

² When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple

which was in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.

³ Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God which was in Jerusalem;

and the king and his nobles,
his wives and his concubines
drank from them.

⁴ They drank the wine and
praised the gods of gold and
silver, of bronze, iron, wood
and stone.

⁵ Suddenly the fingers of a
man's hand emerged and
began writing opposite the
lampstand on the plaster

of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing.

⁶ Then the king's face grew pale and his thoughts alarmed him, and his hip joints went slack and his knees began knocking together.

⁷ The king called aloud to bring in the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners. The king spoke and said to the wise men of Babylon, "Any man who can

“Any man who can read this inscription and explain its interpretation to me shall be clothed with purple

and *have* a necklace of gold around his neck, and have authority as third *ruler* in the kingdom.”

⁸ Then all the king’s wise men came in, but they could not read the inscription or make known its interpretation to the king.

⁹ Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, his face grew *even* paler, and his nobles were perplexed.

¹⁰ The queen entered the banquet hall because of the words of the king and his nobles;

the queen spoke and said, "O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts alarm you or your face be pale.

11 There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father,

illumination, insight and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him.

And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, your father the king, appointed him chief of the magicians, conjurers, Chaldeans *and* diviners.

¹² *This was* because an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and insight, interpretation of dreams, explanation of enigmas and solving of difficult problems

were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Let Daniel now be summoned and he will declare the interpretation.”

¹³ Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king spoke and said to Daniel, “Are you that Daniel

who is one of the exiles from Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah?

¹⁴ Now I have heard about you that a spirit of the gods is in you, and that illumination, insight and extraordinary wisdom have been found in you.

¹⁵ Just now the wise men and the conjurers were brought in before me that they might read this inscription

and make its interpretation known to me, but they could not declare the interpretation of the message.

¹⁶ But I personally have heard about you, that you are able to give interpretations and solve difficult problems.

Now if you are able to read the inscription and make its interpretation known to me, you will be clothed with purple

and wear a necklace of gold around your neck, and you will have authority as the third *ruler* in the kingdom.”

¹⁷ Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Keep your gifts for yourself or give your rewards to someone else;

however, I will read the inscription to the king and make the interpretation known to him.

18 O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father.

19 Because of the grandeur which He bestowed on him, all the peoples, nations and *men of every language* feared and trembled before him;

whomever he wished he killed and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated and whomever he wished he humbled.

20 But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly,

he was deposed from his royal throne and *his* glory was taken away from him.

21 He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like *that of* beasts, and his dwelling place was with the wild donkeys.

He was given grass to eat like
cattle, and his body was
drenched with the dew of
heaven

until he recognized that
the Most High God is ruler
over the realm of mankind
and *that* He sets over it
whomever He wishes.

²² Yet you, his son, Belshazzar,
have not humbled your
heart, even though you knew
all this,

²³ but you have exalted
yourself against the Lord of
heaven; and they have
brought the vessels of His
house before you,

and you and your nobles,
your wives and your
concubines have been
drinking wine from them;

and you have praised
the gods of silver and gold, of
bronze, iron, wood and stone,

which do not see, hear or understand. But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and all your ways, you have not glorified.

²⁴ Then the hand was sent from Him and this inscription was written out.²⁵

“Now this is the inscription that was written out:
‘MENĒ, MENĒ, TEKĒL,
UPHARSIN.’

26 This is the interpretation of the message: 'MENĒ'—God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.

27 'TEKĒL'—you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient.

28 'PERĒS'—your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians."

29 Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and *put* a necklace of gold around his neck,

and issued a proclamation concerning him that he *now* had authority as the third *ruler* in the kingdom.

30 That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain
31 So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.

What about This Situation Invites the Judgment of God?

Four Elements

A False Source of Security

¹ Belshazzar the king held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.

A Dangerous Act of Rebellion

³ Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God which was in Jerusalem;

A Knowing Course of Rejection

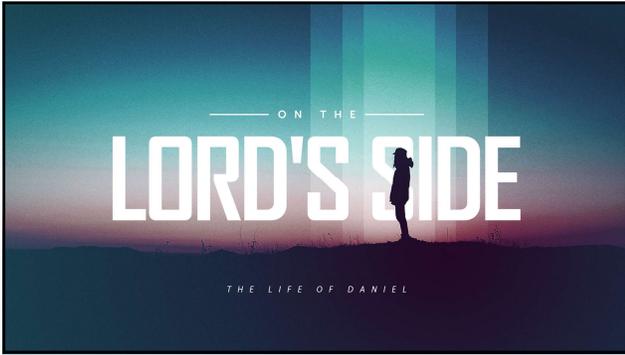
²² Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this,

A Clear Pronouncement of Judgment

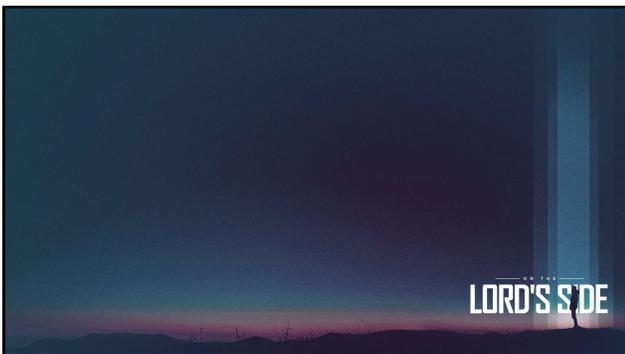
²⁶ This is the interpretation of the message: 'MENĒ'—God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.

It's Too Late for Belshazzar, but Not for You.

Take God's Hand, Don't Fall under It.









¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰ And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹ Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. ²² Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." ²⁵ He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way." ³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.