



Daniel 4:1-37

"The Humbling of Nebuchadnezzar by a Sovereign God"

By Mike Clark

For the 2nd time in Daniel, God has given King Nebuchadnezzar a dream.

The first dream came in only the 2nd year of his reign.

- It was about a statue that represented his kingdom and those that would follow, until the coming of the Kingdom of God.

This second dream comes near the end of his reign, probably about 30 years after the events of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in chapter 3!

- It is completely about King Nebuchadnezzar himself.
- It is a divine revelation of God's judgment coming on him.

This chapter is written after the dream and its fulfillment had taken place.

- It's written from Nebuchadnezzar's viewpoint, as a decree to his subjects
- It is the king's own testimony of God's working in his life!

Daniel 4:1-2 - King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! ² It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me.

This is really a remarkable confession on the part of Nebuchadnezzar!

B/C in this decree, in which he recounts his story,

- He is openly exposing himself to all who hear this story
- And confessing that he had been a proud and pompous man that God humbled in a very humiliating way!

You have to recognize the humility it took to make known to everyone just how severely God had to deal with him!

- I don't know too many people who are so willing to risk the embarrassment of telling the story (SO PUBLICLY CONFESSING in an OPEN LETTER to the WORLD!) of how God judged them or chastened them for their sins.
- I think that that's evidence of God's grace at work in Nebuchadnezzar's heart.

Throughout our study of Daniel, we've been getting glimpses of how God was working to humble Nebuchadnezzar and bring him to an acknowledgement of God's supremacy.

This story is the culmination of that work of God in his life.

Here: God breaks Nebuchadnezzar and brings him to humility



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This is the story of how God did it!

This story begins and ends with a doxology of praise to God! (v. 3, 34-35)

Daniel 4:3 - *How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.*

- That tells us that the purpose of this story is:
 - To tell of the greatness and power of the Most High God.
 - To teach us that God is LORD!
- May we have ears to hear, and hearts that yield easily to Him!!

As we see the story unfold, there are:

3 main lessons we need to draw from this story for our own lives:

1. The Lesson of the Pride and Carnality of our Hearts

This is the story of God’s dealings with an individual man’s heart.
There are so many reflections of our own hearts that we can see in his.

Nebuchadnezzar is such a picture of the rest of us. May the Lord make him to become a mirror for us.

Here’s how the story begins:

v. 4 – God spoke to Nebuchadnezzar when he least expected it!

Daniel 4:4 - *⁴ I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace.*

He was apparently in the “golden years” of his reign,

The period when:

- He felt he had been highly successful
- His great building projects have been completed (v. 30)

It’s not difficult to imagine him:

- Relaxing carefree in the Hanging Gardens,
- Enjoying the luxuries of his 3 palaces
- Indulging in the extravagances he felt he well-deserved



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He's basking in the glory of his own success
Feeling secure on his royal throne
He was master of the world.

He's relaxed and basking in contentment!
It's a very different scene from the one we see of the man who, earlier in his reign, had been so disturbed by the dream about the end of his kingdom.

God had pricked his conscience and stirred his heart on at least 2 previous occasions to consider spiritual realities, and recognize God's supremacy.

But now he has developed a heart plagued by spiritual lethargy!

Time has passed and his heart has grown callous! - We are the same way!

Far too often, we treat lightly the disciplines that God exercises in our lives.
We don't learn the lessons of the Lord as easily as our pride would like to think.

Calvin:

"When God...wishes to lead us to repentance, he is compelled to repeat his blows continually, either because we are not moved when he chastises us with his hand, or we seem roused for the time [moment], and then we return again to our former [lethargy]. He is therefore compelled to redouble his blows."

(Commentary on Daniel)

Do you know what one of the most powerful sources of spiritual lethargy is? –
Success!

When things are going well – the way we like!

Success often brings spiritual lethargy/callous spirit - Indifference to the Lord and what His Spirit is teaching us.

That's what happened to Nebuchadnezzar!

Nebuchadnezzar's peace of mind is suddenly shattered by this dream from God.
God broke in on his spiritual lethargy and sent him a nightmare.



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Daniel 4:5-6 – *⁵ I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me. ⁶ So I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream.*

So Nebuchadnezzar has a dream that scared him. The Hebrew word here has the sense that he was filled with extreme terror or fright.

But, I want you to notice how his calloused spirit is also revealed in his response.

In his fear, he doesn't turn immediately to the Lord or to God's man, Daniel. He immediately turns once again to his magicians and astrologers.

