

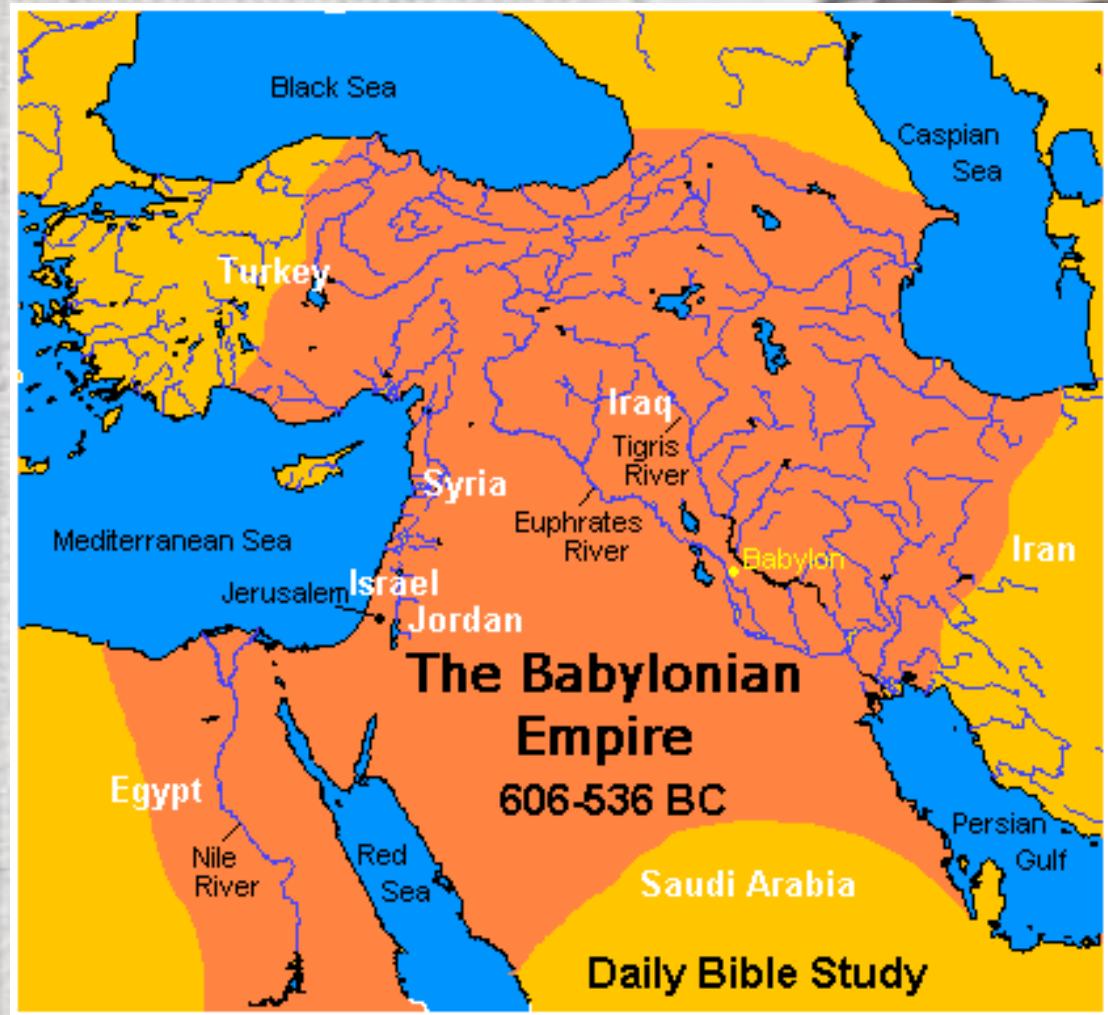
The Humbling of Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4



Who was Nebuchadnezzar?

- King of the Babylonian Empire
 - Ambitious, ruthless, powerful man.
 - His Empire was vast.
 - He conquered God's people and removed them from their homes and deported them to his kingdom
 - Daniel served the King



Nebuchadnezzar's Decree (v.1-3)

4 King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! ² It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me.

³ How great are his signs,
how mighty his wonders!

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

Nebuchadnezzar's Decree (v.1-3)

I. He issues a PUBLIC statement.

- a. “to all peoples, all nations, and languages.”

II. His statement is GOOD NEWS.

- a. “peace be multiplied to everyone.”

III. His statement is PERSONAL.

- a. “what God has done for me.”

IV. He's sharing his PERSONAL TESTIMONY.



Nebuchadnezzar's Nightmare (v.4-18)

⁴ I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace. ⁵ I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me.



Nebuchadnezzar's Nightmare (v.4-18)

- I. Neb's PRIVATE and PROFESSIONAL life were going well.
- II. But then came the nightmare.
 - a. A massive tree that is strong and provides food and shelter to all creatures is cut down. But the stump and roots are protected. He is given the mind of an animal until the end of seven periods of time.



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Daniel's Interpretation (v.19-27)

19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king answered and said, “Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you.” Belteshazzar answered and said, “My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!



Daniel's Interpretation (v.19-27)

I. The bottom line: “You, O king, are that tree!” (vs.22)

- a. Nebuchadnezzar will be cut down and given the mind of an animal until He knows that God is sovereign over the kingdoms of the world.

²⁷Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.”



