

Dan06 - **Pride and Being a COW - Dan 4:1-37**

Back in Dan Ch 1 When King Neb. conquered Jerusalem

he took the vessels of the Temple of God - back to Babylon
& put them in the treasure house of his god

This was a symbolic act - demonstrating that his god
(or he himself) was greater than the God of Israel

So . . . THAT'S gonna come back to BITE HIM
cause God doesn't overlook that attitude for very long

God says in Isaiah 48:11 (ESV)

11 . . . My glory I will not give to another.

& Maybe you'd say today - *Well, I don't have to Worry about that
I haven't Done anything like Nebuchadnezzar did to God . . .*

Really? Are you SURE?

We may not be building Golden Statues of ourselves
(*at least not outside of our Minds*)

But if we think we are the:

King of our Own Castle - - Captain of our Own Ship
Master of our Own Destiny . . .

We may be MORE like Nebuchadnezzar than we think

& the sooner we come to grips w/ this tendency in ourselves
the better chance we have of being saved from Consequences
SIMILAR to WHAT we'll SEE - Today

Let's Pray

The first glimpse we got of Nebuchadnezzar's PRIDE was in Ch 2 -
When Daniel was interpreting King Nebe's Dream

we know that dream was God prophetically
'laying-out' the History of The World

But Nebuchadnezzar Kinda got FIXATED on the fact
that HE was JUST the Head of Gold in that Dream

& God had made it clear - Kingdoms would follow his -
& in the end - ONLY the Kingdom of God would Reign Forever

But that doesn't sit well w/ someone who thinks
they are ALWAYS gonna be king

& so - in the distance - we can almost hear King Neb Whining
*"I don't WANT to be JUST the Head -
I want to be the WHOLE statue"*

& in Dan Ch 3 - Nebuchadnezzar decided to FIX that Ltl problem
& He Made HIMSELF the ENTIRE Statue from his dream

He built that statue like HE wanted to see it
ALL of Gold - & ALL of Himself

& Nebuchadnezzar was clearly trying to CONTRADICT
the interpretation God had provided

He was saying to God (& the world) - MY Kingdom will endure
FOREVER - SEE - the ENTIRE Statue - is ME !!

Pride is **never satisfied** with who **you are - TODAY**

Pride is **never satisfied** with where **God has put you - TODAY**

& **you & I** may **very well** have **done** the Exact **Same thing** -
if **we** were **Nebuchadnezzar** - **AND** had a **hundred tons** of **gold**

So - **Our text** today (**Ch 4**) - **MUST** be **SEEN** **against** the **backdrop** of
Nebuchadnezzar's PRIDE
in himself & in his **own accomplishments**

& we **must see ourselves AS Nebuchadnezzar**
At **least** to **SOME Extent**

We have the **Same Sin Nature** as **HIM** - & so we **COULD** have this
same tendency - **Maybe** just **not at** "**Ruler of the World**" Level

& **if that offends** us – It **JUST PROVES** all the **more** –
that we **NEED** to **see ourselves** - **IN** Today's **text**

One more thing

As **we read** thru **the Text** today - **WATCH** for the **UNIQUE**
Name of God Used Here - In **English** it's - "**The Most High God**"

It **means** - The **RULER** of **Heaven & Earth**
The **One** who **RULES** (Governs) **All things**

THAT is what Dan Ch 4 is about

WHO (indeed) is the **RULER** of **All Things**

WHO (indeed) is **CALLING** the **Shots**

WHO (indeed) is **SETTING** things in **Order**

Because sometimes - We get CONFUSED
& WE start to PUT OURSELVES in that Position

& we'll see here How GOD responds to Nebuchadnezzar
when HE falls into that Same TRAP

Finally - King Nebuchadnezzar WRITES this Ch Himself
& He's writing "After the Fact"

& so – He writes these 1st Vs's
AFTER his big lesson has been learned

Daniel 4:1–3 (NLT)

1 King Nebuchadnezzar sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: "Peace and prosperity to you!"

2 "I want you all to know about the miraculous signs and wonders the Most High God has performed for me.

