

RUSSELL SANDERS

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DANIEL THE MAN – LESSON 9

THE SIN OF PRIDE

Chapter 4 of the book of Daniel is a perfect example of Proverbs 16:18 which says (KJV), ***“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”***

King Nebuchadnezzar spoke pridefully in verse 30 as he said, ***“Is this not great Babylon that I have built for the house of the Kingdom by the might of my power (pride) and for the honour of my majesty (haughty)?”***

This chapter was written in the “first person” by Nebuchadnezzar himself and sent out to people of all nations and languages (vs. 1) of the known world. Daniel records it in his book.

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream in verse 5 which “scared the daylights out of him” (my words). The magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, soothsayers and wisemen could not give him the interpretation. At last came Daniel, and the King described his dream as follows:

There was a large strong tree in the middle of the earth that grew tall unto heaven. It was fair (beautiful) to look upon and all creatures were sustained by its fruit. Then a “watcher” and “holy one” came down from heaven and cried out to cut down the tree but leave its stump in the ground to be with the beasts of the field of grass and let the stump have a beast’s heart for “seven times.”

Daniel interpreted the dream. The King was the tree and had become great in strength and dominion (rulership). The words of the watcher and holy one in verse 24 were; ***“the decree of the Most High (God).”*** The King (for his pride – hubris in Greek), would be humbled and made as a “mad man” (my words), driven out of the capitol city of Babylon to live with the wild beasts of the field (forest) and eat grass like the oxen. This would last for seven “times”, i.e., seven years, until he would come to his senses to understand that only ***“the Most High ruleth in the Kingdom of men, and giveth (Kingdoms) to whomsoever He will (chooses).”*** (vs. 25)

The “stump of the tree roots” will hold the Kingdom for him until Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges that the God of heaven does rule, and not any human that God raises up.

Daniel urged Nebuchadnezzar to stop his sinning and turn to righteous rule, and perhaps God would lengthen peacefulness (tranquility) to him. The King did not take Daniel’s advice as he continued in his prideful and corrupt pagan ways. Twelve months later he made that prideful and arrogant boast in V. 30 (previously quoted) and immediately God audibly spoke condemnation to him. That same hour madness overtook him, and he was “put out to pasture” as shown in the dream.

Others ruled the Kingdom on his behalf for seven years after which in v. 34 it says, ***“...mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored Him that liveth forever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion.”***

He was restored to his throne as Daniel had said. He published his story throughout the known world to give glory to the Most High God.

Only Jehovah could set this forth and give Daniel the interpretation.

Human pride, thinking so highly of ones' self, was even considered by Greek philosophers to be the greatest of all sins. (Hubris.) The Holy Bible also condemns such pridefulness. Jesus taught humility and meekness (Matthew 5:3, 5). Matthew 5:3-9 are qualities the Lord admires and encourages. May we be more like that.