

# **MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN**

Sunday, November 12, 2006.

**“And the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified: Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.**

**This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.”**

**Dan. 5:23-27.**

**“PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about three score and two years old.” Dan. 5:28-31. Historical facts, faithfully and accurately recorded and recounted. See the kindness and faithfulness of God to provide escape for his people from the captivity of Babylon after the seventy years of punishment. Henry: “Thus deep are the counsels of God concerning his people, thus kind are his designs towards them.” Darius organized his kingdom under 120 princes, answering to three “presidents” – “And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first; that the princes might give accounts unto them, and...Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him.” Dan. 6:1-3.**

**John Trapp: Belshazzar held the feast in contempt of God and His promise to deliver His poor people after 70 years of captivity. “Now were the seventy years exactly ended; now therefore was Israel to be dismissed, and it was done. The Rabbins have a tradition, that Belshazzar, seeing the seventy years spoken of by Jeremiah expired, and the Jews, by the coming on of another monarch, not delivered, kept this feast in contempt of that prophecy and people.” No power can thwart God’s purpose to deliver His people.**

**Matthew Henry: “We must know that about two years before this Cyrus king of Persia came against Babylon with a great army. They were very secure, because the river Euphrates was their bulwark, and they had twenty years’ provision in the city; but in the second year of the siege he took it.” No power can thwart God’s purpose to avenge His people of their enemies.**

## **The Doom of Sinners – No Space to Repent.**

**Matthew Henry:** “Now this may, without any force, be applied to the doom of sinners. Mene, Tekel, Peres, may easily be made to signify death, judgment, and hell. At death, the sinner’s days are numbered, when he will be weighed in the balance and found wanting; and after judgment the sinner will be cut asunder, and given as a prey to the devil and his angels. Daniel does not here give Belshazzar such advice and encouragement to repent as he had given Nebuchadnezzar, because he saw the decree had gone forth and he would not be allowed any space to repent.”

**Belshazzar’s Last Feast** – recounted at Daniel, chapter 5 – is one of the most dramatic events in all world’s history. It should be studied and re-studied. It is most somber, gloomy, and doleful – and pictures the terrors of the doomed soul upon first realization of the most solemn of all facts; to wit: “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Heb. 10:31. It will be the experience of every lost soul – without Christ as his righteousness, standing without hope before God to face his doom – the handwriting on the wall: to wit:

“In the same hour came forth fingers of a man’s hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king’s countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.” Dan. 5:5-6.

“And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matt. 22:11-13. “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” Rev. 19:7-9.

## **The Absolute Sovereignty of God Has Fixed the Exact Time.**

The time for each such coming event is fixed and certain and known only to

the Father: “When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.” Acts 1:6-7. But, we are expected to discern the signs of the times, even as we watch carefully: “O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?” (Mat. 16:3); and, “But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.” 2 Tim. 4:5.

“And this whole land (Israel) shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.” Jer. 25:11-12.

**Whatever Happens, God’s Tender Love for His Elect Is Guaranteed By His Sovereignty: “Alleluia; for the Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth.” Rev. 19:6.**

**Daniel (God’s messenger – God’s elect) was called from his bed at midnight to interpret God’s message of final doom to King Belshazzar. Dan. 5:13-16.**

“Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance; behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing...All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.” Isa. 40:15-17.

“Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb: And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.” Isa. 46:3-4.

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” Jn. 14:1-3. “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Lk. 12:31-32. “And so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thes. 4:17-18.