

The Restoration of Nebuchadnezzar (4:34-37)

Observations

1. The account returns to the use of first-person language, demonstrating that the king had learned the intended lesson and responded properly.

“I...lifted my eyes to heaven”

“I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever”

2. The language of the king’s praise specifically declared the lessons that he had learned.

God’s rule is _____! (Psa. 145:13)

God’s will cannot be _____ or _____! (Isa. 40:17; 43:13)

3. Having rightly acknowledged God, Nebuchadnezzar confirmed that He had restored his kingship to him.

“the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me.”

4. The king concluded his account with statement of _____ in light of God’s personal work to _____ him.

“I...praise and extol and honor the King of heaven”

“all his works are right and his ways are just”

“those who walk in pride he is able to humble.”

Key Point: The faith journey of Nebuchadnezzar spanned almost the entirety of his rule but culminated in a _____ expression of personal worship of the Most High God.

Dan. 2:47—The king answered and said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.”

Dan. 3:28a; 29b—^{28a} Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Mesbach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants...^{29b} for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.”

Dan. 4:37—Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

“In making this story public, the king accomplished two things: (1) he provided a clear explanation to all his subjects why he was absent from his throne (which over a seven year period would have become noticeable to all), and (2) it was his opportunity to glorify the true God of heaven who had dealt so mercifully with him—despite his immense pride—patiently bringing the king to faith and a true, heart-felt praise for the God of the Bible.” —J. Paul Tanner, *Daniel*

Living Faithfully in “Babylon”

- All who have come to Christ by faith should _____ to Him to worship that He is rightly due.

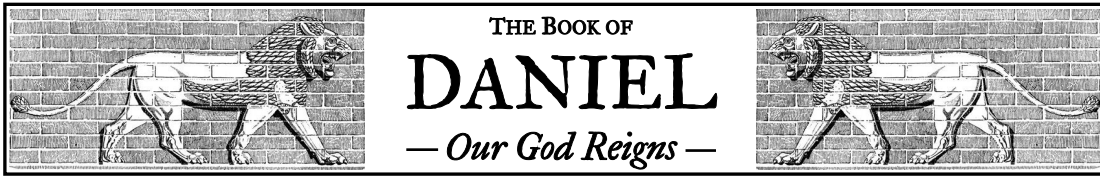
1 Pet. 1:17-19—¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

- All who have been found should be _____ witnesses to the God who continues to pursue the lost.

From “The Hound of Heaven” by Francis Thompson

I fled Him down the nights and down the days
I fled Him down the arches of the years
I fled Him down the labyrinthine ways
Of my own mind, and in the mist of tears
I hid from Him, and under running laughter.
Up vistaed hopes I sped and shot precipitated
A down titanic glooms of chasm-ed fears
From those strong Feet that followed, followed after.
But with unhurrying chase and unperturb-ed pace,
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
They beat — and a Voice beat, More instant than the feet:

“All things betray thee who betrayest Me.”
...
“Whom wilt thou find to love ignoble thee,
Save Me, save only Me?
All which I took from thee, I did’st but take,
Not for thy harms,
But just that thou might’st seek it in My arms.
All which thy child’s mistake
Fancies as lost, I have stored for thee at home:
Rise, clasp My hand, and come.”



Part 10 — “The King of Babylon & the King of Heaven” — 31 July 2022

Introduction

Having received the dream about the tree as well as its interpretation, Nebuchadnezzar was exhorted by Daniel to rightly acknowledge the authority of the Most High God and to rule his kingdom in righteousness and justice. This would demonstrate humility and submission to the God of Heaven and serve as a recognition that He alone was the ruler of all kingdoms, both present and future.

Main Point: Because God alone is all-powerful, all who rightly know Him are humbled in His presence and will offer to Him the worship that He is rightly due.

The Judgment & Restoration of Nebuchadnezzar—Daniel 4:28-37

The Pride of Nebuchadnezzar (4:28-30)

Observations

1. The fulfillment of Daniel’s interpretation of the dream took place roughly a year after it had been given.
2. It was a viewing the city of Babylon from the roof of his palace and his prideful reflection upon it that was the impetus for the promised judgment to come upon the king.

The Magnificence of Babylon:

* At its zenith under Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon was a city of roughly 250,000 people that was surrounded by impressive double walls (25 ft. wide) which extended over 10 miles around it. The city was known for several important landmarks:

The Royal Palace: “In Babylon, my dear city, which I love, was the palace, the house of wonder of the people, the bond of the land, the brilliant palace, the abode of the Majesty of Babylon.” —Nebuchadnezzar (The Grotesque Cylinder, 6th c. BC)

The Temple of Marduk: “In the temple...is a great sitting figure of Bel [Markduk], all of gold on a golden throne...I was told by the Chaldeans that, to make all this, more than twenty-two tons of gold were used.” —Herodotus, *The Histories* (5th c. BC)

The Hanging Gardens: “In this palace he erected retaining walls of stone, to which he gave an appearance very like that of mountains and, by planting on them trees of all kinds, he achieved this effect, and built the so-called hanging garden because his wife, who had been brought up in the region of Media, had a desire for her native environment.” —Berossus, *History of Chaldaea* (3rd c. BC)

3. The arrogance of the king was shown in his statements about **how** and **why** the city had been built up.
“by my mighty power” *“for the glory of my majesty”*

Key Point: The king’s boast failed to recognize the will of the God of Heaven or the contributions of His image-bearers who were actually responsible for all of the construction he had ordered.

The Judgment of Nebuchadnezzar (4:31-33)

Observations

1. The decree of judgment which Daniel had warned him about was immediately pronounced over the king.

⇒ The **nature** of the judgment:

⇒ The **purpose** of the judgement:

“until you know”

2. The judgment that was pronounced was immediately fulfilled.

What was the king’s psychological condition?

How did the kingdom function during his seven year absence?

Key Point: The pronouncement and fulfillment of the promised judgment demonstrated personally to the king the authoritative and powerful Word of the God of Heaven.

“Perhaps one should say that the true insanity belongs to the Nebuchadnezzar who has earlier been talking as if he were the eternal king and God did not exist. His outward madness is the external expression of a delusion he has already been the tragic victim of.”

—John Goldingay, *Daniel*

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