

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

May 11, 2015

God Did it, Not You!

DANIEL 4:28-32 NKJV – (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?" (31) Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. (32) You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes."

The Bible tells us that pride goes before a fall (**Proverbs 16:18**). Few stories demonstrate this truth as clearly as the story of Nebuchadnezzar. The king had built a large and successful kingdom in Babylon and was quite proud of his accomplishments. He did not realize the wealth he enjoyed was from God. Instead, he proudly paraded around the kingdom with the confidence of a mighty ruler. Close your eyes and imagine him as he gazed out at the beauty surrounding his luxurious palace, taking a deep breath, filling his lungs with fresh air and smelling the fragrance of the flowers below, as he stated, "Check this out. It's fantastic! And it's all because of me!"

Actually **Daniel 4** records his words as this: "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?" However, while King Neb was patting himself on the back, God was growing tired of his super-sized ego. A year earlier, the Lord had warned him through a startling dream that his puffed-up pride would cost him if he did not change his ways. This last proud declaration from Babylon's ruler stirred God to action.

The words were still on King Neb's lips when a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle."

Immediately the mighty king became like a wild animal, even his hair growing like feathers and his nails like the claws of a bird. The Bible implies that he also lost the human ability to think rationally. This lasted for seven years. After that, God restored his mind. Once his sanity was restored, the king was willing to admit that his past regal motives had been royally misplaced.

SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 2:12

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: If you see any thing in yourself which may make you proud, look a little further, and you will find enough to make you humble.

May 1, 2015

