

The Price of Pride

Insights from Daniel 4:1-37 (Living Rooted in Babylon pt 5)

Pastor Bob Johnson, October 11th, 2020

1. **T**_____ **is recorded** (Dan. 4:1-3)

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.

Daniel 4:1-3 (ESV)

2. **C**_____ **is interrupted** (Dan. 4:4-5)

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.

Daniel 4:4-5 (ESV)

3. **I**_____ **is requested** (Dan. 4:6-9)

So I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. 7 Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not make known to me its interpretation. 8 At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream, saying, 9 “O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation.

Daniel 4:6-9 (ESV)

4. **D**_____ **is described** (Dan. 3:10-18)

The visions of my head as I lay in bed were these: I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. 11 The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. ...13 “I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven. 14 He proclaimed aloud and said thus: ‘Chop down the tree and lop off its branches... 15 But leave the stump of its roots ... bound with a band of iron and bronze ... Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth. 16 Let his mind be changed from a man’s, and let a beast’s mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him. ... 18 This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because 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 gods is in you.”

Daniel 4:10-18 (ESV)

5. D_____ is revealed (Dan. 4:19-26)

My Lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies! 20 The tree you saw, which grew and became strong ... 22 it is you, O king ... It is a decree of the Most High ... seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. ...your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. Daniel 4:19-26 (ESV)

6. A_____ is presented (Dan. 4:27)

Therefore, 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 4:27 (ESV)

7. W_____ is fulfilled (Dan. 4:28-33)

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 ... 33 Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 4:28-33 (ESV)

8. S_____ is restored (Dan. 4:34-37)

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 ... 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. Daniel 4:34-37 (ESV)

Principles Related To Humility:

1. Humility should be a P...

2. Humility doesn't mean P...

3. Humility brings P...

4. Humility is P...

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GPC's "Living Rooted in Babylon" Small Group Discussion of Daniel 4 (Week Five of our Eight-Week Study and Discussion of Daniel 1-6)

Check - in If you can't think of a better ice breaker question ... try this one :) Throughout this pandemic season, most have stayed pretty close to home. If you had unlimited money and had a month off, where would you go in the world and what specifically would you look forward to see or do?

Pause and Pray: Be still and know that He is God...God who is present with you, loving you. Surrender yourself to His love. Let's open our hearts, lives and minds to whatever it is He wants to do with us. (pause)... Pray with one another.

Look back on your message outline or look back over Daniel 4:1-37

What has continued to resonate with you from Sunday's message?

Digging Deeper:

In this discussion guide there are reflection thoughts from "Knowledge of the Holy" by A.W. Tozer. They are provided for each of us to read separately for reflection and then answer questions as a group. This week, we just wanted to provide a fresh way to slow down just a bit to experience God in reflection and contemplation. May you have a renewed desire to know & worship God, humble yourself, and find sanity, rest and refreshment in Him this week.

"Without a doubt, the mightiest thought the mind can entertain is the thought of God."

I. Holy Interruptions and Invitations

Toward the end of Daniel 4, Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges that God is holy. "God's holiness is what separates Him from all other beings, what makes Him separate and distinct from everything else. God's holiness is more than just His perfection or sinless purity; it is the essence of His "other-ness," His transcendence. God's holiness embodies the mystery of His awesomeness and causes us to gaze in wonder at Him as we begin to comprehend just a little of His majesty." R. C. Sproul

The Holy God gave him a dream that disturbed his comfort and prosperity.

Reflection: Until we have seen ourselves as God see us, we are not likely to be much disturbed over conditions around us as long as they do not get so far out of hand as to threaten our comfortable way of life. We have learned to live with unholiness and have come to look upon it as a natural and expected thing."

Question: When has the Holy and Loving God interrupted and disturbed your comfortable life to bring about godly change? How did you respond to His interruption? If not, how would you respond if He interrupted and disturbed you tonight?

II. Throne: pride or humility

Reflection:

“Because man is born a rebel, he is unaware that he is one. His constant assertion of self, as far as he thinks of it at all, appears to him a perfectly normal thing. He is willing to share himself, sometimes even to sacrifice himself for a desired end, but never to dethrone himself. No matter how far down the scale of social acceptance he may slide, he is still in his own eyes a king on a throne, and no one, not even God, can take that throne from him.”

Humility is dependence on God. It's an acknowledgement that God is God and I am not. He is our Creator. He is infinite. He is perfect. He is all-powerful. He is the Most High and rules over the kingdoms of the world. (Read Daniel 4:17)

It is right for us to worship and completely depend on Him and no other.

Humility is possible. 2020 is an opportunity to recognize our limitations, our weakness, our vulnerabilities, our pride. What might humbling yourself before the Lord look like in your present circumstances?

Questions:

Humility with God:

Have you ever dethroned yourself from your life? Explain

What does it look like for you to practice daily dependence on God?

Like Daniel, do you live for God and discern to know His will? What does that look like?

Humility with others:

When has someone had the courage to tell you what you needed to hear and risk how you might respond? What was the outcome?

What should be our filter before just sharing our thoughts with others?

It is amazing that Daniel had a compassionate and loving heart toward Nebuchadnezzar.

Because Daniel trusted God, it freed him to care about even his captor.

How do we love our enemies and maintain a heart for hard people over the long haul?

Is there a time to speak Truth?

Is there a time to “let go” and no longer confront or “help” an individual?

III. Right view of God and Sanity:

If God is not in His rightful place then we are not in our rightful minds.

*He will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thought are fixed on you.
Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock. He humbles the proud and
brings down the arrogant city.*
Isaiah 26:3-5

Reflection: “The man who comes to a right belief about God is relieved of ten thousand temporal problems, for he sees at once that these have to do with matters which at the most cannot concern him for very long; but even if the multiple burdens of time may be lifted from him, the one mighty single burden of eternity begins to press down upon him with a weight more crushing than all the woes of the world piled one upon another. That mighty burden is his obligation to God. It includes an instant and lifelong duty to love God with every power of mind and soul, to obey Him perfectly, and to worship Him acceptably.”

Questions: What is your image of God?

When you think rightly about Him (His character, what He has revealed in the Word and in creation) how does that impact your mental health?

When you don't think of God at all or incorrectly think of God (He doesn't exist, is distant, uncaring, He's not listening) how does that impact your mental health?

IV. Share what God has done:

This whole chapter is Nebuchadnezzar sharing his story of who God had been, what God had done with him, to him, for him.

Following his example, can we spend some time share some of our story of who God has been and what God has done lately in our lives?

Lastly ... let's pray for one another and whatever else God has laid on our hearts to lift up to Him.