

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Title: “God Resists the Proud but Gives Grace to the Humble”

Text: Daniel 4

Series: *The Book of Daniel*

Daniel 4

#1. Shockingly, King Nebuchadnezzar authors chapter 4, and he opens by declaring his testimony to “The Most High God” (Daniel 4:1–3).

Nebuchadnezzar’s Testimony:
His Dream (Daniel 4:4–19)

#2. King Nebuchadnezzar had another troubling dream. Once again, only Daniel was able to interpret the dream. (Daniel 4:4–8)

#3. In this dream, King Nebuchadnezzar saw a massive tree providing shelter and nourishment to many. Yet, an angelic being cut down the tree, leaving only its iron and bronze roots. (Daniel 4:9–15).

#4. Oddly, the angelic message now focuses on a figure who must live like an animal until “seven periods of time pass by” so that he will learn that “the Most High” rules (Daniel 4:16–19).

**Nebuchadnezzar's Testimony:
His Dream's Interpretation (Daniel 4:20–27)**

#5. Daniel compassionately interprets the dream: (4:20–27)

- A) The Great Tree = King Nebuchadnezzar**
- B) The Tree Cut Down = Nebuchadnezzar's Humbling**
- C) The Stump = Hope for Restoration after Repentance**

**Nebuchadnezzar's Testimony:
His Dream (again) Comes True (Daniel 4:20)**

Daniel 4:28 (ESV)

²⁸ *All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.*

#6. 12 months later:

Daniel 4:29–33 (ESV)

²⁹ *At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 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?" ³¹ While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, ³² and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will." ³³ Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.*

**Nebuchadnezzar's Testimony:
He Humbly Worships God (Daniel 4:34–37)**

#7. “At the end of the days” (i.e. the 7 periods of time passed):

A. N. praises God for God's:

- 1) Kingdom Reign (v. 34)**
- 2) Sovereign Independence (v. 35)**

B. N.'s reason and reign are returned – but now with the acknowledgement that “those who walk in pride He is able to humble” (vv. 36–38)

Daniel 4:34–37 (ESV)

Nebuchadnezzar Restored

³⁴ At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to 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;

³⁵ all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
and he does according to his will among the host of heaven
and among the inhabitants of the earth;

and none can stay his hand
or say to him, “What have you done?”

³⁶ At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.