

God's Power and Sovereignty ~ Daniel 4

→ Scripture Reading Daniel 4:33-37

INTRODUCTION

Daniel 1- Daniel 2- Daniel 3- Daniel 4-

Something has CHANGED? ~ Daniel 4:1-3

¹ King Nebuchadnezzar, To the peoples, nations and men of every language, who live in all the world: May you prosper greatly! ² It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me. ³ How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation.

Nebuchadnezzar's NIGHTMARE ~ Daniel 4:4-18

⁴ I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. ⁵ I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me.

Daniel is DEEPLY Troubled ~ Daniel 4:19-27

¹⁹ Then Daniel (also called Belteshazzar) was **greatly perplexed for a time**, and his thoughts **terrified him**. So the king said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its meaning alarm you." Belteshazzar answered, "My lord, **if only the dream applied to your enemies** and its meaning to your adversaries!

²² **YOU, O king, are that tree!** You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth.

²⁴ "This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree the **Most High** has issued **AGAINST** my lord the king: ²⁵ You **WILL BE driven** away from people and **WILL LIVE** with the wild animals; you **WILL EAT** grass like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you **UNTIL you acknowledge** that the **Most High is SOVEREIGN** over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.

God's JUDGEMENT Carried Out ~ Daniel 4:28-33

²⁸ **All this happened** to King Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹ **Twelve months later**, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, ³⁰ he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by **my mighty** power and for **the glory of my majesty?**" ³¹ The words were still on his lips when **a voice came from heaven**, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: **Your royal authority has been taken from you.**

³³ **Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled.** He was driven away from people and ate grass like cattle. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

In the twinkling of an eye, Nebuchadnezzar became a raving maniac. With wild shrieks he rushed from the room and down the staircase as the crown of gold toppled from his head ...tearing from his body his royal robes and scattering them as he went. Through the doors and down the corridors he ran bellowing like a wounded bull while the palace servants looked on in horror. By the time he made it out the great door of the palace he had very little clothing left. As he continued his mad flight down the Main Street Nebuchadnezzar, the proud and dignified King of the greatest empire of ancient times was running down the street of his capital city stark naked." (Campbell)

Daniel 5:21 (NIV) He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal; **he lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like cattle...**

Conversion of Nebuchadnezzar ~ Daniel 4:34-37

³⁴ At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, **raised my eyes toward heaven**, and my sanity was restored. **THEN I praised the Most High**; I HONORED and GLORIFIED HIM who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; HIS kingdom endures from generation to generation. ³⁵ All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. **He does as He pleases** with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"

Steps to Restoration:

- Looked UP to Heaven
- His Sanity was RESTORED
- Praised the MOST HIGH
- HONORED and GLORIFIED God

³⁶ At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, **praise** and **exalt** and **glorify** the King of heaven, because everything He does is right and all His ways are just. And those who walk in pride He is able to humble.

IMPLICATIONS

→First Implication

Sovereign- supreme authority and power, self-governed not ruled by anyone else,

Romans 13:1–5 (NIV) ¹ Everyone must **submit himself to the governing authorities**, for there is **no authority except that which God has established**. The authorities that EXIST have been established by God. ² Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. ⁴ For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

Acts 5:29 (NIV) ...We must OBEY God RATHER than men!

→Second Implication

James 4:6 (NIV) But **HE gives us more grace**. That is why Scripture says: "God OPPOSES the proud but gives GRACE to the humble."

Pride is REFUSING...

- to Admit it when we are WRONG
- to Accept HELP from Anybody Else
- to Pray or Study or SEEK after God
- to be Thankful for ALL God has done
- to turn to God for Help

Dealing with Pride and Arrogance:

- NAME it Pride...Arrogance... Sin
- Confess it to God
- Ask God for Help

TAKE AWAY ??

Humility is not something we HAVE until humbling ourselves is something we DO. Moore

Moving Away from PRIDE Moore

- Treat Pride as an ENEMY

Prov. 13:10 (NLT) **Pride** leads to arguments...

Prov. 8:13 (NLT) All who fear the LORD will hate evil. That is why **I hate pride, arrogance**, corruption, and perverted speech.

Prov. 11:2 (NAS) When **pride** comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom.

- Welcome Humility as a FRIEND

1 Pet. 5:5–7 (NIV) Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. **All of you, clothe yourselves with humility** toward one another, because, "**God opposes the PROUD but gives grace to the HUMBLE.**" ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Is. 57:15 (NIV) For this is what the high and lofty One says - He who lives forever, whose Name is holy: "**I live** in a high and holy place, but also **with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit**, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.