Despite all that God had spoken to him, and shown him in signs and wonders, he turns once again to the counsel of unregenerate men.

This is a good OT example of Paul's words in:

Rom 8:5-8 *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

**Nebuchadnezzar set his mind on the flesh,
AND he sought the wisdom and guidance of the flesh.**

Let me ask you:

Where do you tend to turn to for counsel, advice, insight for your life and trials and questions?

What do you mainly fill your mind with?

**Secular books, this world's advice, man's thoughts and entertainment?
Or things that SATURATE you with Scripture and the wisdom of God?**

Is your first question: What does GOD say about this or that?



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Col 2:8 *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.*

Nebuchadnezzar’s carnal mind gravitated toward other carnal minds.

Our flesh is often more attracted to sources of counsel that will:

- not confront us,
- make us feel good about ourselves,
- promise us good, happy, successful things
- not demand too much from us that we aren’t willing to change,
THAN those sources of counsel that can explain to us what God says.

Sometimes we’ll listen to everyone else before we’ll listen to Biblical counsel and reason.

Because our flesh knows that God won’t cater to our flesh!

He knew God gave wisdom to Daniel and his 3 friends, but he sought counsel elsewhere.

So, he foolishly calls in his worldly counselors

Daniel 4:7 – *Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not make known to me its interpretation.*

So yet again, his worldly counselors failed him. Finally, Daniel comes on the scene, and the king tells him the dream.

Daniel 4:8-18 – ⁸ *At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream, saying, ⁹“O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation. ¹⁰ The visions of my head as I lay in bed were these: I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. ¹¹ The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. ¹² Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its branches,*



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and all flesh was fed from it. ¹³ "I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven. ¹⁴ He proclaimed aloud and said thus: 'Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. ¹⁵ But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth. ¹⁶ Let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him. ¹⁷ The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.' ¹⁸ This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is in you."

His dream is a disturbing one.

He'd seen an enormous tree that:

- reached to the heavens,
- was visible throughout the whole earth
- was fruitful and nourished all the creatures of the earth
- and provided protection and shelter for even the animals and birds

The Scriptures often use trees for symbolic purposes. You see this in Judges 9, 2 Kings 14, and Psalm 1 for example.

Ezekiel 31 is a parallel passage that is very similar to our passage this morning. In Ezekiel 31 the Assyrian and the Egyptian Pharaoh are compared to a cedar of Lebanon.

Ezekiel 31 - *In the eleventh year, in the third month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me: ² "Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his multitude: "Whom are you like in your greatness? ³ Behold, Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon, with beautiful branches and forest shade, and of towering height, its top among the clouds. ⁴ The waters nourished it; the deep made it grow tall, making its rivers flow around the place of its planting, sending forth its streams to all the trees of the field. ⁵ So it towered high above all the trees of the field; its boughs grew large and its branches long from abundant water in its shoots. ⁶ All the birds of the heavens made their nests in its boughs; under its branches all the beasts of the field gave birth to their young, and under its shadow lived all great nations. ⁷ It was beautiful in its greatness, in the length of its*



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branches; for its roots went down to abundant waters. ⁸ The cedars in the garden of God could not rival it, nor the fir trees equal its boughs; neither were the plane trees like its branches; no tree in the garden of God was its equal in beauty. ⁹ I made it beautiful in the mass of its branches, and all the trees of Eden envied it, that were in the garden of God. ¹⁰ “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because it towered high and set its top among the clouds, and its heart was proud of its height, ¹¹ I will give it into the hand of a mighty one of the nations. He shall surely deal with it as its wickedness deserves. I have cast it out. ¹² Foreigners, the most ruthless of nations, have cut it down and left it. On the mountains and in all the valleys its branches have fallen, and its boughs have been broken in all the ravines of the land, and all the peoples of the earth have gone away from its shadow and left it. ¹³ On its fallen trunk dwell all the birds of the heavens, and on its branches are all the beasts of the field. ¹⁴ All this is in order that no trees by the waters may grow to towering height or set their tops among the clouds, and that no trees that drink water may reach up to them in height. For they are all given over to death, to the world below, among the children of man, with those who go down to the pit. ¹⁵ “Thus says the Lord GOD: On the day the cedar went down to Sheol I caused mourning; I closed the deep over it, and restrained its rivers, and many waters were stopped. I clothed Lebanon in gloom for it, and all the trees of the field fainted because of it. ¹⁶ I made the nations quake at the sound of its fall, when I cast it down to Sheol with those who go down to the pit. And all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, were comforted in the world below. ¹⁷ They also went down to Sheol with it, to those who are slain by the sword; yes, those who were its arm, who lived under its shadow among the nations. ¹⁸ “Whom are you thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? You shall be brought down with the trees of Eden to the world below. You shall lie among the uncircumcised, with those who are slain by the sword. “This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, declares the Lord GOD.”

