

*I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace. I saw a dream that made me afraid. ... the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me. Dan. 4:4-5*

Two Insights ...

1. This is the Only Chapter in all of Scripture that was written by a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. His testimony is not of his greatness but of His \_\_\_\_\_.

### **An Ancient Story for Modern Culture ... Dan 4**

- I. A Dream Described ... (vs. 4-18) ... A \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_
- II. A Dream \_\_\_\_\_ ... (vs. 19-27)  
*Belteshazzar answered and said, "My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!" – vs. 19*
- III. A Dream Fulfilled ... (vs. 28-37)

Pride's \_\_\_\_\_ ... (cp. 1 Chron 29:11-12; Ja. 4:13-17; Ps 24:1)

- Failure/Refusal to Acknowledge that \_\_\_\_\_ Comes from God
- Foolish Assumption that the " \_\_\_\_\_ " will last forever

Pride's \_\_\_\_\_ ... (Pr. 24:16; 26:11; Ps. 119:71; Ja.4:10; 2 Chron. 7:14)

- \_\_\_\_\_ is Not Enough
- \_\_\_\_\_ is Essential

### **My Takeaway ...**

1. God intervenes when we have outgrown our \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God's intervention is painful because He is \_\_\_\_\_ the sin that pulls us away from Him
3. God's intervention lasts until we \_\_\_\_\_
4. God's purpose in humiliation is never to destroy us, but to \_\_\_\_\_ into fellowship with Him.

1. We might find it difficult to relate with King Nebuchadnezzar's arrogance as most of us don't rule over a nation. Yet, God is just as concerned about the "everyday arrogance" all around us. Where do you see arrogance or an untamed ego showing up in the world around you?
2. One definition of humility is having an accurate view of ourselves - including our strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. What is one gift, strength or ability that God has given you? Have you been faithful to use this gift for His glory? Has there ever been a time when pride as been intermingled with that gift or the use of it?

Now think back over your life. Is there one person who has modeled a healthy life of humility for you? How did you see humility lived out in their life?

3. C.S. Lewis wrote, "the essential vice, the utmost evil, is pride...Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind." Solomon had quite a bit to say about pride and arrogance as well. Jot down a few of his observations from the Proverbs listed below.

Proverbs 11:2

Proverbs 13:10

Proverbs 16:5

Proverbs 16:18

Even though pride has so many negative consequences it seems like the arrogant can still prosper. What light does Isaiah 2:11-12 shed on this dilemma?

4. Keeping pride and arrogance at bay even in the little things is a challenge for all of us. In the face of the following situations, first write down what an arrogant response could look like. Then jot down how the related Scriptures could help you think and respond better.
  - a. Your co-worker or friend confronts you about a questionable decision you made. (Check out Proverbs 15:31-33)
  - b. You have been hurt by another person who was clearly in the wrong. (Check out Colossians 3:12-14)
  - c. You are doing something good and hope people notice you doing it. (Check out 1 Peter 2:12)

### **Appointment with God – Prayer Focus**

Pray for the Church, that we may do OUR PART of accepting the responsibility of making choices that turn us away from our sin and closer to Jesus. Pray that we keep our focus on Jesus in order to persevere when obedience is tough. Pray also, asking the Lord to do HIS PART of perfecting our faith--growing us up in Him! Read Hebrews 12:1-2

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Two Insights ...

1. This is the Only Chapter in all of Scripture that was written by a **Pagan King**.
2. His testimony is not of his greatness but of His **Humiliation**.

### An Ancient Story for Modern Culture ... Dan 4

- I. A Dream Described ... (vs. 4-18) ... A **Tree** and a **Stump**
- II. A Dream **Explained** ... (vs. 19-27)  
*Belteshazzar answered and said, "My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!" – vs. 19*
- III. A Dream Fulfilled ... (vs. 28-37)

Pride's **Roots** ... (cp. 1 Chron 29:11-12; Ja. 4:13-17; Ps 24:1)

- Failure/Refusal to Acknowledge that **Everything** Comes from God
- Foolish Assumption that the "**Good Life**" will last forever

Pride's **Cure** ... (Pr. 24:16; 26:11; Ps. 119:71; Ja.4:10; 2 Chron. 7:14)

- **Failure** is Not Enough
- **Humiliation** is Essential

### My Takeaway ...

1. God intervenes when we have outgrown our **need for God**.
2. God's intervention is painful because He is **cutting away** the sin that pulls us away from Him
3. God's intervention lasts until we **learn**
4. God's purpose in humiliation is never to destroy us, but to **draw us back** into fellowship with Him.

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