

Daniel Chapter 5

The topic of this program is chapter 5 of that great Old Testament prophet, Daniel. Chapter 5 tells the story of Belshazzar's feast, where the king sees the handwriting on the wall, which spells out his doom. The questions we will ask on this program are: does this predict the end of Western Civilization as we know it? Or does it predict the end of the reign of the Antichrist? Who does Belshazzar and his kingdom represent? Does he represent the Antichrist or does he represent Western Civilization? I believe if we study Daniel 5 carefully, we will find out exactly who Belshazzar represents.

Let's look at chapter number 5 which describes the defeat of the Babylonians, under Belshazzar, by the Medes and the Persians. In verse number 1, Daniel writes, 'Belshazzar the king made a great feast, and invited a thousand of his nobles.' Some Bible translations, instead of 'nobles', say 'lords' or 'princes'. The important thing is that this word, 'nobles' is repeated six times in this chapter.

In verse number 2, Daniel writes, 'and being drunk, he,' that is Belshazzar, 'commanded that they bring the vessels of gold and silver which Nebuchadnezzar, his father had brought away out of the temple that was in Jerusalem.' Belshazzar has been drinking too much, and now we see that he will profane the sacred vessels that belonged to the temple in Jerusalem. In verse number 4, Daniel writes, 'They drink wine and praised their gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood and stone.' Notice that there are six types of these pagan idols, and Daniel repeats this phrase twice. Thus, along with the six nobles, we have six items mentioned three times. And of course that is 6 6 6 the number of the Antichrist. Could this be a clue that Belshazzar is a prefigure of the Antichrist?

Next let's read verse number 5. 'In that same hour there appeared the fingers of a man's hand, as it were, writing on the wall of the king's palace, and the king could see the joints of the hand.' This is the supernatural judgment upon Belshazzar; is it also a supernatural judgment on the Antichrist?

Belshazzar the king is very upset, when he sees the writing on the wall. As Daniel writes in verse number 6, 'then was the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, and he cried aloud to bring in the wise men'. The wise men cannot analyze the writing on the wall, but the queen, who was probably Belshazzar's mother, comes in to the banquet and reminds the king about Daniel, the great Jewish prophet, who was able to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dreams, as we found out in earlier chapters of Daniel.

Daniel indeed can interpret the writing on the wall, but his words must be rather sobering to Belshazzar, because here is what he says in verse number 23. 'You', that is Belshazzar, 'have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven.' This makes it almost conclusive that Belshazzar does indeed represent the Antichrist. Saint John, in the book of Revelation, describes almost the exact same phraseology, when describing the Antichrist coming up against the prince, who is Jesus Christ (Revelation 13:6).

Daniel continues, 'and the vessels of his house', that is God's house, 'have been brought before you, and you have praised the gods of silver, gold, wood and stone.' Again, a prefiguring of the Antichrist, who will worship false idols. Now, the words that Belshazzar sees on the palace wall, and which Daniel interprets are 'Mene, Tekel, and Parsin.' (1) It is very important for us also to understand what these words mean, because these words have an End Times meaning.

Notice that Belshazzar is filled with fear at seeing these words, even before Daniel interprets them. Here is how Daniel interprets the words written on the wall. 'Mene means, God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it. Tekel means you are weighed in the balance, and found wanting. Parsin means your kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.' The prophecy came true that very evening, as Belshazzar was killed, and the Medes and the Persians took over the Babylonian kingdom.

But what do these words mean for those of us living in these End Times? What is the significance of 'Mene, Tekel and Parsin'? We know there will be three groups who survive the Antichrist, the raptured Protestants, the protected Catholics and the Holy Martyrs. I am going to suggest to you on this program that Mene, Tekel and

Parsin represent those three groups who will survive the reign of the Antichrist.

'Parsin' means your kingdom is divided. This refers to the Holy Martyrs, who when they die for Our Lord, their souls are separated from their bodies, in other words they are divided. 'Mene' means God has numbered your kingdom. In the book of Revelation, we find that the Protestants who are raptured and go to the Lord's Supper are also numbered. Saint John says there will be 144,000 raptured Protestants (Revelation 14:3).

Next let's look at the last group. 'Tekel' means you are weighed in the balance, and found wanting. If we remember in the book of Revelation, the third horseman of the Apocalypse, the black horse, carries a scale in his hand. He represents famine; that's why he carries a balance in his hand. That's what this also refers to, the balance that King Belshazzar is weighed in. The End Times significance is that it refers to the Catholics, who are forced to flee into the desert, away from the apostatized Catholic Church and away from the Antichrist. 'Weighed in the balance' refers to the remnant Catholics.

Thus we see, how the story of Belshazzar's profane feast, prefigures the reign of the Antichrist, and the names that he sees written on the wall, 'Mene', 'Parsin' and Tekel' refer to the three groups, who will survive his reign, the raptured Protestants, the protected Catholics and the Holy Martyrs. It's no wonder he fears those words when he sees them written on the wall, because they prefigure the fear of the Antichrist when he sees that his end is coming also.

(1) Some Bibles include two "menes". The second "mene" refers to the converted Jews who are numbered (144,000) and who also will reign with Jesus during the Millennium.