

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 4/17-18/2023 *Daniel 4:1-37*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL NOW BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

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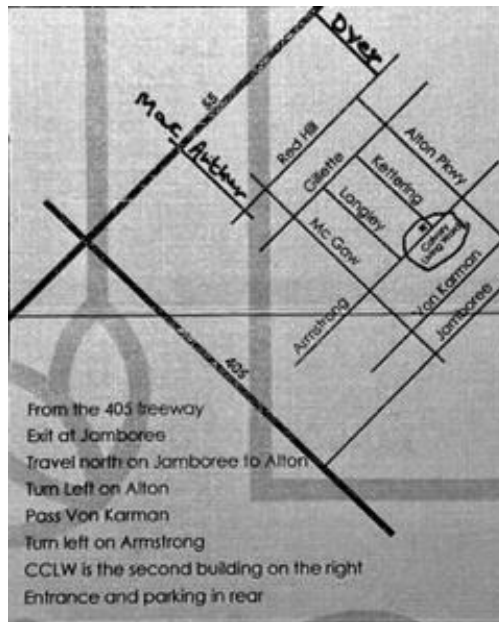
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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY WILL NOW BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

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OPENING PRAYER!

Chapter 4 Nebuchadnezzar's Pride and Punishment

This chapter is more than a profound story of how God can bring a proud man low. Undoubtedly, it is the climax of Nebuchadnezzar's spiritual biography which began with his recognition of the excellence of Daniel and his companions, continued with the interpretation of the dream of the image in chapter 2, and was advanced further by his fiery furnace experience with Daniel's three companions. In the background of this account is the concern of Daniel the prophet for the man whom he had served for years. Daniel, a man of prayer, undoubtedly prayed for Nebuchadnezzar, eagerly seeking evidence of God's working in his heart. While the experience of Nebuchadnezzar in chapter 4 was not what Daniel had anticipated, the outcome must have approximated Daniel's hope. It may well be that this chapter brings Nebuchadnezzar to the place where

he puts his trust in the God of Daniel. Even merely as a lesson in the spiritual progress of a man in the hands of God, this chapter is a literary gem! **The content of the chapter is in the form of a decree recording his dream— vs. 1-18; Daniel’s interpretation vs. 19-27; and Nebuchadnezzar’s subsequent experience— vs. 28-37!**

Nebuchadnezzar Praises God

Dan 4:1 Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

- **He is addressing everybody.** This is Nebuchadnezzar speaking his decree to all his subjects, wherever they are, spread abroad around the world.
- **Peace be multiplied unto you.** A similar salutation is used by Peter and Jude at the beginning of their epistles. You would almost think that one of the New Testament writers was opening this salutation as the wish for peace to all of you.

Dan 4:2 I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me.

- ***I thought it good to declare!*** The enemy has a great interest in keeping us silent about our sharing *the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me!*

Dan 4:3 How great are His signs, And how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. And His dominion is from generation to generation.

- **Here is Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, making this marvelous declaration concerning God.** Now, in his first dream that was interpreted by Daniel, where he saw this image with the head of gold and chest of silver, stomach of brass, the interpretation of that dream was that though he was the head of gold. His kingdom was to be replaced by an inferior kingdom of the Medes and the Persians. After a succession of world dominating empires, God would ultimately establish a kingdom that would never end, the glorious reign of Jesus Christ!
- **Nebuchadnezzar saw this in the vision. It was interpreted for him by Daniel.** Yet, though he acknowledged that there was no God like the God of Daniel, who was able to reveal secrets, telling dreams, but it seemed that he did not truly submit in his heart to the interpretation of the dream in that he wanted to feel his kingdom was an everlasting kingdom. That his dominion was overall. So, he built that huge image of gold, in a declaration that his kingdom would be an everlasting kingdom, but now God has shown to him some great signs and wonders, which caused him to understand and to acknowledge that his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, not mine, but His. *His dominion is from generation to generation!*
- **So, now he tells the story. That was the introduction. The salutation, the greetings** as he writes a universal letter, to everyone in the world. This is now my testimony. This is my experience. These are the signs and the wonders that God showed to me to make me cognizant of the fact that His kingdom is the everlasting kingdom.

Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream

Dan 4:4-5 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in my house, and flourishing (to be green, flush, prosperous) in my palace. [5] I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts on my bed and the visions of my head troubled (behal – terrified) me.

- **This probably dates to the time of this chapter towards the end of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign, (539 BC.)** Nebuchadnezzar was tireless in his efforts. First, establishing the Babylonian kingdom as the world dominating empire, conquering the Assyrians and then the Egyptians, the Syrians, then Jerusalem, and finally into Moab and Ammon. He conquered the world. He brought the gold and the silver back from Jerusalem. He had sufficient gold and silver and precious gems to make Babylon a glorious city, plus he brought back slaves from all of these nations. The Jews were brought back as slaves, being slave laborers within Babylon. He set his genius to the building of this mammoth city of Babylon, which no doubt was the greatest city in the ancient world.

- **The walls were sixty miles in circumference**, fifteen miles square in each direction, three hundred feet high, eighty-seven feet thick, a hundred brass gates, towers along the walls, gorgeous palaces, the hanging gardens of Babylon, all of these marvelous architectural feats. The number of temples that were built in the city of Babylon seems to indicate the population in the city of Babylon was in the millions. Now it is finished, this glorious city, and he is resting. He is sitting back and sort of enjoying all of these marvelous accomplishments.
- **At rest in my house....I saw a dream.** Notice how God interrupted his rest, giving him a dream that struck fear into his heart. This night vision, this dream, it troubled him.

Dan 4:6-7 Therefore I issued a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. [7] Then the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers came in, and I told them the dream; but they did not make known to me its interpretation.

- **One wonders why he would call these fellows who had failed** in the interpreting of his earlier dream, where he saw this great image, which he had forgotten or had not told them that dream. He demanded that they tell him what he dreamed and what it meant. They said that it was impossible. No one could do that.
- **Now he remembers this dream and explains it**, but they do not tell him the interpretation. Some of the commentators suggested that they knew the interpretation but were afraid to tell him knowing that he short-tempered and would order their execution if he did not like their performance. The Bible does not indicate that, but it does declare *that they did not make known to him the interpretation.*

Dan 4:8 But at last Daniel came before me (his name is Belshazzar, according to the name of my god; in him is the Spirit of the Holy God), and I told the dream before him, saying:

- **There are those who claim that Nebuchadnezzar was converted** and that this is a testimony of his conversion. That is possible, however, it is difficult in that he is still referring to Bel as his god or Marduk. He had given the name of Belshazzar to Daniel, named after his god. But he acknowledges that in *Daniel is the Spirit of the Holy God.*
- **We just assume always that gods are holy, don't we?** Because our God is so holy! One of the main characteristics of God is His holiness, but that is not so of pagan gods. Pagan gods were not holy at all! Read of the Greek gods and all and there was nothing holy about those gods. They were lecherous and licentious gods, always lusting after different women and different things. The idea of a holy God is rather exclusive to Judaism and Christianity!
- **The Holy God, in the Spirit of the Holy God**, manifests itself no doubt in that holy living of Daniel. Daniel was a man of God. He lived a holy life. A life of prayer, a life of commitment unto the Lord. He lived such a good clean life, that when some men were conspiring to get him, looking for some kind of flaw so that they might accuse him before the king, they realize they cannot find anything wrong in this fellow Daniel! He is such a pure man. In him is the Spirit of the Holy God. They said the only way we are going to get him is with regard to his commitment and his worship of God!
- **They came in, flattering the king, Darius, saying you know you are so important.** People do not realize how great and wonderful and important you are! To help the people realize we have made up this decree about the greatness of Darius the king. No one should offer a prayer to any god or anyone for a period of time except to you! Then, the world will realize just how great and marvelous you are. The king was flattered by it and signed the decree. These fellows knew that Daniel was faithful in prayer and that Daniel would not actually bow to the decree because it involved his own spiritual convictions.
- **When is it proper for a Christian to violate the law?** Whenever the laws violate my Christian convictions. When to obey that law would be to violate my Christian convictions.
- **Consider Peter and John, after they had healed the lame man, were commanded by the rulers not to preach anymore in the name of Jesus. (Act 4:19-20) But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. [20] For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.** In other words, we are not going to obey your edict, because that violates my commitment to God! My convictions and my commitments to God are to be the top priority in my life! If laws be established that would violate my

