



“Every man dies, but not every man lives.” -Braveheart
“For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”
-James, half brother of Jesus

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”
-The Apostle Paul

Daniel Series, Nine: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN

It is easy to die for the cause, it is harder to live for it. And it is not in the rough seas that men grow tired, but in the calm.

Eleutheria: To do as one wants. Liberty.

Mark Antony along with ally and love Cleopatra, suffered defeat in 31 BC, leading to the senate granting extraordinary powers to Octavian, making him the first emperor. Thus thwarting the hopes of furthering liberty, but rather causing the fall of the Republic. If only there were more on the side of freedom. Or if only someone knew what to do. And if only they who knew what to do, would have done it.

“And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.” -I Chronicles 12:32

Since the days before John F. Kennedy there has been a beast lurking in the high grass in the United States. But as a cobra lifts his head, so too the beast. All the while planning and plotting, biding his time. The minutes, the hours...the days, the years slip by knowing the swamp thickens...deeper and wider. All the while hoping for men of old, men of renown to step up, to unsheathe the sword. But where are such men? Are there none left? None to save? No men of Issachar? No mighty men of David? “Is there not a cause?” In 2020 the U.S. was hit with a bioweapon. Assaulted by men from without,

and men from within. Then removal of Eleutheria, the lockdowns. Then a rollout of deadly injections, then a rigged election, a coup d’état.

“For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father’s house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” -Esther 4:14

Be advised.

The United States of America is not the covenant nation of Israel. We do not have the benefit, such as “from another place,” and the writing is on the wall. Consult the words of Moses.

“The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” -Psalm 90:10

The lawgiver begins with days. The days lead to years, and to the crossing of the river. Death. But by reason of strength, one may endure an extended number of days, but these days are described as “labour and sorrow.” The body is eroding, decreasing, an ever-reminder that the Jordan be nigh.

“Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.” -Psalm 90:11

The “power of Thine anger,” it is the curse. We have been



placed in a bad situation. Moses was familiar with the bad situation. From birth there was a death threat. He had to be raised by a foreign family. He then was a fugitive on the run for murder, defending another. From there, forty years as a shepherd in the deserts near Arabia. Then risking his life in a bout with the Pharaoh, only to finish out his days wandering around in the desert with continual aggravation. Despite the fact the destination, the Promised Land was near, the longest, most difficult path was always before him. It always appeared as monotony and futility, all the while the days expiring one by one. But just before his death, the crescendo of his life...a view of the Promised Land. "Mine eyes have seen the glory..." it was worth it all.

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." -Psalm 90:12

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." But we are but dust.

"Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it." -Psalm 90:16-17

The work before us is arduous, worse yet, monotonous, even futile seeming. The intellect knows it is of utmost importance. Men have given their lives. So he asks for a specific wisdom, "teach us to number our days." To not lose footing, to appreciate the severity and the preciousness of the time. To tighten the strings of our boots, to "gird up our loins." And to fortify our resolve, let "Thy" work appear. Let us see that which doth not appear to the natural eye. To see the Lord's fingerprints in the field, Thy Divine Providence.

Moses also intercedes for another imperative: a generational request, to pull the curtain back for the children to see. We can tell stories of old, and happenings to us, but they must behold the "glory" with their own eyes, with their own ears, then to "establish it."

Nine long years after Concord, nine bloody years after Lexington, a small note was passed from Jefferson to Adams, "My friend, you and I have lived in serious times." We not only need to refresh ourselves of the severity of the times, to run hard each day, but to have the Lord establish it. For it is war of good and evil.

The prophet Daniel at this point is not just about a

dream, the interpretation thereof, or the writing on the wall, but it is most concerning the time, times, epochs... or timing. "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee."

"Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein." -Daniel 5:1-2

This was not an average day in the kingdom, but a certain day, a marked day. Romans 8:28 rings true, and the days are numbered whether acknowledged or not. This day a celebration of great magnificence is held in the royal court, with 1,000 lords in attendance. The table is set, the room adorned with the finest jewels, full pomp and splendor, wine, women, and song. As the king gorges, he arises, emptying a chalice down his throat, and makes a command. "Bring the golden and silver vessels" that were stolen from the temple in Jerusalem.

