



Church of Perth Intercessory Team

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 CHRONICLES 7:14

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HEART TO HEART

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THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL

In 539BC King Belshazzar of Babylon watched pale-faced as the fingers of a human hand wrote on the wall of the royal palace, "ME-NE, ME-NE, TE-KEL, U-PHARSIN." These words were interpreted by the prophet Daniel: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting. Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians. That very night Belshazzar was slain and his kingdom taken by Darius the Mede. Just why was Belshazzar punished by God? Daniel accused him of three things: (1) Setting himself up against the Lord of Heaven and desecrating that which was sacred; (2) Accepting and praising other gods; and (3) Not honoring the God who held his life and all his ways in His hand. In other words, he was guilty of the pride of self-sufficiency, the profanity of sacred things and the worship of false gods.

Well, how different are we today? We reckon ourselves so clever we feel no need of God. Dazzled by man's inventions and believing in our scientific ability and modern technology to cure all our social and physical problems, who needs God? Thus has grown our pride of self-sufficiency. Like Belshazzar of old we are too reliant on our own cleverness and scornful of the Holy One who holds this world in the palm of His hand. Moreover, all around us the things of God are profaned—treating the sacred as secular. The Lord's day is profaned. Instead of setting aside one day in seven for the re-creation of the human spirit by the worship of God, we treat it as any other day. The Lord's Name is constantly used as a profanity instead of reverently. The Holy Bible is profaned and rejected as a guide to our daily living.

In His Word, our Lord God says that human life is sacred because man was made in His image; yet we abort about some 90,000 babies in the womb each year. He says that homosexuality is an abomination; yet we allow "gays" to flaunt their disgusting lifestyle in our streets. He says that He hates divorce; yet we allow it to destroy nearly half of all marriages today. He says that sex is to be limited to marriage but now we find that living together out of wedlock is an acceptable way of life. He says that anyone who looked lustfully at a woman has already committed adultery with her in his heart; yet pornography is allowed to flood this country with enticements to adultery, fornication and worse. He destroyed the world in Noah's day because it was full of corruption and violence; yet now violence is encouraged through the freedom given to TV producers by lax censorship. God says to "remember the Creator in the days of your youth" (Ecclesiastes 12:1) yet humanistic educators are teaching children that there is no Creator.

Belshazzaar was guilty of worshipping false gods. Are we not doing the same? Has not humanism become a god? Like the atheistic Swinburne do we not sing: "Glory to man in the highest"? For many people, humanism has become a polite name for a vocal, aggressive, influential crusade against Christianity under the guise of social and moral progress. But there's nothing new about humanism; it is the yielding to the devil's first temptation to Adam and Eve "You shall be as gods". However, since we have made a god of man, our eyes are no longer lifted up to the sky but are turned inward, distorting our whole understanding of life. No wonder so many see life as meaningless!

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets. Now in these last days He is speaking to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. God promised everything to Him as an inheritance and through the Son, He made the universe and everything in it. Jesus reflects God's own glory and everything about Him represents God exactly. Seated at the right hand of God, He sustains the universe by the mighty power of His command (Hebrews 1 vs 1-3). Today, many would rather put their trust in science than in God. The nuclear age has greatly reduced the faith that was once firmly woven into our culture. Yet, like the other gods of our generation, science fails to satisfy the deep longings of the human soul. We are as guilty as King Belshazzar of praising other gods, be they humanism, science, materialism, sex, compromise or man himself and failing to give God the honor, glory and praise due to Him, the One who holds our future in His hand and, the writing is on the wall. We have been weighed in the balances and found wanting. Judgement fell on Belshazzar that very night and judgement will fall on us.

However, there is still hope. As leaders in this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. God's judgement can be stayed for He promises, "If at any time I announce that a nation or a kingdom is to be uprooted, torn and destroyed and that nation repents of its evil, I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned" (Jeremiah 18 vs 7 & 8), **THE BALL IS IN YOUR COURT**...

OUR PRAYER

Our loving Father in heaven hallowed be Your Name. We faithfully come in one accord to thank You for Your gift of special faith to us to bring all praises, honor and glory to You for You alone are worthy to be praised. Holy Father, we acknowledge that apart from You we can do nothing. We are the one leper returning to sincerely thank You, Father for healing us, touching us, hearing our cry and making us whole and new, through our Lord Jesus Christ whom You have sent to reconcile us back to You. Thank You, Holy Father, for Your unconditional love and forgiveness.

Sovereign Lord, we love to worship You with all our hearts as You reign over all the earth, and You are able to fulfil Your purpose as sure as the coming morn. Lord God, be to us a fortress, a strong high tower, a deep shelter, a place of refuge and safety; we trust and abide in You with all the vicissitudes of our lives. Help us, Lord to walk with You in Your Spirit and by Your amazing grace, help us to be in the centre of Your will as we travail in prayer for the lost souls to be found, the captives to be set free, the blind to see, the deaf to hear, and the sick to be healed by Your stripes.

Gracious Father, we stand in full confidence in Your holy light, acknowledging that Your testimonies are very sure. We pray and ask You, Father, in Jesus' righteousness, to intensify Your actions. It is not enough to wait until tomorrow for revival. Bring it today, Lord. It is not enough to wait for our government and civic leaders' hearts to change and love You. Bless them and melt their hearts today, Lord that they will hear Your cry and be yoked to the Jesus Christ who will lead them by His Holy Spirit of Truth to redeem this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit from the enormous turmoil, satanic fury and hatred. Heavenly Father, we thank You that in the preamble to the referendum regarding whether Australia should be a republic, our Prime Minister who is Your representative, led by Your Holy Spirit wants to include You, O God. Let there be no compromise, O Lord Jesus Christ. Let the God of the preamble be the God of the Bible. Leave us not nor forsake us, O God, for our nation's salvation, redemption and restoration.

We thank You, Father, for hearing our cry as we ask this in the majestic Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

C.O.P.I.T Led by our Lord Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man, in love and faithfulness to bring glory to our Eternal Father in Jesus' name. Amen and Glory