That sounds very similar to our passage does it not? So we see that Scripture often depicts the rise and fall of human power by means of the symbol of trees.

Now in verse 13 it says a watcher, a holy one came down from heaven. What do we make of this? Ezekiel 1:18 talks about the eyes of the cherubs. I would submit to you that this is an angel.

In the light of the full revelation of the Word of God, the most natural conclusion is that this person described as a watcher and a holy one is an angel sent from God even though the word angel is not used.

This is similar to when the NT talks about angels as appearing like men.



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So suddenly, an angel from Heaven commanded the tree to:

- Be cut down to the stump.
- Have all the branches cut from the trunk
- All the leaves and fruit stripped off of it and scattered
- The stump & roots be banded or fenced around with iron and brass – which may symbolize the madness that would afflict Nebuchadnezzar and hold him.

A picture of ALMOST utter destruction.

This tree of great glory becomes a tree of shame.

BUT this tree represents someone: v. 15b-16 – “Let him, Let his portion, let his mind”

THAT MEANS THAT a man with great glory will be reduced to great shame!

He will be reduced to a beast!

This superman will be reduced to the subhuman level.

The cause for this man’s pride will be taken away.

This same angel that had pronounced this word of doom on this tree, (on this person), also explains in v. 17, WHY it was happening – “*That the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.*”

2. The Lesson of Lordship

The purpose of this event was to **TEACH** men that **GOD REIGNS!**

THAT:

- He sets up and pulls down kingdoms
- His actions in history focus on the work of humbling men,
 - in order that they may discard their foolish pride and acknowledge Him as God.

It’s to remind us of the realization of our need to turn to him.

AND TO SAY THAT:

Those who do not SEEK Him or SUBMIT to Him are WITHOUT EXCUSE!

SO: The felling of this tree is to prove who is King!



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**The humbling of this man is to show who is really sovereign!
And to make clear that the consequences of pride are steep!**

**It is God bringing to pass, IN THE PRESENT, what will be the unavoidable
culmination at the end of human history:**

***Phil 2:10–11** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

**SO, this is a painful lesson about Lordship!
It’s a rebuke to Nebuchadnezzar’s pride
AND to ALL the rulers of the earth!**

THIS KING, before whom the world bowed, and men trembled,

- **His own knees are taught to BOW LOW!!**
- **And his heart is made to TREMBLE in reverence before the Lord Most High!**

See, this is a lesson on the sovereignty of God!

**In fact, this whole book of Daniel is nothing but a string of lessons on the
sovereignty of God.**

**The theme of God’s kingship and God’s kingdom are the central message of
the whole book!**

IN FACT, the sovereignty of God is central to the ENTIRE BIBLE!

The angel said:

**“ALL MEN,” not just Nebuchadnezzar or other political leaders,
MUST LEARN that “the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will
and sets over it the lowliest of men.” (v. 17b)**

All of us must learn that it is GOD who decrees whatsoever comes to pass!

***Eph. 1:11** who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*

**TODAY: only a minority of even Christians would lay the same emphasis on the
absolute sovereignty of God as Daniel does.**

THAT IS to our spiritual detriment!



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**B/C it is THAT STRAND of Biblical teaching that humbles the pride of man.
FEW THINGS are more necessary to understand in our day!**

In the days of the 18th-century Great Awakening, Jonathan Edwards came to see that conversion to Christ was preceded by a “humiliation before the Sovereign Disposer of life and death, whereby God is wont [prone] to prepare them for his consolations.”

He wrote in another place:

“I think I have found that no discourses [sermons] have been more remarkably blessed, than those...[on] the doctrine of God’s absolute sovereignty with regard to the salvation of sinners.”

Like Daniel, he saw this to be VITAL! He realized that by declaring that God is sovereign over everyone, you are rightly emphasizing that God is GOD!!

As a result, no truth about God is more likely to evoke either humility or rebellion!

The truth of God’s sovereignty is in many ways a litmus test that indicates an individual’s true spiritual condition.

Just like Nebuchadnezzar, we must learn willingly or painfully that ultimate power did not rest in our own hands

BUT in Heaven – in God’s hands.

See, in many ways, we make ourselves the center of the universe.