3 How great are his signs, how powerful his wonders! His kingdom will last forever, his rule through all generations.

That sounds like something a SOLID - HUMBLE Believer
would write - & like I said - He wrote it AFTER the Fact

& so now - Nebuchadnezzar is going to tell his own story

Daniel 4:4–18 (NLT)

4 "I, Nebuchadnezzar, was living in my palace in comfort and prosperity.

5 But one night I had a dream that frightened me; I saw visions that terrified me as I lay in my bed. (this is a different dream)

6 So I issued an order calling in all the wise men of Babylon, so they could tell me what my dream meant.

7 When all the magicians, enchanters, astrologers, and fortune-tellers came in, I told them the dream, but they could not tell me what it meant. (seems to be a slow learner - this is 2nd time)

8 At last Daniel came in before me, and I told him the dream. (He was named Belteshazzar after my god, and the spirit of the holy gods is in him.)

9 “I said to him, ‘Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too great for you to solve. Now tell me what my dream means.

10 “ ‘While I was lying in my bed, this is what I dreamed. I saw a large tree in the middle of the earth.

11 The tree grew very tall and strong, reaching high into the heavens for all the world to see.

12 It had fresh green leaves, and it was loaded with fruit for all to eat. Wild animals lived in its shade, and birds nested in its branches. All the world was fed from this tree.

13 “ ‘Then as I lay there dreaming, I saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven.

(notice in v.14 - the tree being referred to as “IT”)

14 The messenger shouted, “Cut down the tree and lop off its branches! Shake off its leaves and scatter its fruit! Chase the wild animals from its shade and the birds from its branches.

(then notice in v.15 - the tree begins to be called “HIM”)

15 But leave the stump and the roots in the ground, bound with a band of iron and bronze and surrounded by tender grass. Now let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the wild animals among the plants of the field.

16 For seven periods of time, let him have the mind of a wild animal instead of the mind of a human.

17 For this has been decreed by the messengers; it is commanded by the holy ones, (here’s the reason) so that everyone may know that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world. (THIS is our POINT today - The Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world) **He gives them to anyone he chooses— even to the lowliest of people.”**

18 “ ‘Belteshazzar, that was the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now tell me what it means, for none of the wise men of my kingdom can do so. But you can tell me because the spirit of the holy gods is in you.’

Daniel had the interpretation immediately – But he hesitated a bit - Knowing the King was NOT going to want to hear it

Daniel 4:19-27 (NLT)

19 “Upon hearing this, Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar) was overcome for a time, frightened by the meaning of the dream.

Daniel’s like . . . “Umm, if you didn’t like being JUST the head of Gold in that last dream - You are REALLY NOT gonna like this one”

(cont) **19 . . . Then the king said to him, ‘Belteshazzar, don’t be alarmed by the dream and what it means.’ (go ahead, tell me)**

“Belteshazzar replied, ‘I wish the events foreshadowed in this dream would happen to your enemies, my lord, and not to you!

20 The tree you saw was growing very tall and strong, reaching high into the heavens for all the world to see.

21 It had fresh green leaves and was loaded with fruit for all to eat. Wild animals lived in its shade, and birds nested in its branches.

22 That tree, Your Majesty, is you. For you have grown strong and great; your greatness reaches up to heaven, and your rule to the ends of the earth.

23 “ ‘Then you saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, “Cut down the tree and destroy it. But leave the stump and the roots in the ground, bound with a band of iron and bronze and surrounded by tender grass. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven. Let him live with the animals of the field for seven periods of time.”

24 “ ‘This is what the dream means, Your Majesty, and what the Most High has declared will happen to my lord the king.

25 You will be driven from human society, and you will live in the fields with the wild animals. You will eat grass like a cow, and you will be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, (here’s the Point) until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses.

26 But the stump and roots of the tree were left in the ground. This means that you will receive your kingdom back again when you have learned that heaven rules.

That is as CLEAR a WARNING as God can give a person - & Daniel ends it with a Call to Repentance

27 “ ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, please accept my advice. Stop sinning (repent) and do what is right. Break from your wicked past (again, repent) and be merciful to the poor. Perhaps then you will continue to prosper.’

