

Freedom from the arrogant mindset

April 26, 2021

DANIEL 4:30-32 NIV – (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.”

Nebuchadnezzar was the king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire from 605BC to 562BC. According to the Bible, he conquered Judah and Jerusalem and sent the Jews into exile. He was also credited with building the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar was humbled by God for boasting about his achievements, lost his sanity and lived like an animal for seven years, according to **Daniel 4**. When his sanity was later restored he praised and honored God.

Nebuchadnezzar was very much familiar with who the true and living God was. In the King's arrogant behavior, he was given three strikes. Unfortunately the fourth strike was God addressing him in the above passage because of the King's behavior and thoughts. The King had gone far enough! The King was familiar with God, the King actually praised God, but he himself had not been converted. He was still an oppressive and selfish ruler. Still a pagan in his heart, God had to bring him to order and let us not forget today, God will do the same to us as well. ***It is not about us!***

Naaman had to dip in the water seven times to get purified (**2 Kings 5:14**); similarly, Nebuchadnezzar experienced mental agony over seven years until he was purified. Nebuchadnezzar was a proud ruler with some good character traits. Perhaps God looked at Nebuchadnezzar's distinctive sense of justice. You remember that Solomon was also commended for his "understanding to discern judgment" (**1 Kings 3:11**). But the Lord of Hosts had to break Nebuchadnezzar's pride first. So, God started communicating with Nebuchadnezzar and sent him a message. He revealed to him all earthly superpowers and the coming of His ultimate Kingdom. But the message was "encrypted" and it required the prophet Daniel to "decrypt" this message to the king.

To totally understand the arrogance of the King you would have to read the story about him. There you will see the arrogance and the other characteristics that came with that sin. Humble yourself under the mighty hand of Jesus Christ! It is easy to forget where you come from if humility is not in existence.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 SAMUEL 2:3

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

God satisfies those who seek satisfaction in Him.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"