

Barley
3/11/17

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finished it. "I
text: - Daniel 5:27.
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Introduction: - The history of King Belshazzar is rather short. One chapter tells us all that we know about him. One short chapter is all we have. He bursts upon the scene and then disappears.

we are told that he made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before them. In these days a feast in the eastern countries often lasted for six months. We do not know how long this feast had been going on, for we are not told. In the midst of it he "commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father, Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple at Jerusalem, that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines might drink therein. They brought the golden and silver vessels, and the king and all his cohorts drank wine out of them.

While this impious act was being committed, "in the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote". We are not told at what hour of the night it happened. Perhaps nearly all of the king's guests were more or less under the influence of liquor, but they were sober enough to know that something supernatural had taken place.

Every face turned pale. "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". In haste he sent for his wise men to come and read the writing upon the wall. He promised that whoever ~~was~~ could read it should be made the third ruler of the kingdom. They tried in vain. They could not read it. The king was troubled. At last at

the command of the queen, he sent for Daniel. He was familiar with the writing. It was his father's handwriting. This is the interpretation. "Mene", God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it. "Tekel", Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting. "Peres", thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

If someone had told the king an hour before that the time had come when he must step into the balances and be weighed, he would have laughed at the thought. But the vital hour had come. The weighing was over; the verdict was pronounced, and the sentence carried out. "In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain, and Darius the Mede took the kingdom." The army of Darius came marching down those streets. There was a clash of arms. Shouts of war and victory rent the air. That night the king's blood mingled with the wine of the banquet hall. Judgment came upon him unexpectedly, suddenly; and probably ninety-nine out of every hundred judgments come in this way.

A man who does evil in these days of the gospel is far worse than that king of the Chaldeans. We live in a land of Bibles. The Bible is the world's best seller. We live in the full blaze of Calvary. We live on this side of the Cross. Belshazzar lived more than five hundred years on the other side of the Cross. He had never heard of Jesus, the Christ. He had never heard of the Son of God. He had never heard of God, except perhaps in connection with his father's remarkable vision. He had no portion of the Bible, if he had he did not believe it. He had no one to point him to the Lamb of God.

All of this happened centuries ago. Let us get down to this century, to this year 1959, to ourselves. We will come to the present time. Let us imagine that now, while I am speaking to you, the hand of God should show us some balances. These balances are fastened to the very throne itself.

It is a throne of equity, of justice. You and I MUST BE WEIGHED. There would be no trifling. There would be no indifference. No one would ~~then~~ be thoughtless. We would know that God's law was final.

Some people have their own balances. But after all we must be weighed in God's balances. Our own balances will not do in the day of judgment. God's balances are just and right. We must live up to ~~the~~ them. When men live up to God's balances, they are criticized. When men find fault with the lives of professing Christians, it is a tribute to the law of God.

II.

Men accept the ten commandments as the law of God. God has been silent for nearly two thousand years. No new message has been given to add to his word. The Bible is the word of God; it is his true message. The law that was given at Sinai has lost none of its solemnity. Time cannot wear out its authority or the fact of its authorship. It always was and always will be the law of God.

If God created the world, He must make some laws to govern it. In order to make life safe we must have good laws. Now this is God's law. It has come from on high, and infidels and skeptics have to admit that it is pure. Legislatures all over the world adopt it as the foundation of their legal systems.

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple: the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandments of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."

Now the question for you and me is, are we keeping the commandments? Have we fulfilled all the requirements of the law? If God made us, as we know he did, He had a right to make that law. Does the law of God condemn us? Shall we be found wanting? The law is all right, but are we right?

A certain infidel began to read the Bible to refute it. After he had reached the ten commandments, he confided to a friend, "I used to think that Moses was the leader of a horde of bandits, but do you know, I have been looking into the nature of that law, I have been trying to see whether I could add anything to it, or take from it, but Sir, I cannot! It is perfect!"

Where did Moses get that law? It came down from heaven. The law of Moses contains all the learning and sagacity of all the subjects, which time can detect no flaw. I am satisfied where he obtained it. It has convinced me of the truth of the religion of the Bible!"

Yes, that former infidel remained true to the truth of Christianity, till his death.

III.

Some people seem to think we have got beyond the commandments. What did Jesus say? "Think not that I have come to destroy the law and the prophets; I am not come to destroy but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." The commandments of God, given to Moses at mount Horeb are as binding today as ever.

Jesus never condemned the law and the prophets, but he did condemn those who did not obey them. Because he gave some new commandments it does not follow that he condemned the old. His explaining the commandments made them more searching. In his unfolding of the commandments he showed them to be positive as well as prohibitive. The Old Testament closes with these words. "Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the

heart of the children to thier fathers, lest I come with a curse and smite the earth".

When Christ came He condensed the statement of the law into this form: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy strength and with all thy mind, and thy nighbor as thyself". Love is the fulfilling of the law. But this does not mean that the detailed precepts of the Ten Commandments have become back numbers. Does a father cease to give children rules to obey because they love him? Does a nation burn its statute books because the people have become patriotis? No. The law still holds good. As long as we obey, the law does not rest heavy upon us; but as soon as we try to break away, we find that the law is like a fence, to keep us in bounds. Hoeses need bridles even after they have been properly broken in.

Conclusion:- Let us face the challenge of our text this morning. "Thou are weighed in the balances and art found wanting". Is your like right? Are you treating God right? His statutes are just are they not? Let us pray that the Holy Spirit may search each one of us. As the Holy Spirit searches us, let us not turn aside and say, "I am not ready yet; I want a little more time to prepare, to turn the matter over in my mind. Yes, you have time, but only the present; you have no assurance of the future. You do not know what you are going to do or wher you are going to be tomorrow. Was not king Belshazzar cut off suddenly? As long as you delay, you are in danger. If you do not enter the kingdom God's way, you cannot enter at all. You must accept Christ as your Savior.

My friend, do you have Him this morning? Will you remain as you are, and be found wanting, or will you accept him now? "This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life".
Come now. Open your heart and receive him.