

THE PROPHETIC WORD TODAY

Daniel: Is the Writing on the Wall?

Text: Daniel 5

I. MENE – Numbered. Translates a weight or measure in Chaldean.

A. Belshazzar – “Your number’s up!”

Jer. 27:6-7 ⁶ And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant; and the beasts of the field I have also given him to serve him. ⁷ So all nations shall serve him and his son and his son’s son, until the time of his land comes; and then many nations and great kings shall make him serve them.

1. Verses 18-23: “God has given you abundant opportunity but now your opportunity is gone.”

As if God drew a line in the dust of Babylon and when Belshazzar crossed it, that was it.

2. Nebuchadnezzar: 12 months – beast – immediately
3. Belshazzar: that very night

Dan. 5:30 That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain.

B. World

Interesting, Persians at the gates when the feast began. But Belshazzar was not worried because of the wall and soldiers. How like our world. **The Lord is at the very gates and says to our world, “Your days are Numbered.”**

1. Jesus said the Father has an appointed time. “Father knows the time.”
2. Revelation – “The hour has come.”

But the world goes on buying, selling, business as usual as if this world system will last forever.

C. Church – “Days are numbered”

1. Not destroyed, but completed and taken out.
2. Main mission – “Make disciples of nations”
 - a. Days for doing that are numbered and almost gone.
 - b. For years the church has been losing the battle.
 - c. **Today is a great opportunity** to reverse it and move to fulfill our commission.
 - 1) **Not business as usual**
 - 2) **Requires Intentionality**
 - 3) **Supernaturally powered**

We don't know the numbering, but we should be working as if it were on our doorstep.

D. Each person

1. "Hairs numbered"
2. "Days numbered"
3. **God appoints a man's days. Sometimes lengthened or shortened by sin or by God.**
4. But we each have an appointed day.
 - a. Most live for the next 10 years or 20 30,50 or more years. Insurance, Retirement, Investments
 - b. **If you knew you would die in 1 month, what would you do differently?**

**II. TEKAL – Another weight – weighed
Weighed in balance and found wanting.**

A. Belshazzar

Your life, attitude, your sin has been compared to God's standard and it isn't enough.

Idolatry	Compared with	Loyalty
Blasphemy		Reverence
Pride		Humility
Adultery		Faithfulness
Drunkenness		Sobriety
Debauchery		Purity
Cruelty		Love

B. Our world is going to be put in the balances.

And the worlds standards

Relevance	Compared with	Absolutes of the Almighty
Permissiveness		Justice of Jehovah
Right to privacy		Sanctity of life
Right to drink a few		Body, temple of Holy Spirit

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Earth burned up
"weighed and wanting"

C. Church – Let us not be weighed and wanting.

1. **Not at Great White Throne**
2. **But at the Judgment Seat of Christ**

1 Cor. 3:11-15 ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Believers should but "suffer loss" by lack of proper building.

D. Each Person (2 times weighed)

1. **You – best of us is wanting when compared with God's standard.**
 - a. **Must have righteousness of Christ.**
2. **Your works – Judgment Seat**

III. DIVIDED – translates UPHARSIN

A. Belshazzar

1. Medes and Persians
2. Take over by rerouting of Euphrates

B. World

1. World divided into two parts – for Christ and against Christ
2. Believers take away and lost remain

C. Church – Divided?

1. **Yes!**
2. **Formal church – real believers vs. church roll**
3. **True church – builders with gold, silver, and jewels vs. wood, hay, and stubble**

D. Men

1. **Those who are judged by the books, revealing all their sin**
2. **Those who see their name in the Lamb's Book of Life.**

Conclusion: Oh Belshazzar, how plain to see the handwriting on the wall. But our world, our churches, our people ignore a handwriting as clear and plain as any he ever saw.