convictions towards God, then I must obey God, rather than man! In that case it is right for the Christian to be disorderly as far as the worldly government is concerned, because of the violation of my commitment to the Lord and my convictions. So, he acknowledges that in Daniel is the Spirit of the Holy God.

Dan 4:9 "Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians (magos – Magi, scholars), because I know that the Spirit of the Holy God is in you, and no secret troubles (distresses) you, explain to me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and its interpretation.

- **He explains to Daniel now the visions that he had in the night.** The visions on his bed that troubled his head.

Dan 4:10-11 These were the visions of my head while on my bed: I was looking, and behold, A tree in the midst of the earth, And its height was great. [11] The tree grew and became strong; Its height reached to the heavens, And it could be seen to the ends of all the earth.

- **It was a world kind** of a dominating sight.

Dan 4:12 Its leaves were lovely, Its fruit abundant, And in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, The birds of the heavens dwelt in its branches, And all flesh was fed from it.

- **It was a nourishing kingdom.** It was a worldwide kingdom.

Dan 4:13 "I saw in the visions of my head while on my bed, and there was a watcher (angel, guardian), a holy one, coming down from heaven.

- **This speaks about us as being surrounded with a great cloud of witnesses**, a reference to these men of faith in the Old Testament. But there is a truth that the angels desire to look into the marvels of God's grace unto people especially through our salvation. Angels are curious about you. Angels are watching. (*Psa 91:11-12*) For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. [12] In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. Speaking of angels in (*Heb 1:14*) Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?
- **We are living in a material world**, but we are surrounded by a spiritual world that is just as real as is the material world, this spiritual world of angelic beings.
- **I can imagine that as Jesus was being mocked, that God had to restrain the angels** from just really tearing up humanity. You remember when Peter drew his sword to defend the Lord and began to swing and cut off the servant's ear, Jesus said to him to put away his sword. Not realizing that if He wanted to, He could call for ten legions of angels to deliver Him? They would be more than happy to step in and stop the whole thing.
- **In the New Testament, we read how the angels of the Lord were ministering unto the disciples**, the apostles, on various occasions. We remember when Peter was in prison and the angel of the Lord came and told Peter to put his sandals on and to follow him and the doors of the prison opened, and he led Peter out of the prison. We read of Paul, speaking about fourteen days on the stormy sea and the angel of the Lord stood by him, assuring him that not a person would be lost. These are the ministry of angels.
- **I imagine that sometimes when they see us do some of our stupid things**, they say, "Look.. oh no do not look. Oh my...Can you believe that?"
- **The watcher and the holy one came down from heaven.** Here is this vast marvelous tree, filled with fruit, nourishing the world, and these watchers, being holy came down from heaven;

Dan 4:14-15 He cried aloud (with strength) and said thus: 'Chop down the tree and cut off its branches, Strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts get out from under it, And the birds from its branches. [15] Nevertheless leave the stump and roots in the earth, Bound with

a band of iron and bronze, In the tender grass of the field. Let it be wet with the dew of heaven, And let him graze with the beasts On the grass of the earth.

- The great tree prominent in the earth, nourishing the earth, and now it is ordered to be cut down.

