

What Will it Take: Glory to God

June 7th 2015

Daniel 4:19-37

Last week we talked about King Nebuchadnezzar and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego!

This week our focus will be on:

*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**.* **Daniel 4:37**

Pride most always renders **rebellion!**

The point of the whole dream and the account given to King Nebuchadnezzar was to make it clear who was *really* in **charge**.

It wasn't that King Nebuchadnezzar was ignorant, oblivious or unaware of God and the things of God (Daniel 2 and 3); it was that he hadn't fully surrendered. He was trying to do it his way and it wasn't working out.

This chapter is written by the King himself (a Gentile). It was written after all the events had taken place and is looking back at it.

The first part of the dream is what the tree provides:

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. The tree grew and became strong; its height reached to the heavens, and it could be seen to the ends of all the earth. 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. **Daniel 4:10-12**

The tree signified what King Nebuchadnezzar had "built and done".

The second part of the dream was how this tree would be cut down, but the stump be left.

*He cried aloud 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. 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. Let his heart be changed from **that of a man**, let him be given the heart of a beast, and let seven times pass over him.* **Daniel 4:14-16**

From the second part of the dream and onward we realize that King Nebuchadnezzar isn't talking about a tree, but a person; himself, to be exact.

Notice God's love, grace and discipline in all of this:

1) God desires **repentance**.

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." All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon.

Daniel 4:27-28

God gave him a chance to get it **right**...a whole **year** to be exact, before He took further action to get his attention.

*The Lord is not slack concerning **His** promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.* **2 Peter 3:9**

God desires repentance for the **believer** and the **unbeliever!**

2) God hates pride.

Pride and/or selfishness are at the **root** of all sin! “What do I want?” “It’s all about me!” “I am going to do what I am going to do.” “I did it my way and I don’t care who I hurt!”

*At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. 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?” 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!”* **Daniel 4:28-31**

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. **Daniel 4:37**

Pride can be seen as the obvious, where someone always seems right, does it their way, etc. or it can even be seen in rebellion! Pride often renders **rebellion**.

The thoughts of one who is prideful may often neglect any Godly thoughts all together!

King Nebuchadnezzar’s pride led him to rebellion and to try and do it without God and rather do it his own way.

God gives us the “freedom” to do it our own way, but it often comes with great **costs**!

3) God will do what it takes to get our attention.

And they 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 shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.” 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 and his nails like birds’ claws. **Daniel 4:32-33**

What will it take for God to get your attention? Simply Him speaking to your heart? A gentle nudge from a loving family member? A tragic event? A death? What will it take?

For the King it took grazing like an animal for seven years for him to come to grips that he was nothing and that God was everything.

Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” **Hebrews 3:15**

4) God’s overall intent is restoration.

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. **Daniel 4:15**

God leaving the stump was a clear sign that He was not done with the King yet. God is never done with us or has given up on us as long as there is breath in our lungs.

5) All Glory belongs to God.

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. 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?” **Daniel 4:34-35**

**Has God gotten your attention?
Do you worship Him alone and grasp that He wants all of you?**