Isn’t it funny - how when someone Destroys THEIR OWN LIFE – they often shake a fist at God - as if it were HIS FAULT

But God always gives Time & Opportunity to Repent – which is exactly what He did for King Nebuchadnezzar here

God was Showing Nebuchadnezzar Mercy as long as He possibly COULD

It reminds me of 2 Peter 3:9–10 (NLT) (spkg of coming Jdgmnt)

9 The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief . . .

**Ultimately – God’s WARNINGS - are as sure - as His PROMISES
& That’s Exactly what we see here - as we cont in Dan Ch 4**

Daniel 4:28-29 (NLT)

***28 “But all these things did happen to King Nebuchadnezzar.
29 Twelve months later he was taking a walk on the flat roof of the
royal palace in Babylon.***

Daniel had been Perfectly CLEAR with Nebuchadnezzar

**In V.25 – THE WARNING - you need to learn that the Most High
rules over the kingdoms of the world**

**& in v.27 – The Opportunity to Repent - Repent & do what is
right - Perhaps then you will continue to prosper**

& then came 12 months of Opportunity

But . . . in Daniel 4:30 we read (nlt)

***30 (12 mo’s later) As he looked out across the city, he said, ‘Look
at this great city of Babylon! By my own mighty power, I have
built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my
majestic splendor.***

UH-OH . . . MY Own Power?

MY Royal Residence ?

MY Majestic Splendor ?

Man - we learn SLOW - Don’t We?

& the GREATER our PRIDE - the SLOWER we LEARN

& Nebuchadnezzar’s PRIDE was GREAT

& He was a Real - SLOW LEARNER

But God had a **SPECIAL - Extra-Curricular Class** just for him
Like an extended Summer School

To **help him understand**
Who is in CHARGE - & Who Calls the SHOTS

Come on Nebe:

By your **OWN Mighty Power** -
YOU have built all this - as **YOUR** Home -
to Display **YOUR** Majestic Splendor?

Who says THIS is a BAD IDEA ??

But **wait a minute** - **Nebuchadnezzar** Might be
“**Over the Top**” with his **PRIDE**

But **honestly** - **sometimes** we're **NOT that FAR behind** him

Often - We have our **OWN WAY** of
Thinking WE are **ALL THAT**
Thinking WE are all **RIGHT**
Thinking WE should get the **CREDIT**

I know that King **Nebuchadnezzar** is an **AMPLIFIED Version**

But - **Do You Think God** is ok with just a **LITTLE BIT**
of **this kind** of **Self-Focused PRIDE** ?

Do You Think God is **ok** with **our PRIDE** -
As long as it doesn't SHOW as much as **King Nebe's**

& **Do You Think God** might **USE** King **Nebuchadnezzar's**
“**Over the Top**” **Pride** - to **make a POINT** to **US** - *about our own*

& here it is - Daniel 4:31-32 (nlt)

31 “While these words were still in his mouth, a voice called down from heaven, ‘O King Nebuchadnezzar, this message is for you! You are no longer ruler of this kingdom.

32 You will be driven from human society. You will live in the fields with the wild animals, and you will eat grass like a cow. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way . . .

7 ‘Periods of Time’ - Poss 7 years . . .

**7 YRS – with you living like a wild animal & eating like a cow
(not talking about how some of US eat) - like a LIT COW**

7 YEARS . . . Until WHAT?

v.32 continues . . . until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses.’

That’s IT ?? - THAT’S what you have to LEARN ??

That shouldn’t be THAT Hard to Learn !

That shouldn’t take SEVEN YEARS to Learn – should it ??

I don’t know . . . How long has God been trying to Teach US ?

**Nebuchadnezzar is ABOUT to learn this lesson – in a way
that I pray God won’t have to use – ON US . . .**

Daniel 4:33 (nlt)

33 “That same hour the judgment was fulfilled, and Nebuchadnezzar was driven from human society. He ate grass like a cow, and he was drenched with the dew of heaven. He lived

this way until his hair was as long as eagles' feathers and his nails were like birds' claws.