Dan 4:16 *Let his heart be changed from that of a man, Let him be given the heart of a beast, And let seven times (iddan – a set, appointed, designated time), pass over him.*

- **In the book of Daniel, time is used to describe a year.** He speaks of *a time, times, and half a time.* *Time*, a year; *times*, two years; and *half time*, as six months, and he gives it to you as forty-two months, (**Rev 13:5**) *And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.* You have time equaling twelve months or a year.
- **There are some commentators that say it was not a period** of seven years, but it was actually seven weeks or a seven something, times being a loose and free kind of an interpretation. It could be days or months. There have been those that have said until seven times or seven seasons have passed over it. Thus, they interpret it as being a year and three quarters, as you would have summer, fall, winter, spring, summer, fall, winter, until seven times or seven seasons have passed over it.
- **But, if you use the scripture to interpret the scripture, (Dan 7:25)** *He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.* It is hard to exact anything but actually a period of seven years and to take it as literal years, that *the heart of a beast* would be given to him, and that he would be changed, having his portion with the beasts in the grass of the earth.

Dan 4:17-19 *'This decision is by the decree of the watchers (angel, guardian), And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order (purpose of it) that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest (basest) of men.'* [18] *'This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, declare its interpretation, since all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation; but you are able, for the Spirit of the Holy God is in you.'*[19] *Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished (amazed, perplexed, stricken dumb) for a time (a look, a moment), and his thoughts troubled (behal – terrified) him. So the king spoke, and said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation trouble (behal – terrify) you." Belteshazzar answered and said, "My lord, may the dream concern (be for) those who hate you, and its interpretation concern (for) your enemies!*

- **Belteshazzar, declare its interpretation, since all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation.** Now this would take away from the idea that they did not know but were afraid to give interpretation. He said they *are not able* to give it.
- **But you are able, for the Spirit of the Holy God is in you.** It could be that Daniel realized the implications of this vision and was hesitant to tell the king exactly what it meant. Daniel's thoughts troubled him. Daniel was a loyal subject to Nebuchadnezzar. There was no doubt, a bond between them. Daniel was a faithful servant, even serving the pagan kingdom.
- **Think about how hard it would be for Daniel to tell Nebuchadnezzar the truth** that had been revealed, as it was indeed difficult and bad news for the king to hear. This amazement seized him because he wished well to the king, and yet he must now announce to him a weighty judgment from God." No doubt, Daniel was not only troubled by the content of the dream but by the need to tell Nebuchadnezzar the interpretation in an appropriate way. Can we see a parallel to our witnessing the truth to unbelievers, which often leads to an unpleasant confrontation? We need to be a Daniel here, as well! Even though it is difficult, we must speak the eternal gospel truth in love!
- **The Bible tells us (Col 3:17)** *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.* We should serve in our places as to the Lord! God has put me here. My life will be a witness for God here! We, as Christians, have an obligation to maintain our Christian witness wherever we are! It is important and vital that we maintain that

Christian testimony wherever we might be, that we would be that most diligent, the most faithful of all of the employees as a testimony and as a witness for Jesus Christ. Daniel was such! Are we? Am I?

- *So the king spoke, and said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation trouble you." Belteshazzar answered and said, "My lord, may the dream concern, (be for) those who hate you, and its interpretation concern (for) your enemies! Your enemies are going to like the interpretation. But it is not good, it is not pleasant for you.*

Dan 4:20-22 "The tree that you saw, which grew and became strong, whose height reached to the heavens and which could be seen by all the earth, [21] whose leaves were lovely and its fruit abundant, in which was food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and in whose branches the birds of the heaven had their home— [22] it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong; for your greatness has grown and reaches to the heavens, and your dominion to the end of the earth.

- **It is interesting that in the vision of the image, you, O Nebuchadnezzar, are the head of gold.** He saw himself in the first dream.
- **Now, in the second dream, the tree, Nebuchadnezzar, is you!** Who *grew and became strong, whose height reached to the heavens, and which could be seen by all the earth.* You have really conquered the civilized world of that day.

Dan 4:23-24 "And inasmuch as the king saw a watcher (angel, guardian), a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave its stump and roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze in the tender grass of the field; let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let him graze with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him'; [24] this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king:

- **This is God's decree concerning you, which has come upon my lord the king.** Daniel acknowledges his submission to the authority of Nebuchadnezzar, my lord the king.
- **But leave its stump and roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze.** The interpretation of the stump with its bands of iron and brass *is* that Nebuchadnezzar will retain control of his kingdom and that it will be restored to him after he comes back to his senses. To have had his mind restored without the kingdom would have been a hollow victory. In spite of his pride, Nebuchadnezzar was to know the graciousness of God to him!

