

The Writing on the Wall

Daniel 5

by Don Falkos

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King Belshazzar hosted a feast for a thousand Babylonian nobles. He sent for the gold and silver goblets that had been plundered from the Temple of God in Jerusalem. The king and his guests drank from these sacred vessels and used them to toast their own gods.

In the midst of their reveries, they saw the fingers of a human hand suddenly appear out of thin air and begin writing on the wall. Belshazzar was so frightened his knees were knocking and his legs gave way under him. The king summoned all his wise men, but none of them could even read the writing let alone tell him what it meant.

Then the queen mother remembered how helpful Daniel had been to King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel was brought in to read and interpret the writing on the wall.

He said to Belshazzar, "You have always known what happened to King Nebuchadnezzar and how important it is to acknowledge the Most High God rules all. Still you refuse to do so. So God has sent you this message.

"The message reads: numbered, numbered, weighed, divided. Numbered – God has numbered the days of your kingdom and those days have come to an end. Weighed – God has weighed you in a balance and has found you wanting. Divided – God has divided your kingdom and has given it to the Medes and Persians."

None of this was good news for Belshazzar. Even so he rewarded Daniel with valuable gifts and promoted him to the third most powerful office in Babylon. That very night, the Medes and Persians invaded Babylon and killed King Belshazzar.