

Knowledge is half the battle.

notes

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

GROUP DISCUSSION

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