

I. Pride Declared - Dan. 4:28-30

1. "All this happened" - God will humble you if you don't recognize Him (**verse 28**)
Rea -"judgment" fulfilled - it has already been "promised"
 -significant accomplishments tempt us to be proud.
- Rea -perhaps this is a reason that God does not always allow us to "succeed" - it would go to our head, and we would forget the God who gave it. Not everyone can "handle" success
2. Fast forward "twelve months" (**verse 29**)
 -he is walking in the palace
 -he had built a magnificent palace
3. Neb's words - "is not this the great Babylon" - muses to himself (**verse 30**)
Rea -proud of himself... doesn't he have a right to be proud of himself??
4. Built:
 -by his own power
 -for his own glory and might - majesty
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. God hears our boasting - even if we are alone
 2. He is a pagan, so can we expect "Christian" virtues from him?
 3. The harshness of God's works is often explained by the harshness of the person that
- He is speaking to - some people will listen to nothing else
4. Have you ever been proud of yourself? - your kids? -your church?
 -did God hear?
 -what did God think?

II. Reality Defined - Dan. 4:31-33

1. While the words were still on his lips judgment falls (**verse 31**)
 -a voice from heaven tells him what the judgment is pertaining to
 -authority taken from you
- Rea -so who gave it to him in the first place?
2. You will be driven away from people (**verse 32**)
 -to live with wild animals
 -you will eat grass like the ox
- Rea -God's "right" to do this is emphasized in verse 32
3. The judgement will last "seven times"
 -years
4. Immediately the judgment fell (**verse 33**)
 -driven out with the other animals
5. He:
 -was drenched with dew (wet)
 -ate grass
 -hair grew long
 -fingernails grew like those of bird
- Rea 6. Do you believe that God still "humbles" people like this?

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. God resists the proud - 1 Peter
2. What is God's "end game?" - what does God want from this?
3. Not much is said about Neb's mind - does he retain his any type sanity while living with the animals? - a full punishment would be to realize that this was happening while it did... to look back over his shoulder and see what he lost.
4. The word "repentance" is not used - why/ why not?
5. All of us are proud - what are you proud over?

III. Honor Given - Dan. 4:34-37

1. At the end of that time (**verse 34**)
 - Rea -verse 32 mentions "seven times"
2. Raised his eyes to heaven - recognizing God's sovereignty
 - Rea -a brute only recognizes brute power
3. Sanity restored - I praised the Most High
 - he recognized that the Most High had given him all this
 - Rea -in this context "Most" high has real relevance - "higher" than all the other gods (from a pagan's point of view)
4. God:
 - is most high
 - is to be honored and glorified
 - is in dominion (eternal)
 - from generation to generation
 - compared to Him all the peoples are nothing (**verse 35**)
 - Rea -assuming he includes himself in the "peoples"
 - He does as He pleases
 - no one can say "what have you done?"
 - Rea -no one can question His actions
5. Neb was restored (**verse 36**)
 - sanity restored
 - honor and glory restored
 - restored to the throne - greater than before
6. Now he praises the king of heaven (**verse 37**)
 - exalt and glorify the king
 - everything He does is right and just
 - when needed He can humble the proud

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. What would it take to humble you?
2. Here is an active and involved God who intentionally humbled this king
 - it was painful for Neb, but the end was a good one
3. Do you think that God intentionally humbles some of us?
4. Do you think that Neb knew he needed to be humbled before all this happened?