

HOPE THAT MOTIVATES FAITHFULNESS
God humbles the proud and exalts the humble.
Daniel 4

Big Idea: Those who exalt themselves against God will be humbled.

Luke 14:11

Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Do you want God to oppose you in your pride, or to give grace to you in your humility?

James 4:6

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Psalm 138:6

For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.

I. God humbles the proud (4:1-33).

A. Nebuchadnezzar praises the Most High God (vv. 1-3).

B. Nebuchadnezzar saw a dream that frightened him (vv. 4-18).

- The merciful patience of God (vv. 15, 16, 23)
- The purpose of the angels decree (vv. 17, 24, 26, 32, 35)

C. Daniel interprets the dream for the king (vv. 19-27).

D. In pride, Nebuchadnezzar proclaims his greatness (vv. 28-33).

1. Four truths about pride:

a. Pride always finds a voice (v. 30).

Psalm 94:4

4 They pour out their arrogant words; all the evildoers boast.

- Pride is in every human heart therefore no one is exempt from the deadly temptation of pride.

Mark 7:20-23

20 And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. 21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

b. Pride is the first sin and it is the core of all sin (Isa. 14:13-14; Gen. 3:1-6).

Genesis 3:6

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food (desires of the eyes), and that it was a delight to the eyes (desires of the flesh), and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise (pride of life), she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

c. God hates pride and will judge it because pride contends for His supremacy.

Proverbs 16:5

5 Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.

d. Pride is a deadly sin (Prov. 16:18; 1 John 2:16-17).

Proverbs 16:18

18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

2. The nature of pride (vv. 28-30)

30 and the king answered and said, "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?"

a. Pride says, "I did it." - "which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence"

b. Pride says, "I deserve it." - and for the glory of my majesty?"

3. The consequences of pride (vv. 31-33)

II. God exalts the humble (4:34-37)

A. Nebuchadnezzar looks to heaven (v. 34a)

34a At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me,

B. Nebuchadnezzar praises the King of heaven (v. 33b-37)

1. God is sovereign and man is not (v. 34b-35).

2. God's works are righteous and his ways are just (v. 37).

- God humbles man so that man might know Him.

C. Nebuchadnezzar's reason and splendor is restored to him (vv. 36).