

Nebuchadnezzar is Humbled

Daniel 4

July 18, 2021

Pastor Gary Hollinger

God is more than able to humble the proud and exalt the humble.

- I. Nebuchadnezzar begins and ends his contribution to the book of Daniel by exalting Israel's God above all others. (v. 1-3, 34b-37)**

- II. As before, the Chaldeans could not interpret the king's dream. (v. 4-7)**

- III. The king recounted the events of his dream of a great tree. (v. 8-16)**

- IV. The angel announces that the purpose of the dream is to cause the king to recognize the One True God. (v. 17-18)**

- V. Daniel was appalled and dismayed by the meaning of the king's dream. (v. 19)**

- VI. Daniel explained that God had decreed the thorough humiliation of king Nebuchadnezzar. (v. 20-26)**

With my great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and the animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please. Now I will give all your countries into the hands of my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; I will make even the wild animals subject to him. All nations will serve him and his son and his grandson until the time for his land comes; then many nations and great kings will subjugate him. (Jeremiah 27:5-7)

- VII. Daniel urged the king to repent. (v. 27)**

- VIII. Because Nebuchadnezzar would not humble himself, Yahweh humbled him as promised. (v. 28-33)**

What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not? (1 Corinthians 4:7b)

IX. Nebuchadnezzar begins and ends his contribution to the book of Daniel by exalting Israel's God above all others. (v. 1-3, 34b-37)

A. His eternality

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.

The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does. (Psalm 145:13)

For this is what the high and exalted One says—

he who lives forever, whose name is holy:

“I live in a high and holy place,

but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite. (Isaiah 57:15)

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)

B. His sovereignty

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Proverbs 9:10)

Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created human beings on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of? Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived? Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?

You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides him there is no other. From heaven he made you hear his voice to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from out of the fire. Because he loved your ancestors and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength, to drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you and to bring you into their land to give it to you for your inheritance, as it is today.

Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other. (Deuteronomy 4:32-39)

The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength;
indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.
Your throne was established long ago;
you are from all eternity. (Psalm 93:1-2)

Let them know that you, whose name is the LORD—
that you alone are the Most High over all the earth. (Psalm 83:18)

C. His authority

Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.
Yours, LORD, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.
Wealth and honor come from you;
you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all. (1 Chronicles 29:11-12)

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which
God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. (Romans 13:1)

D. His righteousness

I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of
the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless. (Isaiah 13:11)

But the Lord Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will be proved holy by
his righteous acts. (Isaiah 5:16)

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's
throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from
that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9:7)

I will betroth you to me forever;
I will betroth you in righteousness and justice,
in love and compassion.
I will betroth you in faithfulness,
and you will acknowledge the LORD. (Hosea 2:19-20)

The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth;
you founded the world and all that is in it.
You created the north and the south;
Tabor and Hermon sing for joy at your name.
Your arm is endowed with power;
your hand is strong, your right hand exalted.
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
love and faithfulness go before you.
Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,
who walk in the light of your presence, LORD.
They rejoice in your name all day long;
they celebrate your righteousness. (Psalm 89:11-16)

And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God and sang the song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb:

“Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty.
Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations.
Who will not fear you, Lord,
and bring glory to your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.” (Revelation 15:2-4)

For my own name's sake I delay my wrath;
for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you,
so as not to destroy you completely.
See, I have refined you, though not as silver;
I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.
For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this.
How can I let myself be defamed?
I will not yield my glory to another. (Isaiah 48:9-11)

Pride goes before destruction,
a haughty spirit before a fall. (Proverbs 16:18)

“God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble.” (1 Peter 5:5b)

“For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Luke 14:11)