Daily Daniel-Day 15

Let’s get into the word. We left off in this dream of the king with Daniel interpreting it to him.

20-26: 20  The tree that you saw, which grew and became strong, whose height reached to the heavens and which *could be seen* by all the earth, 21  whose leaves *were* lovely and its fruit abundant, in which *was* food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and in whose branches the birds of the heaven had their home-- 22  it *is* you, O king, who have grown and become strong; for your greatness has grown and reaches to the heavens, and your dominion to the end of the earth. 23  And inasmuch as the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave its stump and roots in the earth, *bound* with a band of iron and bronze in the tender grass of the field; let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let him graze with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him'; 24  this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: 25  They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses. 26  And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump *and* roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after you come to know that Heaven rules.

1: This reminds us of what the prophet Nathan said to King David: *You are the man!* ([2 Samuel 12:7](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.blueletterbible.org%2FBible.cfm%3Fb%3D2Sa%26c%3D12%26v%3D7%23s%3D279007&data=04%7C01%7C%7C86243ac449084da27aaf08d8f2aeabe2%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637526179312219604%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=VwPw1%2Fvd3OUgsnqnhS2X34%2FkVXHFIojBzBeFxPNaIPw%3D&reserved=0)). You had it all and God was using you oh king but now you will be cut down-the dream is about you. There will remain a stump but you will be wet with the dew of heaven and graze as a cow for 7 years. For seven years ("seven times") the king would live like a beast, eating grass and feeling the forces of nature against his body. He won't even recognize who he is. Why would he go through such a time? It was all because of pride. The way verse 26 is put I believe he could have avoided this next 7 years but selfish pride would not be overlooked by God. Notice in verse 4-10 all the I,I, I. He had built this great image of himself because he viewed the success of the land of Babylon on his efforts alone. God hates pride –Prov. 6:16-19, and He will do everything to eliminate it from your life. Jeremiah 9:23-24 says this -23  Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; 24  But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. We have nothing in which we can glory. I know I sure do not! Again, the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 4:7, 7 For who makes you differ *from another?* And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it,* why do you boast as if you had not received *it?* We have nothing to offer to God but our faith in Him. He is in total control of all things why would we think that it is us that is in control? You are much better off to think as Paul said in-17  As the Scriptures say, “If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD.”

27: 27  Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by *being* righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to *the* poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity."

1: The right reaction to the threat of judgment is a humble repentance. Unfortunately, Nebuchadnezzar did not do this. He should have followed the example of the repentance of Nineveh at the preaching of Jonah ([Jonah 3](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.blueletterbible.org%2FBible.cfm%3Fb%3DJon%26c%3D3%26v%3D1-10%23s%3D892001&data=04%7C01%7C%7C86243ac449084da27aaf08d8f2aeabe2%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637526179312219604%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=xe0GceL%2BtGA4nmmOi3%2B76GPqTuUFGs39aDt6R00b35U%3D&reserved=0)). This man Nebuchadnezzar is disturbed within his own heart -- he has no peace-he is living in sin –the sin of pride. There are many today that live the same way and are emotionally unstable. A great deal of the mental and emotional abnormalities that we see today are actually the result of spiritual problems. Now I do not say that they all are, as I know that there is sometimes a structural basis for such a problem. However, much of the disturbed condition we see in the lives of men is rooted in the spiritual condition of men. There is peace for them, if they would only come to Christ. Nebuchadnezzar would not come without the trail that he is going to face.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

28-30: 28  All *this* came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. 29  At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. 30  The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"

1: Notice here the grace of God-He allowed the king to live another year thinking about the dream before God brought final judgment on him. He probably forgot about the dream during that time - but God didn't forget-He never forgets. The only way this was not going to happen was if he would repent. He opens his mouth and out comes the filth of pride-then judgment. It is interesting that history has shown no record of anything that the king did in government or building projects that would discredit this timeline of 7 years thinking and acting like an ox. If there was some historical record that could have been found it would discredit the Bible-but nothing is found. He just disappears from history for that 7-year time. Now God humbled him, and the experience was much more severe than it would have been had Nebuchadnezzar humbled himself. We will conclude this chapter tomorrow-stay tuned!