

## Daniel 4: Pride & Humility.

### I. 1-17 – The Second Dream.

What Nebuchadnezzar experienced previously with Daniel and the three Hebrew young men was just enough to impress him, but not didn't convince him to faith in the One true God. He turns to Daniel as a last resort.

The **tree** in Nebuchadnezzar's dream was noted for its size, strength, prominence, beauty, fruit, and shelter. The **watcher** (presumably an angel) explains the fate of the tree. He notes that the tree is to be chopped down, and it will lose its size, strength, prominence, beauty, fruit, and shelter. He also says that the **tree** represents a **man** who will be **changed** and **given the heart of a beast**.

### II. 18-27: The Interpretation.

Nebuchadnezzar asks Daniel to interpret the dream; Daniel wished the dream didn't refer to the King. You're the proud, tall, fruitful, beautiful and shelter tree. You'll be cut down, driven out of your kingdom and become like an animal till you realize that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men...your kingdom shall be restored to you. Repent; perhaps it is not too late, *stop* sinning, *practice* righteousness and generosity.

### III. 28-33: Fulfillment of the dream.

God gave Nebuchadnezzar twelve months to repent, and he probably forgot about the dream during that time - but God didn't forget. Babylon was truly one of the spectacular cities of the ancient world, including the famous "hanging gardens" built by Nebuchadnezzar.

In the British Museum, there are six columns of writing recovered from Babylon which describe the huge building projects of Nebuchadnezzar and his zeal to enlarge and beautify the city.

He was afflicted with the form of insanity in which he thought of himself an animal, it is called, *boanthropy*.

Nebuchadnezzar was given the opportunity to humble himself, and he did not. Now God humiliated him, and the experience was much more severe than it would have been had Nebuchadnezzar humbled himself.

Nebuchadnezzar was proud of himself and his achievements.

*Pride is swelling, self exaltation and pre-occupation with self.*

**Pride** is an inwardly directed emotion that foolishly and irrationally corrupts sense of one's personal value, status or accomplishments.

*Pride is the greatest and original sin.*

**Isaiah 14:12-15** - "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation. On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

**Proverbs 6:16-17**- *These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him, a proud look...*

**Proverbs 16:18** - *Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.*

The opposite of pride is humility – lowly, not rising far from the ground. Being yourself.

**Humility** is recognition of self in relation to God and self-restraint from excessive vanity.

**1 Peter 5:5-6** - *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.*

**Philippians 2:5-8** - *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in the appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death on the cross.*