

The Salvation of Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4

Part 5

Introduction: Last week in our study of Daniel we looked at Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 4. Daniel was reluctant to tell the meaning to the king because Daniel knew what it meant. God had sent a message through this dream to the king warning him of his need to repent. God even gave the king an opportunity to escape the coming period of insanity that was to come.

Notice Daniel 4:27

The king found himself at a crossroads. If he repented, turned to God, and humbled himself he could escape the suffering that he was warned of. Last week we considered how God gives opportunities to people as He brings them to a crossroads where they must choose. If they are willing to repent, they can avoid a season of suffering but if not, they can find themselves in a very difficult situation. Many of the difficult situations in life could be avoided if only people would turn to God.

Nebuchadnezzar refused to repent and he continued in his pride which meant he would go through 7 years of insanity as we shall see.

Application:

As we move on in our study tonight, we shall see that God hates pride. Pride in the heart of man will eventually bring about a fall in his life.

Proverbs 16:18-19

¹⁸ *Pride goeth before destruction*, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

¹⁹ *Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.*

Proverbs 6:16-19

¹⁶ *These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:*

¹⁷ *A proud look*, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸ An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

¹⁹ A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Notice Daniel 4:28

Just as God had warned all of this came upon the king. Last week we discussed how God cannot lie and therefore when He says He will do something we can be sure it will come to pass.

➤ **Learning the Hard Way**

Notice Daniel 4:29

It would take twelve months before the judgment would come upon the king.

Application:

There are two important points to see here.

1. The grace of God.

God extended His grace to the king for 1 year. He was allowing the king more time to repent. God could have allowed the judgment to come when Daniel finished speaking but instead God chose to give the king more time to repent so as to escape the difficulty that would come upon him.

Have you ever wondered why we have not seen the rapture? What is God waiting on as this world grows darker every single day?

2 Peter 3:8-10

⁸ But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

God is waiting to bring the rapture because after the rapture there will be many people who will suffer and die and many of them will die in their sins. Therefore, we are seeing the grace of God extended to the world around us. The darkness increases and man sinks deeper into his depravity. But God still loves each and every person and He desires to see them repent and turn to Jesus Christ.

2. You cannot hide your sin.

The wheels of heaven grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine. I can only imagine that the king thought God had forgotten His warning. The king heard the warning and 2 months passed and there was nothing, then 6 months passed and there was nothing, and then 8 and at last 12 months and the judgment came upon the king just as Daniel had said. But in those 12 months leading up to the judgment I am sure that the king believed as every warned sinner believes. He believed he had escaped the warning. Like many others he believed the warning was just idle words, but he was wrong and so have many others been wrong also.

Numbers 32:23

*²³ But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and **be sure your sin will find you out.***

Let us understand that God misses nothing in our lives and He will not allow us to continue in sin. He loves us far too much. God wants to very best for us and He will therefore correct us just as any loving father would chastise his own son or daughter. When we love one another, we will warn them of the consequences of sin.

Leviticus 19:17

¹⁷ Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

God is a loving father and for this reason He will chastise us, and He will bring seasons of suffering into our lives as well as unsaved people to get all to repent.

Notice Daniel 4:30

Here we see the pride in the king's life. He was convinced that he had built the Babylonian kingdom and, in his belief, he was taking the glory that was to be God's. This was the pride that God would remove from his life.

Isaiah 42:8

⁸ *I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.*

It was pride that caused the fall of Satan.

Isaiah 14:12-15

¹² *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*

¹³ *For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:*

¹⁴ *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*

¹⁵ *Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.*

Notice Daniel 4:31-33

This is a reminder to each of us about how quickly life can change. All was going great for the king and in a moment, he was out of the palace and in the field.

Application:

Even when we are not in sin, life can change so quickly. A phone call, a doctor's appointment, an election, whatever it might be, life can change so suddenly. This is why we need to be walking close to the Lord. We need to be anchored in Him and His Word before the unexpected times of life come upon us.

Psalms 61:1-4

Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.

² *From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*

³ *For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.*

⁴ *I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings.*

Getting back to the king, the sickness that came upon him has happened to others. Notice the words of Harrison.

"A great many doctors spend an entire busy professional career without once encountering an instance of the kind of mania described in the book of Daniel. The present writer, therefore, considers himself particularly fortunate to have actually observed a clinical case of boanthropy in a British mental institution in 1946. The patient was in his early 20's who reportedly had been hospitalized for about five years. His symptoms were well developed on admission and diagnosis was immediately conclusive. He was of average height and weight with a good physique and was in excellent bodily health. His mental symptoms included pronounced antisocial tendencies and because of this he spent the entire day, from dawn till dusk, outdoors in the grounds of the institution. His daily routine consisted of wandering around the magnificent lawns with which otherwise a dingy hospital scenario would have graced and it was his custom to pluck up and eat handfuls of grass as he went along. On observation he was seen to discriminate carefully between the grass and weeds and on inquiry from the attendant the writer was told the diet of this patient consisted exclusively of grass from the hospital lawns. He never ate institutional food with the other inmates and his only drink was water. This writer was able to examine him cursorily and the only physical abnormality noted consisted of lengthening of hair and a course thickened condition of the fingernails."

Notice Daniel 4:34

Here in this verse is something we must not miss. We see that when the king lifted up his eyes to God his understanding returned to him.

Application:

There are 2 thoughts here that we need to see.

1. The Believer.

When we take our eyes off of the Lord, we can expect that it will affect our understanding. In other words, when we take our eyes off of the Lord, we can expect that we will make poor choices. Let us notice something else that happens when we remove our eyes from the Lord.

Matthew 14:25-31

²⁵ *And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.*

²⁶ And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

²⁷ But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

²⁸ And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

²⁹ And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

³⁰ **But when he saw the wind boisterous**, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

2. The unbeliever.

When the unbeliever turns away from the Truth that God gives them he or she will sink deeper into the darkness.

Romans 1:18-22

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Notice Daniel 4:35-36

When God restored the king, it was far beyond what anyone would have expected. His counselors and his lords came to him for advice.

Application:

Whatever our past we can be sure that God can use us if we are willing to give ourselves over to Him. He used the Apostle Paul to write 13 letters of the New Testament. He used Moses to lead Israel. God desires to use us if we are willing to be used.

Conclusion:

Notice Daniel 4:35-37

This was all for the purpose of glorifying God.