

Free Sample Chapter [Chapter 14]: When God Left a Message on My Laptop

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.

Daniel 5:5 (KJV)

I am sure some of my readers are familiar with this amazing Old Testament story of Divine intervention in world affairs. Those who wish to do so may read the whole account in Daniel 5. I just want to provide a brief summary here.

Belshazzar, King of Babylon, organised a great feast for 1000 of his lords. During the feast, he commanded his servants to fetch the golden and silver vessels that his father, Nebuchadnezzar, had brought from the temple in Jerusalem to Babylon so the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink from them. His command was followed. The king and his guests drank from them, praising their gods as they did so.

Then it happened! Suddenly a hand appeared from nowhere and began to write on the wall: "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN" (Daniel 5:25 (KJV)). Not surprisingly, the king and everyone present were terrified, horror-stricken by the supernatural manifestation. The king subsequently summoned his magicians and diviners and charged them with the task of interpreting the writing—but none of them could.

At that juncture the queen thought of Daniel, who was renowned for his wisdom. Daniel was accordingly called. The king asked him to help with the interpretation, promising to make him third in rank in the kingdom should he succeed in doing so. Daniel turned down the offer of promotion, but agreed to interpret the strange inscription all the same—not by his wisdom, he stressed, but rather through the wisdom imparted to him by Almighty God. Daniel reminded Belshazzar that his father Nebuchadnezzar's greatness was the gift of God, and that when he became arrogant God threw him down until he learned humility: "...the Most High God has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals, and sets over it whomever He will." Belshazzar has drunk from the vessels of God's Temple and praised his idols, but he has not given honour to God, and so God sent this hand and wrote those words: "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN"