

Pastor Lance Ainsworth

MESSAGE NOTES

Thursday, October 19 Sunday, October 22

Introduction:

Daniel 4 NASB

4 Nebuchadnezzar the king to all the peoples, nations, and *men of every* language that live in all the earth: "May your peace abound! ²It has seemed good to me to declare the signs and wonders which the Most High God has done for me. ³"How great are His signs and how mighty are His wonders! His kingdom and His dominion is from generation to generation.

¹⁰'Now *these were* the visions in my mind as *I lay* on my bed: I was looking, and behold, there was a tree in the midst of the earth and its height was great "'The tree grew large and became strong and its height reached to the sky, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth.¹²Its foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches, and all living creatures fed themselves from it.¹³'I was looking in the visions in my mind as *I lay* on my bed, and behold, an angelic watcher, a holy one, descended from heaven.¹⁴'He shouted out and spoke as follows: Chop down the tree and cut off its branches, strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit; let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches.

¹⁹"Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was appalled for a while as his thoughts alarmed him. The king responded and said, 'Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation alarm you.' Belteshazzar replied, 'My lord, *if only* the dream applied to those who hate you and its interpretation to your adversaries!

²⁸"All *this* happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king. ²⁹Twelve months later he was walking on the *roof of* the royal palace of Babylon. ³⁰The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I **myself** have built as a royal residence by the might of **my** power and for the glory of my **majesty**?'

³⁴"But at the end of that period, I,

Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom *endures* from generation to generation.

³⁷Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, **praise, exalt and honor** the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to **humble those who walk in pride."**

Praised, Promoted, Glorified

A lifetime of pride can be forgiven when we humble ourselves under God.

Daniel 5 NASB

5 Belshazzar the king held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand. ²When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which *was* in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.

Babylon wants to desecrate what God consecrates.

⁵Suddenly the fingers of a man's hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing. ⁶Then the king's face grew pale and his thoughts alarmed him, and his hip joints went slack and his knees began knocking together.

¹⁸O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father. ¹⁹Because of the grandeur which He bestowed on him, all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language feared and trembled before him; whomever he wished he killed and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated and whomever he wished he humbled. ²⁰But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so **proud** that he behaved **arrogantly,** he was deposed from his royal throne and *his* glory was taken away from him. ²¹He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like *that of* beasts, and



his dwelling place *was* that with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and *that* He sets over it whomever He wishes. ²²Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not **humbled** your heart, even though you **knew** all this, ²³but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven.

History repeats itself.

²⁵"Now this is the inscription that was written out: "MENĒ, MENĒ, TEKĒL, UPHARSIN.' ²⁶This is the interpretation of the message: 'MENĒ' --God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it. ²⁷'TEKĒL' -- you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient. ²⁸'PERĒS' -- your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians." ²⁹Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and *put* a necklace of gold around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he *now* had authority as the third *ruler* in the kingdom. ³⁰That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. ³¹So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.

Mene -- God is sovereign. Isaiah 13:1, 17-19 Tekel -- We are deficient. Romans 3:10 Peres -- God is just. Psalms 89:14

Pride is a gateway sin that offers an open doorway for our enemy to drop in and tell us how great we are and that we don't need God.

Proverbs 16:5 NIV

⁵The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: The will not go unpunished.

Biblical humility is not low self-esteem. Biblical humility is not a lack of ambition. Biblical humility is not downplaying our accomplishments.

Biblical humility is utter dependence on God. Promote God, Demote yourself.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Daniel: Shining in Babylon Daniel 4 & 5 Pastor Lance Ainsworth October 19th & 22nd , 2023 Humility

Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: Has there been a time you sat down with someone near the end of their life? What were their final thoughts?

Read aloud: Read Daniel 4:34-37, Daniel 5:1-5, 25-31

1. Daniel 4:28-30 " 28"All this happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king. 29Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon. 30 The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?'" Do you view everything you have done and accomplished as yours? What areas of life do we have the tendency to think in terms of ourselves? How do we battle arrogance and pride? Is it ongoing? King Neb had knowledge but not wisdom, what is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?

2. Daniel 5:2 "2When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them." Belshazzar comes on the scene, throwing a party and defiling the holy consecrated items from the temple. Why did Belshazzar not learn from Nebuchadnezzar's testimony? What have you learned or refused to learn from your parents/grandparents story? Why is it hard to learn from those who are closest to us? (parents, siblings, spouse) What holy things has our Babylon desecrated? Is there punishment for these actions?

3. We see a parallel between Daniel 2 and 5: God shows up, the king calls for wise men, the wise men cannot answer, Daniel steps up, Daniel interprets, and Daniel is promoted. Do you see this pattern anywhere else in history or scripture? Why was King Nebuchadnezzar given more chances to humble himself? Is that fair? Who determines what is fair? What does this show us about the urgency to repent?

4. Daniel 5:25 " 25 "Now this is the inscription that was written out:

'MENĒ, MENĒ, TEKĒL, UPHARSIN.'

Read the following verses and discuss. Mene – God is sovereign. Isaiah 13:1, 17-19 Tekel – We are deficient. Romans 3:10 Peres – God is just. Psalms 89:14