Dan 4:25 They (the spirits that have been watching them) shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen (one form of insanity is known as boanthropy, the delusion of being an ox). They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times (iddan – a set, appointed, designated time), shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.

- **Now, remember that was the intent of the dream** that he might know *that the most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomsoever He wills and sets over it the lowest of men.*

Dan 4:26 "And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump and roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after you come to know that Heaven (God) rules.

- **In other words, you will be restored.** The kingdom will be maintained for you during this period of time until you come to this acknowledgment that the heavens do rule.

Dan 4:27 Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity."

- **Now Daniel speaks to him out of his heart.** He is going to give him good friendly advice, and Godly counsel, to stop sinning; also, to practice righteousness and generosity!
- **One of the worst sins is that of pride.** It is the first of those that is spoken of as one of the deadly sins. (*Pro 6:16-17a*) *These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: [17a] A proud look.* That is the origin of sin. It originated with pride. When Satan lifted up himself against the rule of God, it was pride, (*Isa 14:13-15*) *For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; [14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High. [15] Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.*
- **Break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor.** Pride is the root of most sin. So, he says to put away your sin and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Nebuchadnezzar undoubtedly had been morally wicked and cruel to those whom he ruled. Now most of these marvelous buildings in Babylon and all were built by slave labor, and he was not very merciful. His concern had been to build a magnificent city as a monument to his name, rather than to alleviate the suffering of the poor. Nebuchadnezzar was very severe against the Jews. Isaiah tells us that the reason why God allowed the Babylonian kingdom to fall was of their ill treatment of the Jews. (*Isa 14:4-6*) *that you will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say: "How the oppressor has ceased, The golden city ceased! [5] The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, The scepter of the rulers; [6] He who struck the people in wrath with a continual stroke, He who ruled the nations in anger, Is persecuted and no one hinders.*
- **Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity.** Daniel is telling him to be good, have mercy on the poor, and it may be that he could lengthen his time of peace. He was at rest in his palace. Maybe he could lengthen this time of rest and *prosperity* that he was enjoying.

Nebuchadnezzar's Humiliation

Dan 4:28-29 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. [29] At the end of the twelve months (notice God's grace in giving him a year) he was walking about (upon) the royal palace of Babylon.

- **This is what happened.** He was probably walking on the palace roof, looking over the great city of Babylon, its splendor, its fortifications, its temples, its brass gates, and its marvelous commerce.

Dan 4:30 The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"

- **Am I not great? Have I not done this by my power, and for the glory of my majesty?** What pride! What he had forgotten was that none of this would be possible apart from God's sovereign will.

Dan 4:31-32 While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! [32] And they (God's angels) shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times (iddan – a set, appointed, designated time), shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."

- **Until you know** That was the intent of the dream that Nebuchadnezzar might know that *the Most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He chooses.*
- **God reigns! God is sovereign!** As I look at the world's conditions right now, I get very upset. I am disturbed. I have grandchildren growing up and I read of the things that are being taught to the children in the schools today. I look at the social trends, at the world in which we are living, a world that has no conscience of evil. I look at the sexual promiscuity and all of the resultant devastation, plagues that have come from sexual promiscuity. I read of the abortions, and our President, our Governor declaring that he is going to continually push actions to guarantee a woman's right for abortions. I see how the President helping to promote laws that will give favored positions to the perverted, homosexual communities, giving them privileges that we, normal people, do not have,

protecting them in jobs and housing and all. These things trouble me. The rise of the worship of Satan is alarming. These things are being promoted by music and television, and these things concern me.

