

I B K Y B A R Z L E K E T H L  
 A N E B V U K H V Q K T U X U  
 A H T L L E G K C N W S T O W  
 U T I E S G S K C Y L A R I Q  
 E T S N R H H S H M W E O R N  
 N R E O P P A S E A W F U F I  
 Q R P I P M R Z D L Z W B Y S  
 P W W T Y W E E Z O S U L P U  
 N P R P F A S N T A G N E D P  
 A N I I O F G R E A R U D F H  
 Y K T R J W D R E S T A F B A  
 Q B I C W T V E R G N I L E R  
 U C N S S O B N E I N D O H S  
 Q D G N S M G C E V O I Y N I  
 T W I I I J C L M Y A L F T N

BELSHAZZAR  
 DANIEL  
 FEAST  
 FINGERS

GODS  
 INSCRIPTION  
 INTERPRETATION  
 MENE

RULES  
 TEKEL  
 TROUBLED

UPHARSIN  
 VESSELS  
 WRITING



# The Writing On the Wall

By Paul Dallgas-Frey

... continued

"So you are Daniel," said the king. "I have heard that you have great wisdom and understanding, that you can answer riddles and solve puzzles - and that you can tell the meaning of dreams.

"I have called my magicians, sorcerers, and wisemen to tell me the meaning of this writing on the wall, but they can't do it. I will put a gold chain around your neck, a purple robe on your back, and I will make you the third most powerful man in all of Babylon, if you can tell me the meaning of the writing on the wall"

Daniel said, "You can keep your gold chain and your purple robe. But so that you will know that there is a God in heaven, and that he has power over all things, I will tell you what the writing on the wall means.

"O king, the Most High God made your father Nebuchadnezzar a great and mighty king. All the people in the world feared him because his power was so great. He could do whatever he pleased, and take whatever he wanted.

"But your father became proud. He started to think, 'How great and wonderful I am!' And so the Most High God took away your father's power, and he made him live like an animal. After seven years, your father finally understood that God is King over all things, and he can give power to whomever he wants.

"But you, King Belshazzar, have not learned from your father.

"You think you are so great. You think no one can tell you what you can do and what you can't do. And so you insulted God by using his sacred vessels for your drunken party. You bowed before statues of gold and silver, bronze and iron and wood.

These statues cannot see, they cannot hear. They can do nothing for you at all. But you couldn't even take a breath without God, and you do not praise or honor him.

"So the Almighty God has sent you this message...

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN.

"And this is what it means. MENE means that God has counted out the number of days you will be king, and they are over. TEKEL means that God has tested you, and you have not passed the test. And PARSIN means your kingdom will be divided, and given to the Medes and the Persians."

Well, at least King Belshazzar was true to his word. He put a chain of gold around Daniel's neck, and a purple robe on his back, and made him the third most powerful man in all of Babylon.

And that very night, King Belshazzar died.

His great and glorious kingdom and all his riches were given to Darius the Mede.

(Just a note. You might hear someone say, "The writing is on the wall." What they mean is that it looks like whatever is happening is about to come to an end, and there is nothing anyone can do to stop it.)