The Writing on the Wall

King Belshazzar was the son of King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel interprets the Writing on the wall, for which the king and his revelers drink wine from the vessels of the temple that were taken from Jerusalem. He did this with his wives before a thousand of his lords.

[Daniel 5:5](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/ot/dan/5.5?lang=eng" \l "p4" \t "_blank)

***1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.***

***2 Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.***

***3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.***

***4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.***

The gold, silver, brass and iron make sense out of tradition of the Great Image, but wood and stone seems like a corruption as the drinking and reveling was in itself.

***5 ¶ 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.***

***6 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.***

***7 The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.***

***8 Then came in all the king’s wise men: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof.***

***9 Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonied.***

The same argument regarding the Great Tree should be considered. It took a queen to call attention to Daniel.

***10 ¶ Now the queen, by reason of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed:***

***11 There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers;***

***12 Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.***

***13 Then was Daniel brought in before the king. And the king spake and said unto Daniel, Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry?***

***14 I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee.***

***15 And now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but they could not shew the interpretation of the thing:***

***16 And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.***

This is the same promise of king Nebuchadnezzar even though Daniel was now at the head of the astrologers.

***17 ¶ Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.***

***18 O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour:***

***19 And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down.***

***20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him:***

***21 And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.***

Daniel is rehearsing the experiences of Nebuchadnezzar.

***22 And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this;***

***23 But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:***

***24 Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written.***

***25 ¶ And this is the writing that was written, Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin.***

***26 This is the interpretation of the thing: Mene; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.***

***27 Tekel; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.***

***28 Peres; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.***

This is difficult for anyone to accept because the *Medes and Persians* are used. *God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it* applies well to the confirmation of the covenant for one week used by Daniel. It started in 1820 and was finished in 1848. This was very close to one of Daniel’s weeks of 29.57 years.

*Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.* To be wanting is to continue without the voice of Jesus Christ. The wanting is stumbling in darkness. The blindness of the Latter-day Saints denies this, claiming the God speaks to the prophets. The prophecy was fulfilled that the sun does go down over the prophets. Do the Saints seek after the Law of Consecration? No! There is nothing more wanting. They say heaven is a place to go and not a not simply to change ones heart. They prefer a beast’s heart rather than righteousness. Righteousness is assumed out of one’s social discourse and obedience to cultural rules. Many demand service in which others obey in order to mark themselves as servants. Just because the saints do not drink wine they still revel in their own glory, as did Belshazzar. Private prayer is the only real sign of humility. Loving thy neighbor as one’s self it another. This is service without asking.

*Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and the Persians.* Compare this with:

41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters’ clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. (Daniel 2:41)

It is like saying that a man is divided from humility to pride. The latter is destruction, as it was with Belshazzar. The iron remains strong and the clay is superficial and gives only an image of strength by dwelling on immoral acts as if the pride of obedience will save us.

***29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.***

***30 ¶ In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.***

***31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.***

We now have a new kingdom, where the former was destroyed. That is precisely what happened between Joseph Smith and Brigham Young—the basest of kings. God rules by giving power according to his will. This is the Lord’s judgment, for this builds character and humility over pride. Let the saints revel in darkness and drink gall to their own souls. In time they will learn humility or continue in pride. It separates the wheat from the shaft. Even among those who are not considered saint experience the same.

This ends the three dreams of the kings. If it was not for the remaining visions of Daniel, one could easily assume the dreams were about secular prophecy. This is the pattern in history and few even consider that the prophecies in the Old Testament are about the restoration. The later prophecies will become essential to finely gather the Jews unto Jesus Christ. It has been better that they remain separated because Christianity would have corrupted them. The same would be of the lost ten tribes. The tribe of Joseph filled the world of the Gentiles. The same is with the early Christian Jews. God is judging us all based on our humility towards him. Of what value is it to prophecy of secular kingdoms? It is not more essential to prophecy of the Lord’s kingdoms?