And Nebuchadnezzar had done this on a large scale!

He was oblivious to God’s absolute sovereignty

And ∴ his heart was not submitted to Him.

So now God is going to deal in new severity with him to rid him of his fatal pride and spiritual blindness.

So, in one moment of time, God strips him of all his regal glory, and reduces him to a beast.

3. The Lesson of Humility



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Daniel 4:19-27 – *¹⁹ Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king answered and said, “Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you.” Belteshazzar answered and said, “My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies! ²⁰ The tree you saw, which grew and became strong, so that its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth, ²¹ whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which beasts of the field found shade, and in whose branches the birds of the heavens lived— ²² it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth. ²³ And because the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field, and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven periods of time pass over him,’ ²⁴ this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, ²⁵ that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. ²⁶ And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. ²⁷ Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.”*

Verse 19 introduces both names of Daniel again, the Hebrew name in recognition that he is acting as a servant of the God of Israel and his Babylonian name by which he was officially known.

Daniel is now in a state of perplexity. His soul was so moved that he could not speak of the terror of his thoughts.

I imagine that Daniel had a high regard for Nebuchadnezzar and perhaps had even been praying for his salvation.

He was dismayed now because he wished only good for the king and yet now he has to announce judgment from God to him.



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It reminds me of Samuel when he was a boy and God revealed to him what was going to happen to Eli's sons and Eli told him to tell him no matter how bad the news. Samuel was afraid but he told Eli what God said.

And that is a great example for us to follow? Even though it may be hard, are we willing to share the hard truths of the gospel and tell people that apart repenting and trusting in Christ alone, they will go to hell forever?

Are we willing to say this to even powerful people if we have the opportunity, even if it costs us our jobs, our creature comforts, our freedoms, even our lives?

Well Nebuchadnezzar is gracious to Daniel and urges him not to let the dream trouble him.

And Daniel tells him everything and doesn't hold anything back. He urges the king to replace his sins with righteousness and his iniquities with showing mercy to the poor.

And think about this – Nebuchadnezzar had been morally wicked and cruel to those whom he ruled. His concern had been to build a magnificent city as a monument to his name rather than to alleviating the suffering of the poor.

According to the dream, the beasts of the field had found shade under Nebuchadnezzar's bountiful reign.

But NOW, God will reduce him to being one of those needy beasts that needed shelter and provision.

Daniel interprets the dream for him, and tells him
v. 22 – it is you!

Reminds you of when Nathan the prophet confronted David for his sin!
You are the man!
You are this tree!
You will become as a beast, driven from your glory. (v. 25)

UNTIL you know that you're not sovereign, and that God IS!!



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Until you know that Heaven rules, meaning God rules. The word heaven is similar to how the NT interchanges heaven with God – the kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of God.

Nebuchadnezzar’s sovereignty was much less than heaven’s sovereignty.

Four ways God worked to bring humility to Nebuchadnezzar:

A. The Patience of God.

v. 29

God gave an extended opportunity for him to repent of the hardness of his heart and of his life of arrogant empire-building.

v. 27 – Daniel

NOT ONLY was he already an old man who had lived decades with the knowledge of God and His mighty power and wisdom through being a witness to several signs and wonders,

- Dreams to disturb him
- Daniel to instruct and warn him
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to demonstrate the power of God to him
- AND EVEN AFTER this divine warning of doom from the angel in his dream,
- God STILL gives him a FULL YEAR to repent!!
 - But he didn’t do so!

Nebuchadnezzar presumed on the patience of God

The weeks passed after the dream, and the judgment of God did not come, SO his pride and spiritual lethargy held him in his sinful ways.

Rom 2:4–5 - Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? 5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.

That is the most fatal mistake a person can make!

- To presume on the kindness and patience of God.



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- To ignore or scoff at the warnings that God has spoken to your conscience.

Listen, at some point, the day of the Lord will come!
The axe will be laid to the root of the tree!

- On a day that we are not aware!
- When we’re not expecting it!

And all running from Him will cease!

Nebuchadnezzar’s day came:

B. The Judgment of God

Daniel 4:28-33 – ²⁸ All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹ At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, ³⁰ and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?” ³¹ While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, ³² and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.” ³³ Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.

God interrupted Nebuchadnezzar’s fascination with his own glory. Notice the I’s and the My’s. I have built, by my mighty power, my majesty. He’s a ME monster.

It sounds like Isaiah 14 and the 5 I will’s of the king of Babylon which many think is ultimately referring to Satan.