- **The only comfort that I have is that I know that God rules, and that God is in control** and that He allows even the vilest of men to get positions of authority and power in order that He might manifest His righteous judgment. But, when He judges it will be righteous. Thus, He will not judge the righteous with the wicked, that was the whole issue with Abraham when the angels were going down to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham's question was, shall not the Lord of the earth be just? Would you destroy the righteous with the wicked? If there are fifty righteous people in that city, would you destroy the righteous with the wicked? Would that be fair? Finally, he worked it down to ten righteous. When he came down to the city of Sodom they could not find ten righteous. There was only that righteous man Lot, who was vexed. His righteous spirit was vexed by the things that were going on in Sodom, just like your righteous spirit gets vexed when you see the promotion of the gay pride parades around the country! It vexes my righteous spirit.
- **But it was comforting to realize that the angel said to Lot, "get out of here.** We cannot destroy this place until you are gone! We see the same conditions that existed in Sodom, existing here, my comfort is that God rules and God is just and that He will deliver the righteous before His judgment falls! It appears that we are not very far away from that day of God's righteous judgment. God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. He is leaving the door open in order that those who are ordained to salvation might come in. I rejoice that in the midst of a world that is on the fast track down, but (**Rom 5:20**) *Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.* We are seeing that marvelous work of God's grace, and what a contrast we are in the world today. I have never seen so many people come to Christ, and on the other hand, I have never seen conditions worse. But, God rules, that I know. I have comfort in that.

Dan 4:33 That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers (filthy, matted hair) and his nails like birds' claws.

- **Some of us may remember Howard Hughes before he died.** A man who really had just about everything that the world could offer, but I saw a picture of him and his scraggly matted hair, his long talon like fingernails, and that paranoia that he had, not wanting to see people, not wanting people to see him. He wore gloves trying to be so sanitary, afraid to touch anything. With everything he had, he was imprisoned in his own mind and by his own mind and by his own surroundings. Oh, my!
- **Here Nebuchadnezzar bereft of his senses,** is living out in the field like an animal, eating grass. At night, his body was covered with the dew of heaven. How quickly God can reduce a man at the peak of power and majesty to the level of a beast. The brilliant mind of Nebuchadnezzar, like the kingdom which he ruled, was his, only by the sovereign will of God.

Nebuchadnezzar – Restored & Praising God

Dan 4:34 And at the end of the time, I Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding 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 is from generation to generation.

- **As suddenly as he went insane, just so suddenly his sanity returned.** He has lifted up his eyes to heaven. He has learned the lesson that God wanted him to know, that it is God's kingdom, which is the everlasting kingdom and that the Lord rules over the kingdom's of man! He is now blessing the Most High, praising and honoring Him that lives forever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation. Praising God! Worshipping God! Acknowledging God.
- **What a picture! How similar in a way is the conversion of an unsaved person to become a forever, child of God!** As a child of God, am I doing these things? Praising God! Worshipping God! Acknowledging God.

Dan 4:35 *All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"*

- **All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing, like the dust of the earth.** In Biblical times, before weighing things in the balances, they would blow out the dust! They were so honest they did not want to charge you for dust. But the nations before God are like the dust of the balances. They can be blown away. *The inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing.*
- **He does according to His will in the army of heaven.** In the vast kingdom of heaven, are hundreds of millions of angelic beings, actually ten thousand times ten thousands, plus thousands of thousands. So, that is a hundred million, plus millions of angels.
- **Among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand, or say to Him, What have You done?** You cannot stop the plan of God, nor the purposes of God from taking place, that which He has purposed for this world. You cannot stop it.
- **Paul the apostle (Rom 9:20-23), likens God unto a potter and us as clay.** We are as clay in the Potter's hand. Speaking of the absolute sovereign power of the Potter over the clay to make of it whatever kind of vessel He wishes. God can do whatever He wants in your life. (Lam 3:22) Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.
- **Paul said the clay does not have any right to say to the Potter, why are you making me like this?** God's power over man is absolute! That would terrify me if I did not know that the Potter loved me supremely! A lot of things have happened in my life that I did not understand. I was wanting to ask, "What are You doing?" But I know that the Potter loves me and that His purpose and plan for my life is better than anything I could devise! I also know that the only way that I can discover what is in the mind of the Potter, is by yielding to His touch and allowing Him to form and shape me according to His will. I know that His will is the best thing that could ever happen to me! So, he speaks of the sovereignty of God over man.