You've heard it said – **some People Won't REPENT until they've hit the VERY BOTTOM**

Well - apparently 7 yrs of living like a COW was the VERY BOTTOM for King Nebuchadnezzar

I pray you & I would CHOOSE to repent of Our PRIDE & Our SELF-FOCUS - at some point BEFORE we reach a place SIMILAR to Nebuchadnezzar's

The **Good News** is - King **Nebuchadnezzar** **DID Repent**
He **might've** been a **SLOW learner** - But **at least** he **learned**

Daniel 4:34 (nlt)

34 "After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven . . . (LIT - "I lifted up (raised) my eyes to heaven")

It only **took 7 yrs** - of **Nebuchadnezzar** Literally **living like a COW** -
For him to **FINALLY** - "**LOOK UP**" to **Heaven**

The **INFERENCE** here is - Nebuchadnezzar **FINALLY accepted**
WHO was **Truly GREAT** - &
WHO was **TRULY** in **CHARGE**

He **lifted** his **Eyes to Heaven** - & **immediately WHEN** he **DID**
God Graciously Received him

(cont'g in) **34 . . . (when I looked up to heaven) My sanity returned, and I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored the one**

who lives forever. His rule is everlasting, and his kingdom is eternal.

**This is generally considered to be
a Confession of SAVING FAITH from Nebuchadnezzar**

My sanity returned, and I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored the one who lives forever . . .

**THAT - By the Way - is what it STILL Looks like
when Someone Truly gets Saved by Faith**

& Nebuchadnezzar Continues his Confession of Faith in

Daniel 4:35 (nlt)

35 All the people of the earth are nothing compared to him. He does as he pleases among the angels of heaven and among the people of the earth. No one can stop him or say to him, 'What do you mean by doing these things?'

It is **SO Important** - for **US** to **reach** this **place** -
Of **Truly TRUSTING** God's **RULING** (His **GOVERNING**) . . .
of ALL of Heaven & Earth - AND - ALL the People of the Earth

In Order to GET to this Place -
We've **GOT to TRUST GOD** completely - **IN** His **GOVERNING**
& we **COME** to Trust Him - By **KNOWING** God's **Character**

We **KNOW** that **God IS LOVE**

We **KNOW** that **God Loves US**

We **KNOW** that **God has a PLAN**

We **KNOW** that **God is AT WORK** - For Good, In all things
for those who Love Him

& if you belong to God today thru Faith in Jesus Christ

His Plan ENDS with you receiving an inheritance in Heaven
that's Undefiled & does NOT Fade away - & is reserved for you
While you are being KEPT here - UNTIL that Day

NO - We don't get to KNOW His Plan -

NO - We don't get to APPROVE His Plan

But we DO get to KNOW HIM - We get to KNOW HIM

& BY Knowing HIM - we Can TRUST His Plan completely

King Nebuchadnezzar came to this point in his life

& I pray each of US would come to this same Point - in OUR Lives

& when Nebuchadnezzar DID get to this point with God . . .
God RESTORED him

Daniel 4:36 (nlt)

36 "When my sanity returned to me, so did my honor and glory and kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored as head of my kingdom, with even greater honor than before.

When he says my sanity returned to me - I 'd like to think
he was talking about MORE than just his MENTAL sanity

Because his SPIRITUAL SANITY also Returned

His PRIDEFUL INSANITY was Gone

& His HUMBLE SANITY was Returned - (or maybe for the 1st time)

& just like our 3 heroes in the fire last week
This is the LAST We get to HEAR from Nebuchadnezzar

v.37 - are the last words we hear from Ol' King Nebe

I pray - we Would HEAR Them - Loud & Clear - &

I pray we would Genuinely BELIEVE them - in our OWN Lives

Daniel 4:37 (nlt)

37 "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven. All his acts are just and true, and he is able to humble the proud."

*The Most High God - The King of Heaven -
I praise and glorify and honor you -
All YOUR acts are just and true,
and YOU are able to humble the proud*

There are MANY things in our Lives -
that Don't make Sense to us

Sometimes it looks like God is NOT in Control
Or that He has somehow - Fallen-Down on the Job

But God CANNOT Explain His WAYS to us
as if to get our Approval or our Understanding

In our PRIDE - we DEMAND to Understand God
& DEMAND to Know His PLAN

In our HUMILITY - We come to KNOW God
& in KNOWING Him - we come to TRUST Him

& in TRUSTING him - We come to say:
***The Most High God - The King of Heaven -
I praise and glorify and honor you -
All YOUR acts are just and true,***

God RULES over the Kingdoms of the Earth
AND - Over all the People ON the Earth

& when we CAN'T Understand His WAYS
We CAN Still TRUST - that He is IN CONTROL - *For Good*

Let's Pray