

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – March 21, 2010

The Handwriting On The Wall....

“They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone. In the same hour the finger’s of a man’s hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king’s countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other.” Daniel 5:4-6

Belshazzar had inherited the kingship of Babylon from his father Nebuchadnezzar. It is another father and son story where the son didn't really learn much from the experience of the father. God had handed over the kingdom of Judah to Nebuchadnezzar and with it certain vessels from the temple. Nebuchadnezzar set up a golden image and insisted that the people worship the god of gold he had made under threat of being thrown into the fiery furnace. Nebuchadnezzar backed up his threat by throwing three men into a fiery furnace who refused to worship the image, only to see the Lord save them. He also became very prideful about the greatness of the kingdom he had built, only to be made like an animal living in the wild and eating grass until he humbled himself before God and his kingdom was restored. Surely, Belshazzar had seen these things happen to his father and we wonder why he would not have taken such lessons to heart.

We don't have a great amount of detail about the kingship of Belshazzar, but the Bible does record the incident where Belshazzar threw a big feast for a thousand of his lords. He drank wine with them and his wives and concubines out of the consecrated vessels from the temple in Jerusalem and they praised idols of gold and silver, just like his father once had done. It was in the midst of this gathering that God worked that mysterious sign. A man's hand began to write the words of judgment on the wall. Not the king, nor his astrologers could interpret their meaning, but Daniel, who once had served Nebuchadnezzar by the interpretation of a

dream was called and he spoke the judgment of God to the king. The handwriting on the wall was not a blessing. It was a condemnation of the king who had failed to learn the lesson of his father; a king who worshipped idols and proclaimed his own greatness. That very night Belshazzar was slain and his kingdom handed over to Darius the Mede.

What lessons are we teaching to our posterity? Are they lessons of true worship and humility or are we more enamored with the gods of gold and silver? What is the handwriting on the wall saying about us and our children? Our true Father sent His beloved Son to be our Savior. He chose us to be His own by the sacrifice of the cross. The story that is written for us is one of love and mercy with the promise of eternal glory to come. If we refuse to humble ourselves, believe in Jesus Christ, and confess Him as Lord and Savior, then the handwriting on the wall for us is the pronouncement of eternal destruction. Through faith in Christ however, the kingdom of God's grace abounds and is restored to us!

- Remember: Christ alone is the Savior of mankind. The Triune God is the only true God. He alone has power to condemn and to save.
- Remember: The next generation is always watching. Be witnesses first in your own household that by your words and deeds your children and grandchildren will learn to know Jesus!

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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