Dan 4:36 *At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored (by the most High God) to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me.*

- **At the same time my reason returned to me; and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me.** When God restored him, He restored him completely! He had learned his lesson. It was a bitter lesson to learn! He learned it the hard way, but he learned it, and that is what is vital! He now acknowledges the sovereignty of God over his life! He now submits himself to that One that rules over the earth! With that recognition, there comes a restoration of the kingdom, of the place of power, glory, and prominence that he had once experienced. The honor, the brightness returned!
- **My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me.** God even gave him more! Oh, the grace of God and the goodness of God, though we may fail, and we have to go through a period of chastisement, suffering because of our own follies, yet as God restores! He is not satisfied in just bringing us back to an equal position, but He adds His grace, His love, and His mercy! So, excellent majesty was added to me!

Dan 4:37 *Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.*

- **Now, Nebuchadnezzar's proclamation! These are his last words! I praise and extol and honor the King of heaven!** That is what God was wanting from him! That is what God desires from you! That you will praise, extol, and honor the King of the universe!
- **All of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down!** The Bible tells us, **(Jas 4:10)** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. Also, **(Pro 16:18)** Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall. And **(Luk 14:11)** For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. These are vitally important lessons!

- **The prophet says, (Mic 6:8) *He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you, But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?***
- **The man who is proud is the man who has not yet had a personal encounter with God! Once you have a real vital, personal encounter with God, where you realize the greatness, the awesomeness of God, you can no longer again ever be proud. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing to Him!**
- **Seeing the greatness of God and nothing of self!** The proper attitude in coming to the realization of the greatness of God is seeing also the nothingness of myself! Thus, I praise and extol and honor the King of heaven. To God be the glory, great things He has done!
- **(Gal 6:14) *But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. All praise, glory and honor be to our King forever and ever, our glorious Lord and Savior! (Rev 4:11) "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created!***

SUMMARY:

- **Pride! Always ugly! God hates it (Prov 6)! Pride destroys people! Everyone is guilty of pride.**
- **Nebuchadnezzar, powerful and rich, was filled with pride!** God did what had to be done to cure his pride problem! Seven years of insanity, living like a beast, eating grass, having no mind. At the end of God's time for him, His understanding returned to him, and he blessed the *Most High God*, praising and honoring Him, learning the hard way, acknowledging the sovereignty of God over his life, submitting himself to that One that rules over the earth!
- **With that recognition, there was a restoration** of his kingdom, of the place of power, glory, and prominence that he had once experienced. The honor, the brightness returned! What a testimony of his encounter with God!
- **We too, each have a Daniel chapter 4 testimony**, simply our salvation story, which is every bit the miracle that Nebuchadnezzar's was! Every one of our testimonies is: 1) What we once were before we came to Christ. 2) How we came to Christ! 3) The person we now are after having become a Christian.
- **Can we see a parallel to our witnessing the truth to unbelievers**, which often leads to an unpleasant confrontation? We need to be a Daniel here as well! Even though it is difficult, we must speak the eternal gospel truth in love!
- **I thought it good to declare!** The enemy has a great interest in keeping us silent about our sharing **the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me!**
- **We need to thankfully remember about who we were** before becoming a Christian and **all that God went through to break our pride, bringing us** to this place and then the glory of the life that we now have the privilege of living! We have so much to be thankful for; so much to praise the Lord for, living the life that He has now given us! How we thank Him for giving us victory over our pride! Having come far, but still a ways to go, right?
- **We must humble ourselves** in the sight of the LORD!

CLOSING SONG:

HUMBLE THYSELF IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD – Maranatha Music (3:02)
Humble Thyself In the Sight of the Lord; Humble Thyself In the Sight of the Lord;
And He shall Lift You Up, Higher and Higher And He shall Lift You Up (3x)
Up into Heaven And He shall Lift You Up; And He shall Lift You Up, Higher and Higher
And He shall Lift You Up, Up into Heaven And He shall Lift You Up
And He shall Lift You Up (8X)

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and meditate on Daniel Chapter 5!