Utterly absorbed in his own personal success, God’s judgment struck suddenly.

Just like God responded quickly to answering Daniel’s prayer in chapter 9, God responds quickly in judgment here. Nebuchadnezzar is struck -

WITH what doctors today call “lycanthropy”

- The delusion of believing yourself to be an animal.



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- Though it is unusual, it’s still observed today.
 - Some: wolves, gerbils, dogs, cats, rabbits, tigers, etc.
 - Some people get tattoo’s all over their body and pierce parts of their body and chisel their teeth sharp to be like an animal.

In 1946 a mental patient in his early 20’s had this condition. He was described this way – His mental symptoms included pronounced anti-social tendencies, and because of this he spent the entire day outdoors, in the grounds of the institution. His daily routine consisted of wandering around the magnificent lawns with which the otherwise dingy hospital situation was graced, and it was his custom to pluck up and eat handfuls of the grass as he went along. On observation he was seen to discriminate carefully between grass and weeds. The diet of this patient consisted exclusively of grass from hospital lawns. He never ate institutional food with the other inmates and his only drink was water. The only physical abnormality was a lengthening of the hair and a coarse, thickened condition of the finger-nails.

Sounds very similar to Nebuchadnezzar. Well, God reduced this majestic man to tragic and pathetic delusions of being a beast.

The one who refuses to honor God’s glory loses his own glory!

Because of his delusions, he is driven out from the people:

- Lives outside with the cattle in the fields
- Exposed to the elements of nature (drenched with dew)
- No more luxurious comforts
- No more wine and fine meats and breads – now he eats grass
- No more comfortable beds and couches – he sleeps in the open air
- His hair grows long and becomes coarse and matted
- His fingernails become thickened and long like claws
- For “seven periods” (months, years, or weeks?)

He’s lost his SANITY!

The axe had been laid to his roots
AND IN A MOMENT God showed just how fragile the great king really was!

This king who thought so highly of himself has been reduced to a subhuman level.

He continues in this state until he comes to his senses.



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AND recognizes that God is sovereign over the affairs of men.

Daniel 4:34-35 – ³⁴ *At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason 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 endures from generation to generation; ³⁵ all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”*

C. The Mercy of God

Remember that the tree is not completely destroyed.

**Stump & roots are banded with iron and brass to protect it from destruction.
Symbolic of the preservation of Nebuchadnezzar’s life and kingdom.**

**God could have killed him and destroyed the kingdom.
Look at Sodom and Gomorrah! But he didn’t.**

God was not yet done using him to preserve the people of Israel, and preparing the world to receive the Messiah.

God restored his kingdom to him.

Daniel 4:36 – ³⁶ *At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me.*

NOTICE NOT UNTIL AFTER he’d taken away Nebuchadnezzar’s sense of ownership of it did he restore his kingdom.

**NOT UNTIL God had taught him about His sovereignty over Babylon.
And DEEPLY HUMBLLED him in reverence and worship of the Lord Most High.**

**GOD KNOWS HOW TO GET TO A MAN! (to humble him)
His methods are MYSTERIOUS,
And sometimes they are UNSPARING.**

God is passionate about his glory,



Daniel 4:1-37
"The Humbling of Nebuchadnezzar by a Sovereign God"
By Mike Clark

AND He will not share it with another.

His work in the world is to cause men and women to recognize His supremacy and sovereignty and give Him the glory due to His name.

For God to do that BEFORE we die, and have no further opportunity to repent, IS AN ACT OF HIS MERCY AND GRACE!

D. The Grace of God

Daniel 4:37 – 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 these final words, I see evidence for Nebuchadnezzar's conversion. God is no respecter of persons. He can save the high and mighty as well as the lowly. His humility has come.

Why has God afflicted this king like this? - To show mercy to him in bringing him to repentance.

How was an insane mind able to regain its reason enough to confess the very thing that God said? - God gave that realization to him.

That realization did not merely dawn on Nebuchadnezzar. It was given to him as a gift of grace in the midst of his insanity.

What a clear illustration of how BLIND and UNABLE we are to:

- understand the Gospel
- and repent of our sins,
- and believe on Christ for forgiveness

UNLESS the Lord does that work in us.

Eph 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

THAT NO ONE MAY BOAST.



Daniel 4:1-37
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Sin brings us to shame.

And in that shame we must come to God for forgiveness. When we do, Faith and repentance are the gifts of God given to us to bring us to love God and His glory. Not our own.

May the Lord bring us great humility and visit us with His salvation!

PRAYER