

Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin

Crediton E.C.

Daniel 5 v 22 – 30 “You have been weighed in life’s balance and found wanting”.

Ch 4 (presée)

Nebuchadnezzar was punished by God’s intervention into wickedness.

Daniel was the messenger from God to interpret his dream **v 34** “Accept my advice and renounce your sins and wickedness”

Nebuchadnezzar again gloried in his own majesty. So God punished him **v 32** “until you acknowledge God’s sovereignty over men”

Nebuchadnezzar repented before God’ and his kingdom was restored to him **v 37** “now I praise and exalt the king of heaven”

Belshazzar was the son of Nebuchadnezzar **5 v 18**

But, **v 22 – 23** “You have quickly forgotten how your father was humbled, and have set yourself up against God...you have dishonoured God”

Belshazzar held a banquet in his own honour using all the holy artefacts from the temple; ignoring the plight of his father.

God sent this message, in 3 phrases:-

Mene, Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.

Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

Parsin: Your kingdom will be divided between your enemies.

I) the sin of disobedience against God and pride in own achievement;

Luke 12 v 16 – 21 The Parable of the Rich Fool

Compare **Luke 9 v 35** “What profit to gain the whole world, if you should lose your soul” with **Philippians 1 v 21** “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain”

II) the sin of defiling the holy things of God;

Romans 12 v 1 – 2 “Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing unto God”

1 Corinthians 3 v 16 – 17 “Don’t you realise that your body is a temple...and His temple is a sacred dwelling”

III) the sin of holding-on to possessions, rather than giving to the true God;

Matthew 19 v 16 – 24 & 29 “It is hard for a man of material wealth to enter the Kingdom of heaven...but everyone who has made sacrifice will inherit eternal life”

Luke 16 v 12 – 15 “...you cannot serve God and mammon...that which man puts value on, is detestable in God’s sight”

The selfishness of man's heart has changed little over 3,000 years.
The warnings to Belshazzar are as relevant today:

Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin – the sins of “Me” : *my* effort, *my* ability, *my* self.

God's judgement was harsh and severe on Belshazzar, yet:-

- i) we often put our own efforts and works in prime position in our lives, boasting in our own achievements;
- ii) we often fail to revere God's holiness, living unholy lives;
- iii) we often chase after our own ambitions, holding onto our self-acquired gains, neglecting God.

Ephesians 1 v 8 – 10 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, lest anyone would dare to boast. For, we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do the good works that God has prepared for us to do”.

Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin – the sins of “Me” : **my** effort, **my** ability, **my** self.

Sadly, Belshazzar failed to learn from the sin of his father, and his life was cut short by God **v 31**, as King Darius took over the kingdom.

But that's another story!

Let us give God His rightful place in our lives.