

## Chapter 5. – Warning against pride toward God

*„And you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this; But have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before you, and you, and your lords, your wives, and your concubines, have drunk wine in them; and you have praised the gods of silver, and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand your breath is, and whose are all your ways, have you not glorified:“ Daniel 5,22-23;*

Jesus testified about his Father, God Almighty, that he is good (Mark 10:18). This is true. That is why our heavenly Father had this cautionary story written down in the Bible. God does not delight in the death of the wicked and does everything He can to warn and turn everyone away from their evil intentions and pride (Ezekiel 18:23; 33:11).

The story of King Belshazzar is a transparent and clear warning to all rulers and governments on earth. King Belshazzar had brought to the feast the vessels that his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from God's temple in conquered Jerusalem. That was not the reason for what happened next. The reason for sending a human hand to write on the wall by the lampstand was that they were celebrating false gods made by human hands (Dan. 5:4-5). They did not remember the Most High God of heaven. When Daniel came to read and interpret the writing on the wall to the king, God explained through Daniel what King Belshazzar had done.

*“Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let your gifts be to yourself, and give your rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation. O king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honor: 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. 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: And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys: 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 appoints over it whomever he will. And you*

*his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this; But have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before you, and you, and your lords, your wives, and your concubines, have drunk wine in them; and you have praised the gods of silver, and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand your breath is, and whose are all your ways, have you not glorified: Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written. And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE; God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; you are weighed in the balances, and are found wanting. PERES; Your kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. ” (Daniel 5,17-28)*

This is a clear warning to human rulers and governments to respect the Most High God, who has the power to appoint and depose rulers and governments according to His will. Otherwise, they may end up like King Belshazzar. You may be wondering why God allowed atheistic communist governments to rule, which even openly denied God's existence and persecuted churches. Jesus explains this in the parable of the “wheat and the weeds” (Matthew 13:36-43). All good and evil must “mature” so that sin can be sealed and perversity atoned for (Dan. 9:24), so that God's judgment (Dan. 7:9) and God's punishment (Rev. 15:7-8; 16:1) can take place.

A time is coming when God's people must prove their faithfulness and perseverance. In countries where Christ's servants are already being persecuted, they know what this means. Every ruler and government can accept God's warning contained in the story of King Belshazzar. Everyone can accept the words of the Psalmist: *“Be wise now therefore, O you kings: be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”* (Psalm 2:10-12).