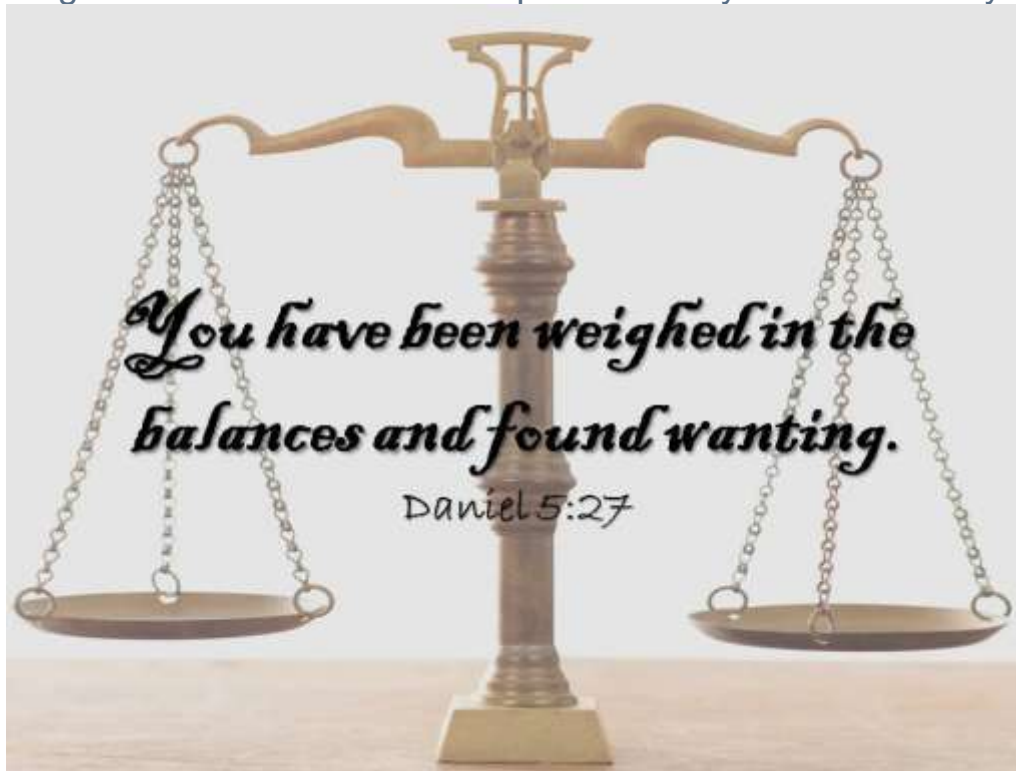


BEING WEIGHED BY GOD

Daniel 5:27 "Tekel; thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."

Gravity may be defined as that mysterious force which causes all matter to attract to itself all other matter. It is gravity which causes weight, and weight can be measured. Actually, weight is the amount of the force of gravity. There are two common methods for measuring weight, one is by the spring scale and the other by the balance scale. The latter is certainly familiar to all of us. It consists of a bar balanced exactly in the center with pans on each side. When an object is to be weighed, it is placed in one pan, and weights are added to the other pan until they are horizontally balanced.



Our text refers to such a balance scale, but with this difference, the balances and scales are the measurement of God's justice, and God Himself is doing the weighing. He is weighing a man. Let us consider this act of God.

BEING WEIGHED BY GOD

1. HOW TERRIFYING TO BE FOUND WANTING

In a drunken spirit of defiance to the God of the Israelites Belshazzar sent for the vessels which were captured from the temple at Jerusalem by his father Nebuchadnezzar, so that he and his party might drink toasts to their

heathen idols. Naturally, this audacity angered the Lord and He caused a hand to make some writing on the wall of the palace. The king became terrified when he saw the writing. No one could read or interpret what was written on the wall until Daniel was summoned, and he explained the meaning. Daniel showed from the writing that the days of the kingdom were ended as Belshazzar was being “weighed in God’s scales and was found wanting”. The Medes and Persians overran the kingdom and in that same night Belshazzar was slain.