Daniel's Interpretation (v.19-27)

II. Look at Daniel's interaction with the king.

- a. He is **TENDER-HEARTED**. (v.19)
- b. He is **HONEST**. (v.27)
- c. *"We've got to get it into our minds that those who do not know Jesus are allowed to live as if they do not know Jesus. And when they are the enemies of the cross, it's that they are my enemies; rather they are victims of my enemy."* – Larry Osbourne

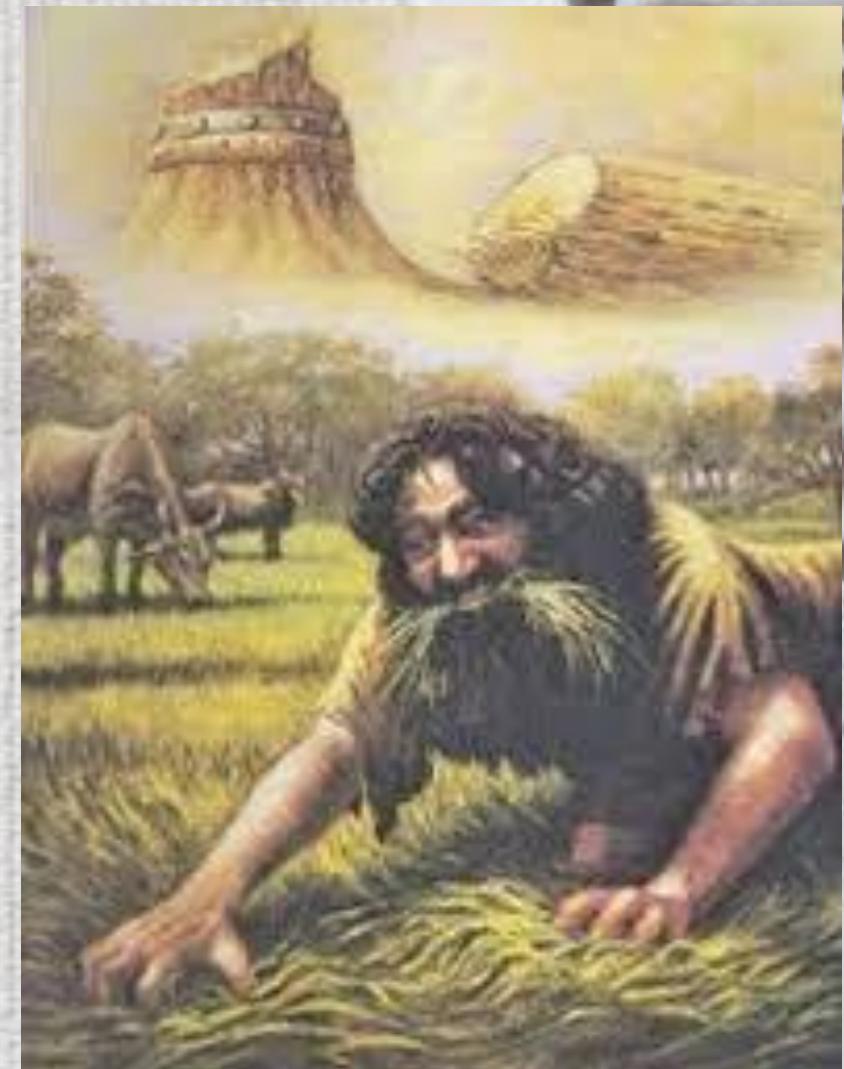
Nebuchadnezzar's Nightmare Becomes Real (v.28-33)

²⁸ All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. 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,



Nebuchadnezzar's Nightmare Becomes Real (v.28-33)

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 Nightmare Becomes Real (v.28-33)

- I. What kept Neb. from learning that God is the supreme ruler of all was his **PRIDE**.
 - a. E-G-O = **“Edging God Out.”**
- II. Pride is when we “edge God out of the center of our lives and move ourselves into the center.
- III. **“The one who refused to honor God’s glory loses his own glory. Refusing to share what he has with the poor, he becomes poorer than the poor. He becomes outwardly what his heart has been spiritually and inwardly—bestial.” – Sinclair Ferguson**



We are not immune to pride....

- Social Media...

- Do your posts match up with your reality? Are you authentic and look down on those who aren't? Do you look down on those who use social media?

- Pride of Memory...

- Do you romanticize your own personal history? Do you romanticize your nation's history?

- Parenting...

- Are all of my child's successes because of me?
 - Are all of my child's failures because of me?



We are not immune to pride....

- Are you happy when others fail?
- Do you ever feel superior to others because they sin differently than you do?
- Do you rarely apologize?
- Do you always need to be heard or recognized?
- Is God only Sovereign when He does what you want?
- Are you angry when God blesses people who don't care about him instead of blessing you?
- Are your achievements solely because of your work?
- Are your failures solely because of you?



We are prone to pride....

“Pride is the only disease known to man that makes everyone sick except the one who has it.” - Chuck Swindoll



Nebuchadnezzar's Restoration (v.34-37)

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?”



Nebuchadnezzar's Restoration (v.34-37)

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.



Nebuchadnezzar's Restoration (v.34-37)

- I. “A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.” – C.S. Lewis
- II. Neb. “lifted his eyes” to see the God who rules and reigns and praised Him. (v34)



Nebuchadnezzar's Restoration (v.34-37)

- III. God has done something for Nebuchadnezzar.
 - a. If God didn't care about Neb. then he would have left him out in the pasture with the livestock.

- IV. God has done something for **YOU**.
 - a. The Sovereign King came for us in the person of Jesus Christ.

