

HE IS ABLE TO ABASE

DANIEL 4:1-37

Text: Daniel 4:37

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³⁷ Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works *are* truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Introduction:

The Bible has much to say in reference to the proud. We all have to battle this temptation.

Notice:

- It was the cause of Lucifer's fall (Isa 14:12-16)
- Warned against by God (Deut 8:11-20)
- Results in destruction (Prov. 16:18)

There are 46 References to the Word Pride

There are 47 References to the Word Proud.

There are 10 References to the Word Haughty.

But Notice From Our Text: "God Is Able To Abase."

1. THE FLOURISHING KING IN HIS PALACE

A. Secure

Nebuchadnezzar was the King of Babylon. He is best known as the King who conquered Judah, destroyed Jerusalem, and carried the people of the Jews captive to Babylon. The prophecies of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the final chapters of Kings, and Chronicles are centered about his life. Nebuchadnezzar would reign for 43 years and his empire stretched from what is today Egypt to Western Iran, from modern day Syria to Saudi Arabia-It was the greatest empire of the known world at his time.

B. Successful

Babylon was an incredible city. It contained two of the seven wonders of the ancient world. There were the hanging gardens of Babylon, which Nebuchadnezzar constructed. And he built the wall of Babylon, which is said was so thick that there was enough space on top for a four horse chariot to turn around. Nebuchadnezzar constructed many temples to his various gods, and shrines as well.

C. Strong

2. THE KING FEARFUL UPON HIS PILLOW (VSS 5-6)

Daniel 4:5-6

⁵ I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me. ⁶ Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise *men* of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream.

A. Dream (vs 5)

B. Dread (vs 5)

The dream filled him with terror. He literally trembled, probably woke up in a cold sweat.

C. Decree (vs 6)

3. THE KINGS FUTURE PROPHESED (VSS. 20-27)

Daniel 4:20-27

²⁰ The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth; ²¹ Whose leaves *were* fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it *was* meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation: ²² It *is* thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth. ²³ And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in

the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and *let* his portion *be* with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him; ²⁴ This *is* the interpretation, O king, and this *is* the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: ²⁵ That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. ²⁶ And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. ²⁷ Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.

- A. The Displacement
- B. The Derangement
- C. The Dwelling
- D. The Duration

4. THE KING FOOLISH IN HIS PRIDE (VSS 27-30)

Daniel 4:27-30

²⁷ Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity. ²⁸ All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹ At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. ³⁰ The king spake, 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 honour of my majesty?

A. Notice the Possibility (vs 27)

B. Notice the Patience (vs 29)

For one full year, Nebuchadnezzar was given an opportunity to repent, and seek God's mercy.

C. Notice the Pride (vs 30)

The King hardened his heart against the Lord. He forgot the dream, and the interpretation thereof. His pride shall be his shame!

5. THE KING FEEDING IN THE PASTURE (VSS. 31-33)

Daniel 4:31-33

³¹ While the word *was* in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, *saying*, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. ³² And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling *shall be* with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. ³³ The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' *feathers*, and his nails like birds' *claws*.

- A. He Went From Best to Beast
- B. He Went From the Palace to Pasture
- C. He Went From Grander to Grazing

6. THE KING FIXED IN HIS PRAISE (VSS. 34-37)

Daniel 4:34-37

³⁴ And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom *is* from generation to generation: ³⁵ And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and *among* the

inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? ³⁶ At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. ³⁷ Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works *are* truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

For 7 years he had his head bowed to the ground eating grass like a beast.

- A. The Return
- B. The Reverence
- C. The Restoration