



The Movement of Power and the Making of History



Introduction

Last week: We dealt with spiritual principalities and powers that have influence over the earthly realms.

This week: We will focus on principalities and powers as they relate to geo-political realm and our place as prophetic statesmen who discern the movement of power and shift history towards destiny.

Definition of terms:

Power is the capability of accomplishing strategic objectives. Power is the capability to produce change. It uses certain instruments (Economic, intellectual, political instruments) to accomplish strategic objectives

History is the story of how power was, is and will be used to achieve those objectives. No difference between past, present, future. The historian is the prophet looking backwards. The prophet is the historian looking forwards.

Spiritual war is central to the issue of power because power is central to the outcome of destiny.

The rise toward liberty, or a decline toward tyranny is determined by how power is harnessed in the spirit and natural.

Thus, it is vital to understand defining moments in history that affect the movement of power in the present so we can make the history of the future.

I want to share this message because:

Old are getting weary, the middle aged are getting antsy, and the young are getting disillusioned.

Movement is produced by power

Philosophy studies the state of an entity (people, nations): What is my value and identity?

History studies the movement of an entity from one state to another. What is my destiny? Where have I come from and where am I going?

- It is the story of how the movement from one state to another occurred.
- Power is the capability to produce movement from one state to another.

In science: $\text{power} = \text{force} \times \text{distance gained} / \text{time}$.

In history: $\text{power} = \text{force of economic, political and intellectual influences that produce movement over time}$.



Power is the capability to cause movement from one state to another.

We **study** history in order to understand how a movement of power shifts a nation from one state to another.
We **make** history by harnessing the movement of power in order to shift a nation from one state to another.

History is made when a movement begins to emerge that carries the capability to shift the status quo.
What status quo issue do you see that you believe you are being empowered to move?

The Story of Belshazzar's Feast

Last time I used this story, we focused on the excellence of Daniel's wisdom that resulted in him gaining a reputation in Babylon that created an opportunity to provide solutions.

Today: focus on substance of the message that reveals the movement of power and the making of history.

Defining the moment in history

King Belshazzar of Babylon had gathered the elite to celebrate the fulfillment of Babylonian accomplishment; Babylon had attained world hegemony. Its political power was second to none, its scientific and technological achievements were on the cutting edge, its literary and intellectual capacity outshone every other ivory tower of the civilized world. Even its geographical features, the Tigris and Euphrates rivers served as major trade routes that were pivotal in movement of people, supplies and military contingents making Babylon a center for the import of expensive and luxury items and enabled its growth as a significant urban cosmopolitan city. A banking system developed, where wealthy traders and entrepreneurs developed a system of credit, trading with gold and silver used to fund new business ventures.¹

Celebration: Distant sounds of carousing and drunken laughter wafted over the city of Babylon from the royal hanging gardens as the empire's elite gathered to celebrate their political and cultural accomplishments throughout the mighty empire of Babylon. The clamorous sound mixed with the pagan worship of the gods of gold and silver descended over the city wooing it into a false sense of security. But an alarming announcement disrupted the revelry dead in its tracks.

Finger of God: Yet in the midst of the arrogant and intoxicating revelry, the finger of God engraved a fateful message on the wall of the Great Hall provoking great trepidation as the mysterious language proclaimed a shift of world power. A defining moment in world history was unfolding. The raucous carousing was stunned into sobriety, yet, still drunk with the deception of their power, the Babylonian elite shook with fear and silence - none possessed the wisdom nor the discernment to recognize the urgency or the significance of the defining moment.

No interpretation: Babylon, super power of the ancient world was about to fade into history amidst the humiliating silence of her secular prophets and pundits. The king, desperate for discernment and wisdom, called upon the elite who were expected offer analysis but to no avail. The grim situation created the perfect opportunity to set

¹ Leick, G. *The Babylonians. An Introduction.* 88.



