



Stand Strong When Pride is Raging

Sunday, May 10, 2020

The book of Daniel is a reminder that God is on the throne, no matter what our eyes see or what we think!

One story with many [lessons](#)! (Daniel Chapter 4)

Somebody Help Me! (Daniel 4:4-8)

Daniel 4:4-8

⁴I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. ⁵I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me. ⁶So I commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream for me. ⁷When the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners came, I told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me. ⁸Finally, Daniel came into my presence and I told him the dream. (He is called Belteshazzar, after the name of my god, and the spirit of the holy gods is in him.)

Lesson 1- When you can't figure something out, ask someone [wise](#)...and [keep](#) asking! (Humility)

So Far, It Seems Like a Nice Dream (Daniel 4:9-12)

Daniel 4:9-12

⁹I said, "Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you. Here is my dream; interpret it for me. ¹⁰These are the visions I saw while lying in bed: I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous. ¹¹The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth. ¹²Its leaves were beautiful, its

fruit abundant, and on it was food for all. Under it the wild animals found shelter, and the birds lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed.

Things Take a Troubling Turn (Daniel 4:13-16)

Daniel 4:13-16

¹³ "In the visions I saw while lying in bed, I looked, and there before me was a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven. ¹⁴ He called in a loud voice: 'Cut down the tree and trim off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches. ¹⁵ But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field.

"Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth. ¹⁶ Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him.

Lesson 2- Sometimes we get a sense of our **pride** and the potential **consequences!**
(Pride and Humility)

The Heart of the Matter (Daniel 4:17)

Daniel 4:17

¹⁷ "The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people.'

Lesson 3- God **rules** and **reigns** over my life, even if I don't like or **recognize** it!
(Pride)

What Does This Mean? (Daniel 4:18-19)

Daniel 4:18-19

¹⁸ "This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now, Belteshazzar, tell me what it means, for none of the wise men in my kingdom can interpret it for me. But you can, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you."

¹⁹ Then Daniel (also called Belteshazzar) was greatly perplexed for a time, and his thoughts terrified him. So the king said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its meaning alarm you."

Lesson 4- Sometimes it is best to keep our mouth shut! (Humility)

You Are the Tree! (Here's the good part) (Daniel 4:19-22)

Daniel 4:19-20

¹⁹ Belteshazzar answered, "My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries! ²⁰ The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth, ²¹ with beautiful leaves and abundant fruit, providing food for all, giving shelter to the wild animals, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds— ²² Your Majesty, you are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth.

Lesson 5- Sometimes everything going my way can be an incubator for pride! (Pride)

Here's the Bad Part... You Will Be Cut Down (Daniel 4:23)

Daniel 4:23

²³ "Your Majesty saw a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live with the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.'

Lesson 6- God hates pride and deals with it (for His glory and our good)

When You Lose the Battle with Pride...It Always Costs You! (Daniel 4:24-27)

Daniel 4:24-27

²⁴ "This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king:²⁵ You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.²⁶ The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules.²⁷ Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue."

Lesson 7- God loves us enough to give warnings (Invitation to humility)

Twelve Months Pass By...

Lesson 8- God is longsuffering, but also has loving limits!

Real Consequences of Real Sin! (Daniel 4:28-33)

Daniel 4:28-33

²⁸ All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar.²⁹ Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon,³⁰ he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

³¹ Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you.³² You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes."

³³ Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of

heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

Lesson 9- It is time! (The cost of pride)

A Change of Heart (Daniel 4:34-37)

Daniel 4:34-37

³⁴ At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

His dominion is an eternal dominion;

his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

³⁵ All the peoples of the earth

are regarded as nothing.

He does as he pleases

with the powers of heaven

and the peoples of the earth.

No one can hold back his hand

or say to him: "What have you done?"

³⁶ At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Lesson 10- God longs to restore us! (Humility)

Do you recognize where pride is growing in your heart and life?