

IN SOVEREIGN HANDS

DANIEL: GOD'S REPRESENTATIVE TO HIS GENERATION

PART 8

LOOKING TO THE KING OF HEAVEN

In Wrath He Remembers Mercy

(Daniel 4:28-37)

INTRODUCTION:

*"Pride goes before destruction,
And a haughty spirit before stumbling."*

—Proverbs 16:18

PREVIOUSLY...

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY:

- God is working with... Nebuchadnezzar. (Ch. 2-4) And He wants him to know that there is a God in Heaven...

1. ...WHO IS THE REVEALER OF MYSTERIES. (CHAPTER 2)

2. ...WHO IS THE REDEEMER OF MEN. (CHAPTER 3)

3. ...WHO IS THE RULER OF MANKIND. (CHAPTER 4)

"...until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes."

—Daniel 4:25b, 32b

THE STRUCTURE OF THE STORY:

1. A ROYAL DECLARATION. (v. 1-3)

"...It has seemed good to me to declare the signs and wonders which the Most High God has done for me..."

2. A ROYAL ILLUSTRATION. (v. 4-36)

1. Act 1: The Dream that Troubled the King (v. 4-27) [569 BC]

2. Act 2: The Pride that Toppled the King. (v. 28-33) [568 BC]

3. Act 3: The Humility that Transformed the King. (v. 34-36) [562 BC]

3. A ROYAL AFFIRMATION. (v. 37)

"Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven..."

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STORY...

1A. WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT THE HEART AND NATURE OF _____:

1B. The _____ Presence of Pride. (v. 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?'" (v. 30)

"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

—Mark 7:21-23

2B. The _____ Presence of Pride. (v. 34, 36)

"But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me,..." (v. 34, 36)

"Because you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,' and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,..."

—Revelation 3:17

2A. WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT THE HEART AND NATURE OF _____:

1B. He is a _____ God. (v. 31-33)

"...until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.' Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled..." (v. 32b-33a)

"For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God."

—Deuteronomy 4:24

2B. He is a _____ God. (v. 37)

"Now 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." (v. 37)

"The Rock! His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He."

—Deuteronomy 32:4

• Yet, in His _____, He is _____.

1C. He _____ us so that we might _____ that judgment.

2C. He _____ on us in the _____ of that judgment.

3C. He _____ in us through the _____ of that judgment.

CONCLUSION: