

THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

Lesson IV.

Daniel 5: 17-31—Memory Verses, 24-28

July 23, 1899

17 Then Dan'iel 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 Neb'uchadnezzar 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.

22 And thou his son, O Belshazz'zar, 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, ME/NE, ME/NE, TE/KEL, UPHAR/SIN.

26 This is the interpretation of the thing: ME/NE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

27 TE/KEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

28 PE/RES: Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Dan'iel 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 Belshazz'zar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

31 And Dari'us the Me'dian took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Though God had made Nebuchadnezzar a very rich and powerful king, his heart only got prouder and harder all the time. At last God sent him a very severe punishment and after that he died.

Belshazzar was now reigning.

He was quite a young man. He said, "I am not afraid of anything. I have the strongest soldiers in the world to fight for me, and I can enjoy myself as I like." So he made a great feast and invited all his friends.

Then he did a very wicked thing. He sent and got the holy cups and dishes that his father had carried off from God's house in Jerusalem and used them to drink wine out of while he and his friends shouted the praises of the heathen idol.

Suddenly something happened that frightened everyone, and made the king shiver all over.

This is what he saw: on the wall of the room a man's hand writing strange words.