Daniel apart as a distinct statesman who could properly analyze this crucial event in Babylon's history. Daniel did not promote himself as one who could make a difference, or put himself forward as sole possessor of the interpretation. It was his reputation that went before him that caused this pagan king to be reminded of Daniel's spiritual gift of discernment and as a result issued the call for Daniel to come and lend his insight and expertise in analyzing the writing.

Shift in power announced: As Daniel was called to interpret the writing on the wall he realized it was a day of reckoning for both the king and the Babylonian empire. The mysterious statement revealed that a dramatic shift in power was unfolding. An imminent change of civilization was about to transpire with the emerging Persian power that would soon replace Babylonian hegemony.

Our defining moment: The writing is on our wall

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall that announced the shift from modernism to post-modernism, a series of defining moments have been a sign to us, the writing on the wall, that a movement of power is underway; Huntington's Clash of Civilizations attempted to explain how the West was losing its fundamental sense of identity and values and that a coming clash of civilizations would attempt to fill the vacuum left by declining Western power.²

- The unchecked rise of Al-Qaeda in the 90s that culminated in the attacks of September 11th 2001.
- The collapse of the sub-prime mortgage market that sparked the Great Crash of 2009 and the Great Recession that ensued.
- The rise of unemployment to a consistent 9-10% level that appears unbeatable.
- UK Media scandal
- London riots, Vancouver, OWS unrest
- Eurozone currency: Greece, Italy, Spain, Ireland
- Super committee tasked with cutting trillions in spending
- Iran's nuclear program highly likely being weaponized. (International Atomic Energy Agency)

In a defining moment, we must be those who are seized by the moment so that we can become those that seize the moment.

Discerning the movement of power

The writing is on the wall, but what is the writing saying?

- Mene: God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end.
- Tekel: You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting
- Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and the Persians

The imagery in the word is of scales of justice being tipped. The moral integrity of Babylon was found deficient.

² Huntington, S. *The Clash of Civilizations*. (1996).



The scales were tipping; moving in the direction of justice and liberty for God's people.
Where a deficiency of justice prevails, movements towards liberty begin to emerge.

It is relatively easy to see shifts in power when we have historical hindsight. But discerning present shifts in power requires more careful discernment of political, economic and intellectual trends.

The elite in today's culture have seen the writing on the wall, they see the shift in power but don't know how to harness power to move us from this state to another:

- Empire of Illusion. The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle - Chris Hedges, Winner of the Pulitzer Prize
- How we collapse - Victor Davis Hanson, The National Review
- The Future of American Power. Dominance and Decline in Perspective. Joseph Nye, Foreign Affairs
- Financial Fall Out. A Weakening of the West. Foreign Affairs. Roger Altman. Former Deputy Treasury Secretary.
- The Post-American World - Fareed Zakaria
- The Great American Downgrade - Time Magazine
- The Decline and Fall of Europe - Time Magazine
- Europe's Rescue Plan - The Economist

Driving new movements in history

We must discern what the new opportunities will be as power continues to shift and then prepare for them.

What will the shifts in your mountain be? Where are the scales of justice tipping?

The 7M are shaking, what will they look like in 5,10,15 yrs when you are at peak of your influence.

Discern where you need to invest: your education, work, and money

Figure out how to get into the game and seize the puck.

Internet useage stats. (Note how the useage of internet users in emerging markets has been over 1000% and they still have along way to go before market saturation).

As internet usage goes up, what possibilities will that create for education, development, research, trade, emerging markets?

We need to Pray. Ponder. Prepare. Penetrate.

Upon entering Babylon, Jeremiah told the captives to settle down in Babylon: Jer. 29:5-7. But, they were also to seek the welfare of the city. The problem is that we are not just comfortable in the church, but we have become comfortable in Babylon.



Once the writing is on the wall: v10 when the 70 years of captivity are completed, then the promise of His plans and a future hope can be revealed.

When the writing is on the wall of our culture, it spells freedom and release of destiny for the church.

History makers are movement starters who seize defining moments in history and birth new movements in their wake.