Belshazzar is not the only person of whom it may be said, “Weighed and found wanting.” The old world was found wanting and was destroyed by the great flood. The builders of the tower of Babel were judged by God and He scattered them over the face of the earth. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were weighed and they were destroyed. Saul, the first king of Israel, was put on the divine balances and we find him falling on his own sword. Daniel explained to Belshazzar how his father Nebuchadnezzar had been weighed by God, and how the Lord afflicted him with insanity which caused the proud king to eat grass like the animals. We remember how Haman set himself against the people of God and a little later he was found hanging from the gallows he had erected for his rival. Judas was found lacking and he hanged himself.

We are often moved by the tears of a child or a woman, but when such a person as Jesus weeps, we are deeply concerned and disturbed. We see Jesus weeping over the city of Jerusalem, weeping because they spurned and rejected Him, their only hope of eternal life. Jerusalem was also weighed by God and was found wanting. Jesus foretold the doom of the city, not one stone would be left upon another in the great destruction to come, which took place in 70 A.D. The Apostles finally turned to the

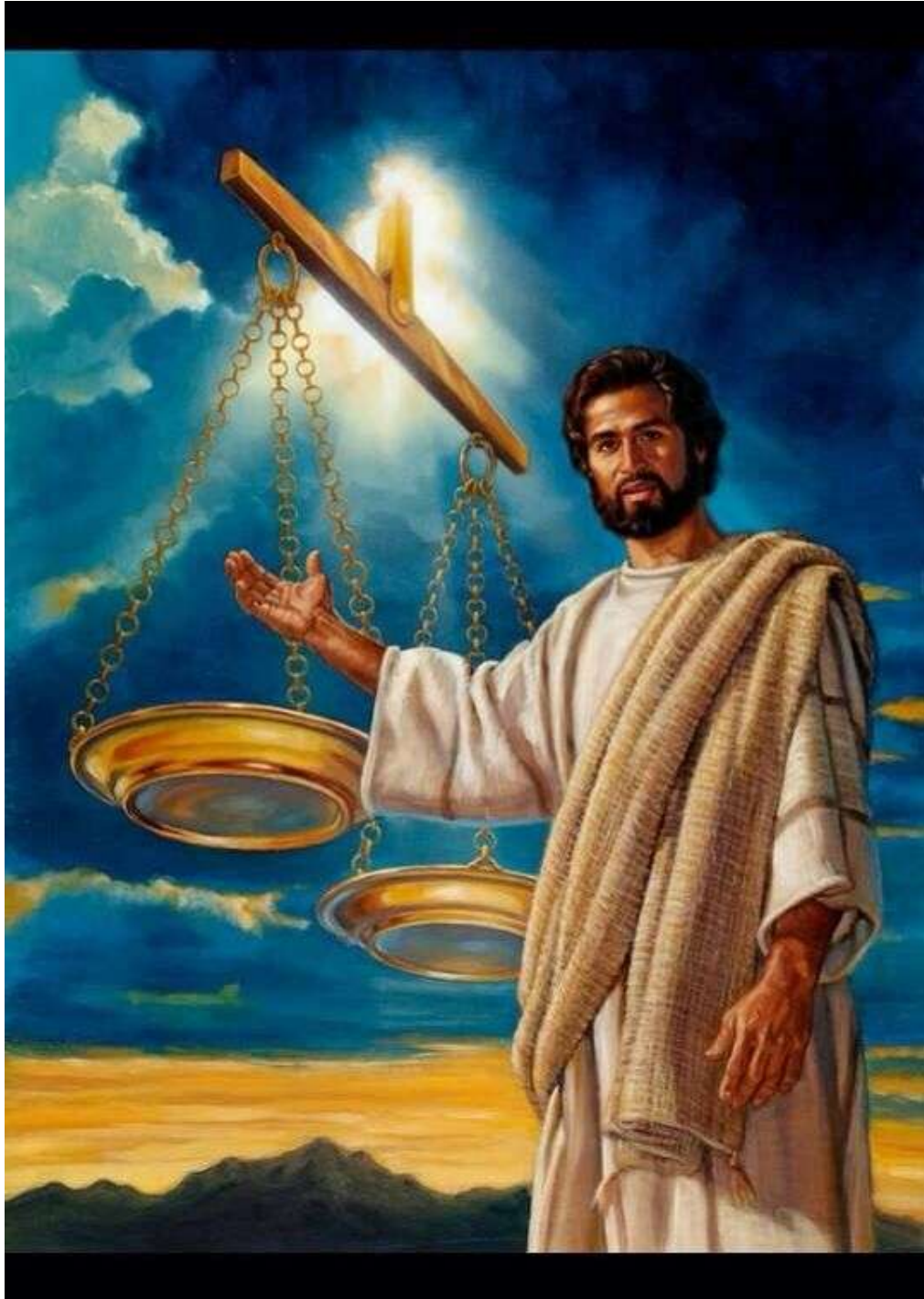
Gentiles because the Jews persisted in their rejection of their only Savior and Redeemer.

