

One night, Belshazzar held a grand banquet and was enjoying himself. In the midst of the festivities, a terrifying sight appeared: fingers of a human hand emerged and began writing on the wall of the palace. Overcome with fear, King Belshazzar was terrified and trembled uncontrollably. His face turned pale, his knees knocked together, and he could barely stand. When no one could interpret the writing, Daniel came forward and explained it to the king.

Daniel revealed that the message was one of God's judgment and warning. He interpreted the words as follows:

MENE MENE: This means "to number" or "count."

TEKEL: This means "to weigh," as in being measured on a scale.

UPARSIN: The "U" stands for "and," and "Parsin" means "divided."

Thus, Daniel explained that God had numbered the days of Belshazzar's kingdom and brought it to an end. Belshazzar had been weighed on God's scales and found wanting, and his kingdom would be divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

True to his word, the king rewarded Daniel with a purple robe, a gold chain, and a high-ranking position. But that very night, Belshazzar was killed. The Persian and Median armies diverted the river's waters and invaded through the riverbed, conquering Babylon and killing Belshazzar.

What does God want to say to us through today's scripture? What does He want us to realize?

First, God counts our days.

Although we may not know, our lives on this earth are limited. It is not we who determine our time, but God. It is obvious that time on this earth is not eternal. Over the past three weeks of the new year, we've already had three funerals. This reminds us of the undeniable truth that our time here is finite.

In verse 22, it says, "But you, Belshazzar, his son, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this." Belshazzar did not repent, even though he knew these truths. He continued to boast about what he possessed and remained arrogant, refusing to honor God. But that night was his last. He did not know that his life would end that day, yet he held a banquet for 1,000 nobles and indulged in wine. Even in the face of his final warning, he failed to repent.

Second, God weighs our lives.

God weighs our lives and judges them. In verse 27, Belshazzar is found lacking in God's eyes. He is judged to be deficient and condemned to destruction and division. Despite having everything and living a life of privilege, Belshazzar's life was deemed insufficient before God.

If it is God who measures the weight of our lives, how can we remain proud? Before God, we are nothing. Belshazzar's pride, which led him to elevate himself instead of God, was the sin that made him fall short. To stand before God, we must humble ourselves and exalt Him.

Third, we must repent and come before God's grace.

Therefore, we must all repent and come before God's grace today. Do not ignore God's message of judgment. Until Belshazzar's last day, God was speaking to him—not to frighten him or disrupt his party but to lead him to repentance and salvation.

If we stand before God relying only on our own efforts and merits, none of us can stand confidently. However, there is one way we can stand before God despite our inadequacies, pride, and sin. Through the righteousness achieved by Jesus on the cross—through the weight of His righteousness—God allows us to stand as saved beings.

Remember this truth. No matter how much you possess or accomplish, do not become proud. Instead, humble yourself, empty yourself, and seek God's grace.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

**Bible
Reading**

1/20(Mon)	1/21(Tue)	1/22(Wed)	1/23(Thur)	1/24(Fri)	1/25(Sat)	1/26(Sun)
Gen. 25-27	Gen. 28-30	Gen. 31	Gen. 32-34	Gen. 35-37	Gen. 38-41	Gen. 42-43

QT

Quiet Time Passage

1/20(Mon)	1/21(Tue)	1/22(Wed)	1/23(Thur)	1/24(Fri)	1/25(Sat)	1/26(Sun)
John 6:22-40	John 6:41-59	John 6:60-71	John 7:1-13	John 7:14-24	John 7:25-36	John 7:37-52

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Share the grace of God that you experienced in your life through last week's sermon or your daily devotions.

2. Share any new insights or blessings you received from today's message.

3. Reflect on your life before God, who counts and weighs it, and pray a prayer of repentance together.