

Today, we'd like to study the title of "TEKEL" in *Daniel 5:17-31*.

To Online Word's people, we'd like to suggest 3 Questions:

Q1. In verse 17, "Then Daniel answered, and said before the king, "Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another; yet I will read the writing to the king, and make known to him the interpretation," what can we see in the phrase of "Let your gifts be for yourself"?

Q2. In verse 23, "And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who *holds* your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified," what can we learn from "their drinking wine from the vessels of His house"?

Q3. In verse 27, "TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting," would your righteousness outweigh your unrighteousness if your life were weighed in the balance scale?

(Background)

Judah had been attacked and carried away as captivity by Babylon since 606 BC. In 586 BC, Judah was completely conquered by Babylon. Babylon was reigned by Nebuchadnezzar for about 40 years. Then, his son, Nabonidus, reigned the territory of Babylon except the capital city, the well fortified city, through which the river Euphrates flowed, reigned by his son Belshazzar. Babylon was conquered by Mede-Persia through Darius stated only in this chapter 5, not stated Darius 1 or 2 in Ezra. Other records name no king between Belshazzar and Cyrus. Thus, Darius the Mede might have been a king who only survived shortly about 3 years after the capture of Babylon. Then, Cyrus the general of the Persian army became king over the Mede-Persian Empire.

<p><sup>17</sup>Then Daniel answered, and said before the king, "<u>Let your gifts be for yourself</u>, and give</p>	<p>17= Q1 Let your gifts be for yourself(1 the gift of God is not for sale, but for the Kingdom of God and His righteousness <sup>1</sup>Acts 8:18-22; Mat 10:8; 2. Righteous</p>
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<sup>1</sup> Acts 8:18-22 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup> saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."<sup>20</sup> But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be

your rewards to another; yet I will read the writing to the king, and make known to him the interpretation. <sup>18</sup> O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom and majesty, glory and honor. <sup>19</sup> And because of the majesty that He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whomever he wished, he executed; whomever he wished, he kept alive; whomever he wished, he set up; and whomever he wished, he put down. <sup>20</sup> But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him. <sup>21</sup> Then he was driven from the sons of men, 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 rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses.

<sup>22</sup> “But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. <sup>23</sup> And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines,

interpretation not influenced by prior gifts;  
3. Old Daniel (about 90 age) does not need it (no covetousness)

18= Nebuchadnezzar your father (in fact, your grandfather)  
19= He gave him (God was a Provider)

21= till he knew that the Most High God rules in the ..... appoints over it whomever He chooses (Sovereign God)

22= his son (grandson), Belshazzar; you knew all this (intentionally blasphemed God and profaned the things of God)

23=Q2 lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven (his pride or arrogance); the vessels of His house (things of God); drunk wine from them (not for God’s purpose but for own sinful purpose, e.g., donations to God <sup>2</sup>Mat 22:21); the gods of silver and gold...which do not see or hear or know <sup>3</sup>Psalm 115:3-4; Psalm 135:15-21

purchased with money! <sup>21</sup> You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. <sup>22</sup> Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. *Mat 10:8* Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

<sup>2</sup> *Mat 22:21* They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

<sup>3</sup> *Psalm 115:3-4* But our God *is* in heaven: He does whatever He pleases.

<sup>4</sup> Their idols *are* silver and gold, The work of men’s hands. *Psalm 135:15-21* The idols of the nations *are* silver and gold, The work of men’s hands. <sup>16</sup> They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; <sup>17</sup> They have ears, but they do not hear; Nor is there *any* breath in their mouths. <sup>18</sup> Those who make them are like them; *So is* everyone who trusts in them. <sup>19</sup> Bless the LORD, O house of Israel! Bless the LORD, O house of Aaron!

<p>have <u>drunk wine from them</u>. And you have praised <u>the gods</u> of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, <u>which do not see or hear or know</u>; and the <u>God who holds your breath in His hand</u> and owns all your ways, <u>you have not glorified</u>. <sup>24</sup>Then the fingers of the hand were sent from Him, and this writing was written.</p> <p><sup>25</sup> "And this is <u>the inscription</u> that was written:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.</p> <p><sup>26</sup>This <i>is</i> the interpretation of <i>each</i> word. MENE: God has <u>numbered</u> your kingdom, and <u>finished</u> it;</p> <p><sup>27</sup>TEKEL: You have been <u>weighed in the balances</u>, and <u>found wanting</u>;</p> <p><sup>28</sup>PERES: Your kingdom has been <u>divided</u>, and given <u>to the Medes and Persians</u>."</p> <p><sup>29</sup>Then Belshazzar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with purple and <i>put</i> a chain of gold around his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be <u>the third ruler in the kingdom</u>.</p> <p><sup>30</sup>That very night <u>Belshazzar</u>, king of the</p>	<p>; God who holds your breath in His hand (God sustains your life, so you owe your life to God. God is the sustainer of life!); you have not glorified (God).</p> <p>25= the inscription (a cryptic inscription)</p> <p>26= MENE... numbered, finished (your kingdom, your kingdom is over, e.g. "your soul will be required of you" <sup>4</sup>Luke 12:19-20)</p> <p>27=Q3 TEKEL ...weighed in the balances (a balance is a symbol of justice; e.g., lady justice – Roman goddess- holding balance scales(measuring), wearing a blindfold (impartiality) in a court or law school ); found wanting (found lacking – his unrighteousness of his life overweighs his righteousness; all human works no matter what are found wanting but through the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior – repent, belief, water baptism, etc)</p> <p>28= PERES (singular form of UPHARSIN) divided....to Medes and Persians ("its chest and arms of silver" <sup>5</sup>Dan 2:32)</p> <p>29= the third ruler in the kingdom (1<sup>st</sup> Belshazzar; 2<sup>nd</sup> his father Nabonidus; then 3<sup>rd</sup> to Daniel)</p> <p>30= Belshazzar... was slain (Daniel did not mention in detail, archeologists say in</p>
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<sup>20</sup> Bless the LORD, O house of Levi! You who fear the LORD, bless the LORD! <sup>21</sup> Blessed be the LORD out of Zion, Who dwells in Jerusalem! Praise the LORD!

<sup>4</sup> Luke 12:19-20 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years: take your ease: eat, drink, and be merry." <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

<sup>5</sup> Dan 2:32 This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,

<p>Chaldeans, <u>was slain</u>.</p> <p><sup>31</sup> And <u>Darius</u> the Mede received the kingdom, <i>being about sixty-two years old</i>.</p>	<p>variety – we may choose their sayings to make us understand His Word, not to pervert/confuse it)</p> <p>31= Darius the Mede (from the Mede) about 62 years old (short reigned for about 3 years, then Cyrus became the king of Mede-Persia; about 150 years before this event, Isaiah prophesized in <sup>6</sup><i>Isaiah 44:28</i> How marvelous is the Word of God! )</p>
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<sup>6</sup> *Isaiah 44:28* Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid."