

# HANDLING SUCCESS SUCCESSFULLY

Daniel 4 Sept 23, 2007

Review the previous three chapters from Daniel.

If I were to ask you what is the most fundamental sin what would you say? Pride, pride is what started it all with Satan thinking of himself to be higher than he ought to wanted to be like God and thus he became the Devil. **Isa. 14:14** Is Satan talking. The Bible is full of warnings against pride: 2 Chron. 32:24-26; **Mk. 9:33-37**; Lev. 26:19; **Deut. 8:17-18**; Prov. 8:13; **16:18**; Mk. 10:35-45; **Rom. 12:3**; Jas. 4:6.

Chap 5:17-23 next week will review this chapter.

## I. PREMONITION

Dan. 4:1-5

The events of this chapter take place in about the 18<sup>th</sup> year of king Neb's reign. We note immediately that the chapter is unusual in that it is written in the first person by King Neb and evidently placed in the book by Daniel as he was guided by the Holy Spirit.

King Neb had another dream that frightened and alarmed him. A year later he was walking on the roof of his palace admiring all the things he had accomplished and built when a voice from heaven spoke of divine judgment. By the end of the lesson we will see that king Neb learned that God humbles the proud.

Vs. 4-5

Everything was going well for King Neb, he was not at war , he had built the things he wanted the width of just the walls around Babylon were 84 feet wide and some 300+ feet high, they actually had chariot races around the walls of the city. So the King is up on his roof overlooking all this including the famous hanging gardens he had built for his wife.

Vs. 6-7 Chaldeans unable to interpret the dream.

In vs. 6-27 Neb calls in the Chaldeans again to interpret his dream and this time he tells them the dream but they still cannot interpret it. Then at last Vs. 8 he calls in Daniel and note he says the spirit of the holy gods is in him, and he repeats that statement again in Vs. 9 and in Vs. 18. **READ Vs. 8-9,18**

Vs. 8-18 The king relates the dream to Daniel

Vs. 10-17 is the dream about a large tree enormous in size much like the enormous statue Neb saw in chap 2 at least 20 years earlier.

**READ Vs. 17** the theme of Daniel is repeated, Vs.18 repeats Neb's belief that Daniel is spirit filled but he still keeps using the phrase the spirit of the holy gods is in you. God is sovereign that means He and He alone is above everything and everyone above us. He limits the power of governments and individuals, like Hitler, Stalin and others.

## Vs 19 - 27 THE MESSAGE OF THE DREAM

The dream of the large tree Vs. 20-22 again was King Neb he was the head of gold in the first dream **Chap 2:31-32, 37-38** now he finds out that he is the tree. **The theme of Daniel is the Universal Sovereignty of God Rules Over the Kingdoms of Men.** Repeated in 17, 25 & 32.

Daniel was perplexed not because he did not know the meaning but after 30 years serving King Neb, Daniel may have been a bit loyal to the king. Daniel wished the dream applied to Neb's enemies.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. **Wh**at is the difference between good pride and bad pride? Pride is good when we work hard with God as our boss.
2. What circumstances led to King Neb's feeling at ease and flourishing? What circumstances today give us that feeling of ease and flourishing?

## **II. PRIDE**

Dan. 4:28-30

**READ Vs. 26** His son known as Evil-Merodach and Daniel probably ran the kingdom during Nebuchadnezzar's insanity.

Vs. 28-30 King Neb knew about God and acknowledged Him **Vs. 2:46-47; 3:28-29**; he did not know Him. Look at the pride in these Vs. "I" and "my" power. See Deut 8:17-18. What is pride? Putting ourselves above others.

Vs. 30 Nebuchadnezzar's boastful question in Vs. 30 contains 5 foundations for human pride and sin:

1. Pride uses many personal pronouns
2. Boasting usually involves suggestions of creator (look what I have made)
3. Powerful (cannot imagine a force greater than your own, seems especially true today in sports)
4. Pleasure

5. Self-aggrandizement (making oneself greater and greater, "I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones to hold all my stuff" Lk. 12:18-19)

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. **How can we enjoy our accomplishments** while maintaining a proper perspective toward God?

## **III. PUNISHMENT**

Dan. 4:31-33

God had given Nebuchadnezzar a year to respond to God's call to repent. Vs. 30 clearly shows his unrepentant pride and as the king was speaking the dream was fulfilled and the kingdom was taken from him.

7 times many believe it is years mainly because later in **Daniel Chap 12:4, 7, &9;** a time, times and half a time was 3.5 years. But 7 is also the number of completion and may just refer to the fact that the king was going to remain in this condition until he repented. **1 Cor 10:12**

Vs. 32 The Theme of Daniel is repeated in Vs. 17,25 and here **The theme of Daniel is the Universal Sovereignty of God Rules Over the Kingdoms of Men.**

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. **How was king Neb's punishment fitting?** **Prov. 16:18**

## **IV. PRAISE**

Dan. 3:34-38

READ Vs. 26 again promise that kingdom would be restored as soon as what? He acknowledged that Heaven Rules.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. **What are** some evidences of pride in a Christian's life? Failure to pray,
2. What happened when the king looked up toward heaven? **While he was still in the fields eating grass.**
3. Can true worship come from a proud heart? What thoughts, attitudes and actions signify sinful pride? How can we eliminate it from our lives?