

Daniel Part 4 HANDOUT

3.15.26

There is one sin the Bible consistently treats as **more dangerous than almost any other...pride**. Daniel 4 is written as a **personal testimony from King Nebuchadnezzar**.

Daniel 4:4-5 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous.” 5I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me.

- Sometimes **God shakes us through things we cannot control**.

KEY THOUGHT #1 God Loves You Too Much to Leave Your Pride Untouched

- Notice something important: **God didn't ignore Nebuchadnezzar's pride.**
- *Because the most dangerous place a person can be spiritually is when God stops confronting them.*
- Sometimes they are **divine interruptions designed to realign our hearts**.

Daniel 4:10-12 10These are the visions I saw while lying in bed: I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous. 11The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth. 12Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit abundant, and on it was food for all. Under it the wild animals found shelter, and the birds lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed.

- This tree symbolized Nebuchadnezzar's empire.
- Nebuchadnezzar built one of the greatest cities the ancient world had ever seen.

Daniel 4:13-14 13In the visions I saw while lying in bed, I looked, and there before me was a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven. 14He called in a loud voice: 'Cut down the tree and trim off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches.

- The empire that seemed unshakable would be cut down.

But notice something interesting:

Daniel 4:15-16 15But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field.

“Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth. 16Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him.

- God wasn't destroying the king...God was disciplining him.

KEY THOUGHT #2 God Will Humble What Pride Exalts

Daniel 4:22 22Your Majesty, you are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth.

But Daniel also lovingly warns the king.

Daniel 4:27 ²⁷Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.”

- Daniel gives the king **a chance to repent**.
- God’s warnings are **invitations to repentance**.
- God gives the king **12 months to change**.

Daniel 4:29–30 ²⁹Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, ³⁰he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”

- Notice the pride language: **I built. My power. My glory.**

Daniel 4:31 ³¹Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you.

KEY THOUGHT #3 Pride Takes Credit for What Only God Could Give

The moment we begin taking **credit for God’s gifts**, pride is already growing.

Daniel 4:33 ³³Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

- The most powerful man in the world... **completely broken**.

KEY THOUGHT #4 The Way Up in God’s Kingdom Is Down

God is demonstrating a powerful spiritual truth: **No human authority is ultimate**.

Daniel 4:34 ³⁴At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

Sometimes God lets us hit the bottom so we finally look up.

Daniel 4:36 ³⁶At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before.

Humility opens the door to restoration.

KEY THOUGHT #5 Humility Positions Us for God’s Grace

Daniel 4:37 ³⁷Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

The healthiest posture a believer can have is one of **daily humility**.

LIFE POINT: God will humble the pride we refuse to surrender.