Be advised. These vessels have been at the city of Shinar for near forty years. Why bring them out now?

"In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another. The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom." -Daniel 5:5-7

Of course, they can neither read, nor interpret the writing. Those of curious arts or lying signs and wonders are always illegitimate. "Let God be true and every man a liar." After all the wise men falter, the queen is called in. Now the queen is not wife of the king, for the wives and concubines were already in attendance. It is quite likely the queen is the serving wife of king Nebuchadnezzar which makes her king Belshazzar's grandmother. One can



not be so imbecilic as to ignore the wisdom of the aged. ○ that man would “honor thy father and honor thy mother.”

“... O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed: There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers.” -Daniel 5:10-11

They recognize him as Daniel of Jewry, of the captivity. This is significant to remind everyone present, for Daniel is quite aged and the events of the taking captives are now far removed. It has been many decades. It is also imperative to recall the captivity is the Lord’s doing. “In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim, king of Judah into his hand.”

“Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation. O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour: 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.” -Daniel 5:17-20

Be advised. The thread that runs through the prophecy of Daniel is the transfer of dominion. Despite the potent power, the vast domain, and the ruthless domination Nebuchadnezzar had over the world, the Sovereign Lord sees fit to bring the haughty to nothing. The Lord brings the strongest of men to their knees. And this type of humiliation, the stroke of insanity brought to his grandfather (or possible great grandfather) would no doubt, be known. Belshazzar certainly was familiar, yet is smitten with the same death sentence of pride.

“And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this; But hast

lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified.” -Daniel 5:22-23

Belshazzar be a stubborn man, who willingly ignores the warnings. In fact he is stiffnecked to the point of gnashing of teeth, and this day brings out the vessels of the house of the Lord which have been in store in the city of Shinar for seventy years. What would drive a man to such villainous spite? The Medes and the Persians have already succeeded in capturing most of the provinces of Babylon. And they are advancing upon him, but the walls of Babylon are impenetrable. And in open defiance, he drinks with 1,000 of his lords, profanes with women, and mocks the God of the Hebrews until...

“MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.”

Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting.

“Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written... MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.” -Daniel 5:24-28

The pendulum swings, and the clock strikes midnight. It is time. Daniel was taken captive in the first wave, 607 BC and now the calendar turns 538 BC in the sixty-ninth year with the minutes and seconds ticking away. The Lord proclaimed through the voice of the prophets “seventy years” Israel will go into captivity. And the time hastens on. There are kings many, and there are sovereigns many, but there be One Sovereign Lord and He revealed His secrets unto the prophets of old.

Behold, the plan... the plan given in writing 175 years prior.

“Sing, O ye heavens; for the LORD hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel. Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that



*maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish; That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof: That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers.”
-Isaiah 44:23-27*

“...That saith to the deep, Be dry.” The city of Babylon was a fortified city nearly fourteen miles square. Walls nearing eighty feet thick, to ride chariots four to five abreast. Walls at 300 feet high. Gates of polished brass and iron. Decades of food storage, ongoing fresh produce of tropical trees, lush fruits and vegetables. Vineyards and orchards, the gardens, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Master civil engineering took water of the Euphrates River through an inlet beneath the wall and coursing through a complex aqueduct system. But the Persians dug canals to divert the water and the river went “dry.” The next issue to conquer is the iron bars and gates through which the water flowed. But this, Divine Providence would handle.

Be advised, this is written near 175 years prior to the campaign, yet the Most High calls the Persian king, that has not been born yet, by name.

“Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.” -Isaiah 45:1-3

Babylon the great is fallen is fallen, and how great is the fall. And in the seventieth year, the city fell, and the prophecy fulfilled right down to the naming of the king. He knows your name.

“Teach us to number our days.” The Sovereign Lord has allotted each man his days of years. “And who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Land of the free, home of the brave.

Break free from the chain...take the hill.

