CHARACTERISTIC TO AVOID

Accountability is a word that brings with it feelings of fear and dread. This word is typically not used in positive terms. However, imagine a world without accountability. What if our judges were not held accountable to uphold the law? Or our police to enforce the law? Or our bankers were not held accountable to be honest? Without accountability there is no trust, and without trust there is no relationship.

Daniel 5 is a story of a king’s accountability. More than that, it is the story of end-time accountability. It is the story of a king who squandered the opportunities and the light that had been given to him. Out of the eight stories in Daniel, this is the second narrative that reveals characteristics that we are to avoid as the prophecies are being fulfilled.
Write out Daniel 5 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Daniel 5:18–28. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline, or mind map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Daniel 5. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Think of examples in your life where you have been blessed with God revealing Himself to you. How has God blessed you with opportunities, light, and truth?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dan5-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What thoughts surface when thinking about accountability to God?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dan5-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

- 2 Peter 2:21
- Revelation 16:12; 18:1–10
- Isaiah 45:1

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Daniel 5?

Review your memorized verse from Daniel 5.
Where do you see Jesus in Daniel 5?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dan5-6
Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your relationships?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/dan5-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Who are some individuals you can think of who have been given less light than you? Who are some individuals that have been given more light than you?

What role do you think the opportunity to receive truth plays in accountability? In other words, what if I don’t know truth but I have the opportunity to know truth? How does that play into God’s accountability?

What is your gut response when you hear the word accountability?

What are some examples of how accountability has played out in your relationship with your parents? Significant other? Institutions? Works?

How does your picture of God affect your view of accountability?