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LOADING THE SCALE COI

DANIEL 4-5

WEEK

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THE WORD, THE WRITING, THE HAND

e have come to know that King Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful ruler in the earth, and this position was granted to him by God. Although Nebuchadnezzar was aware of this and acknowledged it, he persisted in a prideful heart until he was humbled by the hand of God and lost his mind for seven years (Dan. 4:28-33). It's always better to be humbled by the **Word** of the Lord rather than the **hand** of the Lord.

Belshazzar, the son of Nebuchadnezzar, was aware of all that took place with his father. But when it came time for him to rule he did not apply the wisdom of his father's experiences. Judgement came during a feast for all of Belshazzar's nobles in the form of a man's hand appearing out of thin air and writing a mysterious message on the wall. (Dan. 5:1-12). Daniel was the only one able to interpret it:



'MENĒ, MENĒ, TEKĒL, UPHARSIN'

"God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it. You have been weighted on the scales and found deficient. Your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians." (Dan. 5:25-28)

WHAT'S ON YOUR SCALE?

Because all scripture is inspired by God, there's <u>value</u> for our growth as disciples in every account of every character of scripture (2Tim. 3:16). New Testament scripture clearly tells that our works will be judged (1 Cor. 3:12-14). The reality is that even <u>now</u> the Lord is aware of our works and if we're listening, will <u>guide</u> us to live in ways that are eternally pleasing in His sight. Belshazzar refused to listen. What he didn't know was that the weighing was taking place all along (Dan 5:30).

Why was Belshazzar found deficient? The answer is found in what was stated by Daniel, "Yet you, his son [Nebuchadnezzar's], Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart even though you knew all this, but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven." (Dan. 5:22). As God observes, judges and weighs our lives He's looking for us to:

LOAD THE SCALE

- Walk **humbly** before Him
- Exalt and glorify the Lord
- Use wisdom as revealed by God

When we walk with humility and reverence before the Lord as Daniel did, we live as those who place the weights on the scales that matter most to God. Today's modern-day Babylon promotes and celebrates self-aggrandizement. But by the grace of God we can live with humility and instead of hearing "you have been weighted on the scales and found deficient" the Lord will say "well done good and faithful servant" (Mt. 24:45-51, 25:20-21).

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