All of us must step on the Lord's scales. **What will the "reading" be?** We have already been told!! [Rom.3:12](#) "They are all gone out of the way." [Rom.3:33](#) "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." [Isaiah 64:6](#) "We are all as an unclean thing." [1 John 1:8](#) "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves." [Ps 19:12](#) "Who can understand his errors?" These are a few of the "readings" on the scales of the Lord's judgment of man. Almost the same thoughts as that of our text are expressed in [Ps 143:2](#) "Enter not into judgment with thy servant, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified."

So all of us are weighed and found wanting. No human being can stand before the stern look of God's holiness and be found to balance the scales. Yet the scales must be balanced if we hope to go to heaven. Can it be done? 2. HOW COMFORTING TO HAVE THE SCALES BALANCED

It is useless and hopeless for any human being to try to balance himself in the scales of holiness. Only God can do it for us, AND HE DID. He sent His own Son into the world to "balance" all our sins. How could Jesus pay for our sins? On one side of the balance is just one man suffering for six hours on the cross, on the other side of the balances are countless people who would have to suffer the torments of hell forever and never be able to balance the scales. How could Jesus tip the balances in our favor? How could one man pay for the sins of the whole world? It was the God-Man suffering for the creatures, God laying Himself on the scales, and His offering is of infinite value. Jesus paid for every human being that lived or ever will live, because He is God, the Son of God.

This is God's way of balancing the scales of His Divine justice. In His love and mercy He also wants to give us all the offering of His Son absolutely free, without cost or payment. Salvation is ours by faith and trust in Jesus as our only Savior and Redeemer. We are saved by grace alone, by faith alone, by God alone. "He that seeth the Son and believeth on him hath everlasting life."



Jesus' offering on the cross more than outweighs all our sins. He paid for the human race as a whole and it matters not how long the world stands, the scales will always be balanced by the cross of Jesus. Only in this fact can we find peace and comfort in life and death, not in our deeds or merits, but alone in the blood of Jesus shed for us can we find life eternal.

There are, and can be, no more than two religions in the world. One teaches that we can balance the Divine scales by our own weight and works, this is the heathen religion. The other teaches that only Jesus can balance the scales for us, this is the Christian faith.

It is said of us in America that we dig our graves with our teeth; we eat too much. Many people go on special diets because they want to reduce their weight. But how many of us are spiritually overweight? Is it not a fact that most of us are suffering from spiritual malnutrition? This need not be if we partake of Him who is the "Bread of Life." We should come to church to receive food for the soul, or else it will starve to death. Being spiritually well-fed we can daily walk with the Lord in newness of life.

May we not hear the terrifying words on Judgment Day, "Weighed and found wanting." We will not hear those words with Jesus on our side of the balances. AMEN.

PRAYER. O Lord, before Thee *do we confess* all our sins and iniquities. If Thou shouldst try us and judge us on our own merits, we should surely be found wanting. But we plead for Jesus' sake to forgive all our sins and in Him do we hope to be found acceptable in Thy sight. Take not Thy Holy Spirit from us, that we may always find comfort in the offering of our Savior. Hear us for His sake, O Lord. AMEN