

Nebuchadnezzar's Pride

Daniel 4:1-37

I. Introduction:

A. Context

1. The context of Daniel, chapter 4 is set in Babylon in the 6th century B.C.
2. Nebuchadnezzar conquered Israel & made them a vassal state of Babylonian Empire.
3. God allowed Israel to be conquered as judgement for the nation's sin and rebellion.
4. Many Hebrews were taken captive to Babylon of which Daniel was part of 1st group.
5. He was chosen to serve in the king's administration as a wise man.
6. Daniel's Gift: God blessed Daniel with the ability to interpret dreams.
7. Daniel interpreted a dream earlier for Nebuchadnezzar & was promoted to prime minister of all Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar's king & Daniel is prime minister of the nation.

B. Nebuchadnezzar's Pride

1. God hates all sin & will judge all sin, often in this life, & certainly on judgment day when this life is over. But there's one sin that God often judges sooner rather than later.
2. That is the sin of pride. Solomon said it's an abomination before God. (**Pro. 6:16-19**)
3. This was Nebuchadnezzar's sin and God would judge him for it.

C. Background

1. In chapter 2 God gave Nebuchadnezzar the dream of the statue.
2. The head of Gold represented him. But God said his kingdom would be replaced by the silver kingdom. Nebuchadnezzar built an image on the plain of Dura in all gold.
3. Nebuchadnezzar was defiant to God's revelation & was in essence saying to God that his kingdom would last forever.

II. Another Dream (Daniel 4:4-18)

A. A Tree

1. The king saw a great tree in his dream. The tree flourished & all the animals were blessed & found refuge in and under the tree.
2. But a watchman commanded for the tree to be cut down and the animals scattered.
3. The root was to be preserved for 7 periods or years. Tree was cut down, but didn't die.
4. Interpretation: None of Babylon's wise men could interpret dream, so Nebuchadnezzar called once more on Daniel who recognized and knew the interpretation immediately.
5. The tree represented the king & his kingdom. His kingdom filled the whole world.
6. All the peoples, nations, and tribes flourished because of his kingdom.
7. But because of Nebuchadnezzar's pride God would have the tree chopped down.
8. God would strike him with mental illness & remove him from the throne for 7 years.
9. But God would preserve his throne & kingdom, restoring him after the seven years.

III. Daniel's Recommendation (Daniel 4:27)

A. Repentance

1. In the face of impending judgment, God declared it, Daniel called for repentance.
2. Repentance is an essential doctrine that is true from the Old Testament to the New.

3. Repentance means turning from one direction and going in the opposite direction.
4. It means to turn from pursuing sin and begin pursuing obedience and holiness.
5. Repentance does not mean we become sinlessly perfect in our lifestyle.
6. What it does mean is this; When we confess our sin to God & ask for His forgiveness, a willingness & desire to forsake our sin and pursue righteousness occurs.

7. Examples

(1)– A Drunkard

- a. One who's addicted to alcoholic beverages & wants salvation will confess their sin to God & ask for His forgiveness. God will save anyone who will ask.
- b. There should be true desire for God's delivering power from alcohol's bondage.
- c. That desire to change, that turning from sin to righteousness is called repentance.
- d. God may deliver the person from their addiction supernaturally or use medicine and /or a support group to deliver the person.

(2) – Sexual Addictions

- a. The same would be true for a person who has a sexual addiction of some kind.
- b. At time of confessing sin & being saved by faith in Jesus, there must be willingness to turn from & forsake sin. A repentant heart must accompany the confession.
- c. For example, an adulterer does not want to be an adulterer anymore.
- d. God can and will deliver us from any sin that we are willing to confess & forsake.

(3) – The Moral Person

- a. The same is true for the apparent moral person. Person who seems to have no real major sin problem must still come to God with a repentant heart. (**Romans 3:23**)
- b. We are all sinners, no matter how good or bad we look on the outside.
- c. We all need to confess our sin with a repentant heart & place our faith in Jesus.

IV. Nebuchadnezzar's Failure (Daniel 4:28-33)

A. One Full Year

1. From the time of the dream to the time of judgment's execution was one full year.
2. God waited a full year before executing the judgment because of His Grace.
3. Judgement never falls without warning which is then followed by time of opportunity.
4. God's not slack concerning coming judgment. He's not winking at sin & letting us go.
5. God desires for us to be saved. (**2 Peter 3:9**) God wants to forgive our sin & grant us eternal life with Him. But we must humble ourselves, confess, and repent of our sin.
6. Application: Don't be like Nebuchadnezzar wasting opportunity to receive God's grace

V. Nebuchadnezzar a Save Man (Daniel 4:34-37)

A. The Most High God

1. Jehovah God is referred to throughout this chapter as the **Most High God**.
2. 1st time this phrase was used of God was in Genesis when Abraham met Melchizedek.
3. Melchizedek was the priest of the Most High God, ruler of heaven and earth.
4. This name for God refers to His sovereignty. God rules in heaven & He rules on earth.
5. This is why pride is so offensive to God. He is sovereign and we are not!
6. Nebuchadnezzar declared his faith in the true Most High God.

B. Nebuchadnezzar Was Saved

1. Nebuchadnezzar became a saved man by faith, just like today.
2. This pagan king who got saved is in heaven right now.