

# And a great fall it was / is

July 27, 2020

**DANIEL 4:28-30 NIV - (28)** All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. **(29)** Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, **(30)** he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

The Bible has some details of incidents that show us what took place when pride had its way. One consequence of pride is that God will oppose us. We certainly don't want that.

Nebuchadnezzar thought of his power as coming from his own cleverness. Uzziah, king of Judah (**2 Chronicles 26**) became strong and he, too, thought too highly of himself, contracting leprosy as a result. Pride has consequences whether we recognize it or not. Pride affects people of all types. Nebuchadnezzar was not Jewish, yet God punished him just as if he were one of his own people. It was simply a case of the famous, successful king taking the credit for his success. Being a Gentile did not get him out of experiencing its consequences. Being born in this century or the last century will not get you out of the consequences of pride, either.

All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar (**Daniel 4:28-30**). At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spoke, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty? The consequence was immediate. The Bible says he ate grass like cattle for seven years.

Here is another key identifier of pride: "I am right and I need you to admit that." When I was young, we would sometimes argue endlessly that we were right. Little did we suspect that we could be wrong in motive when we were right with our facts. We can know our Bible from front to back and prove that we are right; yet in all this, if our motive is to get others to see it our way, we have already lost the battle.

Pride will not allow itself to be taught. It is convinced that it already knows the truth. It always needs to win the argument. Winning the argument proves I was right. I am right because I am older or smarter or have more education. You may be right with your facts, but you may have just lost a friend or disappointed a loved one.

Those who seek to avoid pride do well to pay close attention, because the world around us is not very aware of pride at all. It will without doubt have consequences, whether we do or don't identify it correctly. If we identify it wrongly, it is like getting a wrong diagnosis from your doctor. We take medication, but it doesn't do any good. My brothers and sisters, let us check ourselves.

**SCRIPTURE READING: MARK 7:20-23**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Pride will cost you everything but leave you with nothing.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"