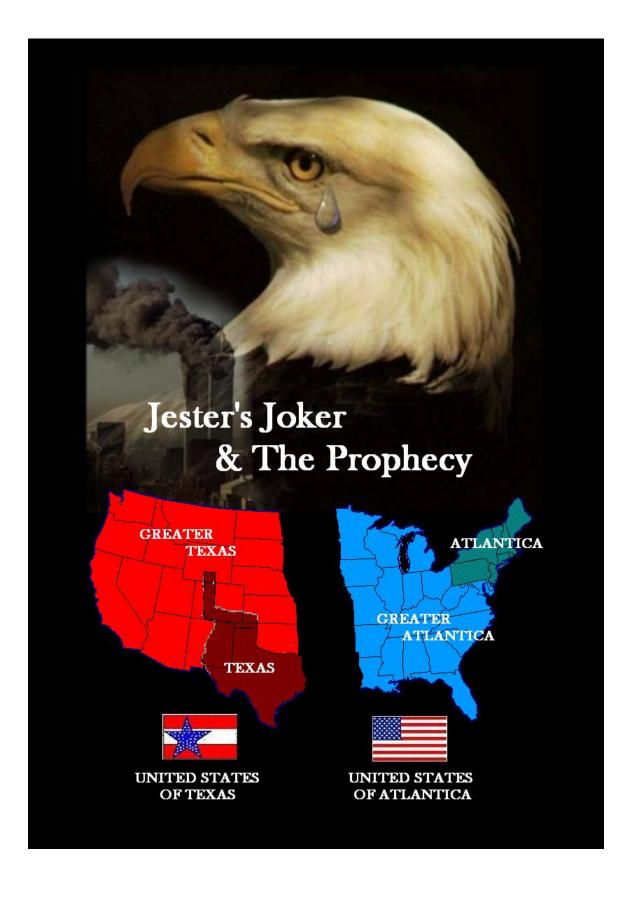


Front Cover



Pleasant Thoughts

What is man but the sum of his thoughts?
And are not his thoughts like the light on candle.
That burns for a while and than silently buns out

Pleasant are the thoughts of the love and attention of a beautiful young woman

Torturous and painful are the thoughts of a vile, sterile and angry old tyrant

I would rather die believing there is a good, kind and gentle God, Than believing there is not,

So when the light on my candle burns out, Well, it will just burn out.

"MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN"

Count, count, weigh, divide, equals, times, time, and, half time

King Belshazzar was throwing a party with a banquet. It was a great feast for many of his fellow rulers of the Babylonian Empire. And calling for the Jewish altar goblets, which were taken in the conquest of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Jewish temple, He had these temple goblets filled with his wines and beers, and saluting himself and his kingdom, lauding his majesty and longevity. As they were praising pagan gods (vs. 1-5), a hand appeared to write those words on the palace wall. The King was astonished at this apparition, and fitfully demanded to know what the words meant, blithely offering a reward of royal office of the highest rank.

So, at the queen-mother's suggestion they recalled Daniel a prophet in from retirement, who was formerly a royal thinker selected from Jewish captives.

This is the interpretation of each word given by Daniel the prophet .Dan: 5:25-28.

MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it:

TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting:

PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

These words were units of weight, much like the ounce and pound or gram and kilogram. The base unite in Babylon was the gold shekel or "tekel." Twenty-five shekels made an "upharsin," and fifty shekels made a "mene." The phrase also therefore indicated a sum, as follows:

MENE (50) + MENE (50) + TEKEL (1) + (UPHARSIN (25) = 126

Furthermore, each shekel was divided into 20 gerahs (Ezek. 45:12), so the above total of 126 shekels also equals 2,500 gerahs.

As Daniel interpreted the vision for Belshazzar in Daniel 5:26-28, this phrase indicated that God had measured the Babylonian kingdom and found it lacking.

This prophecy was also confirming a previous prophecy that Daniel had foretold to Belshazzar's father and predecessor, King Nebuchadnezar that Babylon was going to be punished for 2,520 years.

In Daniel 4, Nebuchanezzar had been told that his kingdom would suffer punishment of "seven times." In the Bible, a "time" is equal to a year of 360 days, as indicated in Revelation 12:6, 14 and 13:5. Each verse is talking about the same period of time, that being 1,260 days, 3.5 "times" or 42 months, respectively. Therefore, seven times is the equivalent of 2,520 days. However, as is the case in many prophecies, a day represents a year (Num. 14:34; Ezek, 4:6), so this "seven time" actually indicates 2,520 years.

In conclusion, we see that, in addition to the literal "word-for-word" interpretation that Daniel offered Belshazzar (vs.: 26-28), he also prophesied that Babylonian kingdom would be punished for 2,520 years (fulfillment begins in Dan. 5:30-31), after which it was to rise again (Dan. 4), one final time as will the Holy Roman Empire in Europe will. (Rev. 17 & 18), before the Return of Christ Jesus.

Babylon will once again rise to its former glory. It will once again be called the city of gold, only to be destroyed in one hour. In one hour shall her destruction be complete.

"And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. The merchants

of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, And saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! For in one hour is she made desolate." (Revelation 18:9-19)

MENE MENE TEKEL UPARSIN



Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sits in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision (Psalms 2:1-4)

Behold, the nations are as a drop of water in a bucket, and are counted as a speck of dust on the scales of balance; Behold he <u>"lifts up"</u> islands like fine dust particles. (Isaiah 40:15)

The Jester's Joker & The Prophecy

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