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# DANIEL

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*thriving in turbulent times*

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*The writing is on the wall*



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# Daniel 5:1-31

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p. 827

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*the* Distraction

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Daniel 5:1-4

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hiding behind hedonism



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*NEW YORK*

# I Used to Be a Human Being

An endless bombardment of news and gossip and images has rendered us manic information addicts. It broke me. It might break you, too.

By Andrew Sullivan

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Has our enslavement to dopamine — to the instant hits of validation that come with a well-crafted tweet or Snapchat streak — made us happier? I suspect it has simply made us less unhappy, or rather less aware of our unhappiness, and that our phones are merely new and powerful antidepressants of a non-pharmaceutical variety. In an essay on contemplation, the Christian writer Alan Jacobs recently commended the comedian Louis C.K. for withholding smartphones from his



children. On the Conan O'Brien show, C.K. explained why: "You need to build an ability to just be yourself and not be doing something. That's what the phones are taking away," he said. "Underneath in your life there's that thing ... that forever empty ... that knowledge that it's all for nothing and you're alone ... That's why we text and drive ... because we don't want to be alone for a second."

- Andrew Sullivan



*Are you distracted from  
what matters most?*



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*the* Declaration

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Daniel 5:5-23

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## *Daniel 5:5-6*

Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand. And the king saw the hand as it wrote. Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together.







## *Daniel 5:17*

Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation.



you've got a  
pride problem

v. 18-22



*Jeremiah 17:9*

The heart is deceitful above all things,  
and desperately sick;  
who can understand it?



you've got a  
stewardship problem

v. 23



*How are you using what  
belongs to God?*



money  
relationships  
work  
ministry



you've got a  
worship problem

v. 23



*Isaiah 42:8*

I am the LORD; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to carved idols.



*Isaiah 48:11*

For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it,  
for how should my name be profaned?  
My glory I will not give to another.



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*the* Destruction

— Daniel 5:24-31 —



MENE, MENE,  
TEKEL and PARSIN







*Daniel 5:30-31*

That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.



*Is that fair?*



## *Romans 3:23-26*

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness,



because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be **just** and the **justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus.



The cross stands both as God's ultimate warning of the consequences of sin and as the greatest expression of his love for sinners. If God did not love, he would not so graciously warn.

- Bryan Chapell



*How will you respond?*

humble yourself  
steward the gifts  
worship God





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