

Kings & Kingdoms

“Talons to Treasures”

4:27 ...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.



Daniel 4

⁴ I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace. ⁵ I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me. ^{9b} 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, 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.



²⁰ (Daniel said) “The tree you saw, which grew and became strong... 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. ... ^{25b} 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.”



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?” ...



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.



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?”*



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. 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.



The Problem of Pride

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



The Hanging Gardens of Babylon
One of the 7 Wonders of the World

The Problem of Pride



Puffer Fish
1200x Cyanide

30b “Is not this great
Babylon, which *I* have
built by *my mighty
power* as a royal
residence and for the
glory of my majesty?”



How We
See God

How We
See Others

How We
See Ourselves



How We
See God

How We
See Others

How We
See Ourselves

Pride isn't thinking too much of yourself,
it's thinking of yourself too much.



The Cost of Pride



³³ 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.



Psalm 135

¹⁵ The idols of the nations are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.

¹⁶ They have mouths, but do not speak;
they have eyes, but do not see;

¹⁷ they have ears, but do not hear,
nor is there any breath in their mouths.

¹⁸ Those who make them become like them,
so do all who trust in them.



33b 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.

Isolated

Vulnerable

Scrounging



25^b till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.



The Healing of Pride

The Two Trees

The Stump

²⁶ And as it was
commanded to leave
the stump of the
roots of the tree,

The Shoot

Isaiah 11:1
There shall come
forth a shoot from
the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his
roots shall bear fruit.



The Healing of Pride

The Three Trees

Genesis

2:17 the tree of
the knowledge
of good and
evil you shall
not eat,



The Healing of Pride

The Three Trees

Genesis

Cross

Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” —



The Healing of Pride

The Three Trees

Genesis

Cross

Revelation



Revelation 22:1-2

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life...on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.



“Humility is not thinking less of yourself,
it’s thinking of yourself less.” (C.S. Lewis)

Which MUST be a gift from God

Obsess
About God

^{34b} lifted my
eyes to
heaven...

Confess
Your Sins

²⁷ break off your sins by
practicing righteousness, and
your iniquities by showing
mercy to the oppressed,

Love
Your Neighbor



Prayer of Response

LEADER: I blessed the Most High,
and praised and honored
him who lives forever,



Prayer of Response

ALL: for his dominion
 is an everlasting dominion,
 and his kingdom endures
 from generation to generation;



Prayer of Response

LEADER: ³⁵ all the inhabitants of the earth
are accounted as nothing,
and he does according to his will...



Prayer of Response

ALL: Among the hosts of heaven
and among the inhabitants of the earth;
and none can stay his hand
or say to him, “What have you done?”

