

The Forever Kingdom

"And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN. This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end" (Daniel 5:25-26).

If you are looking for a "spiritual spook" this week, go read Daniel chapter 5 when Daniel was summoned by the Babylonian King Belshazzar to interpret the mysterious handwriting on the wall. The overview of the account is that the king thought it would be wise to throw a party by drinking wine out of the sacred vessels of gold and silver that were once in the temple in Jerusalem. As they did this, they "praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone" (Daniel 5:4). In light of this sacrilegious act with the vessels, and complete mockery towards the One True God... The Lord in His wisdom chose to wake the king and his people up from their drunken stupor by having a human hand suddenly appear and write a secret message on the wall.

In fear and trembling, the king sought an interpretation, which he finally found in the wise anointed servant of the One True God, Daniel. And what did the writing say? It stated that the kingdom of Babylon was about to be destroyed and would no longer exist... And, sure enough, we read that very night, after Daniel gave King Belshazzar the interpretation, the king was killed, and the Medes and Persians soon took over the kingdom.

What can we learn from this handwriting on the wall? Well, to start off with, all earthly kingdoms will eventually be shattered, demolished, and be no more... Egypt, Babylon, Rome, Russia, America, you name it, nations, empires, and earthly kingdoms will not last forever. But God's Kingdom, O Yes God's Kingdom will last forever! In fact, one of the main themes of the book of Daniel is the continual reminder that God's Kingdom will never end! Here are a few key verses:

"The God of Heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever" (Daniel 2:44).

"At the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation" (Daniel 4:34).

"I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end" (Daniel 6:26).

Be encouraged, dear Christian, you do not belong to a kingdom that will soon end... You are not involved in a temporary movement that will soon vanish in the yesteryears of history. No, by God's grace in Christ the King of kings, you are a citizen of the ultimate Kingdom of history. The very Kingdom that all of history revolves around. The Kingdom that will never end. The Kingdom that you and I get the honor of serving, representing, and advancing. And so today and every day, go live in, and for the Kingdom of Lord and His Christ, the Forever Kingdom!

Respect the Blood,
Dalton Mathis