 14For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

**Slaves to Righteousness**

15What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! 16Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. 18You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

19I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. 20When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 22But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. 23For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord’.

**Song Suggestion**

Be Thou My Vision

**Offering**

If you feel that you are able to, then please keep on giving to the work of the church here at Salendine Nook, with a generous and cheerful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.

**Moment Of Reflection**

If you want to hear God speak, read your Bible. If you want to hear God speak audibly, read your Bible out loud. **Justin Peters**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father who art in Heaven

Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

On earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

And the glory, forever and ever.

**Amen**

**Song Suggestion**

O Lord My God, When I In Awesome Wonder

**Blessing**

We have gathered here today,

Lord God as your people to offer you our sacrifice of prayer and worship.

We have fed on your Word, been refreshed through your living sacrifice for us, felt the encircling of your Spirit around this fellowship and around individual lives.

As we go from this place may we continue to know your presence and power in the very different lives that we lead, to your praise and glory.

**Amen**