

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

LESSON 4: PRIDE LEADS TO SHAME AND DESTRUCTION

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPTURES, PRIDE (SELFISH) IS CONDEMNED, RESULTING IN PRESENT AND FUTURE SHAME AND DESTRUCTION – PROV 11:2; 16:18.

- ONE OF THE HEBREW WORDS TRANSLATED “PRIDE” (ZADON) CONVEYS INSOLENCES AND PRESUMPTION AND IS FREQUENTLY CONNECTED WITH GODLESSNESS – 11:2.

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THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPTURES, PRIDE (SELFISH) IS CONDEMNED, RESULTING IN PRESENT AND FUTURE SHAME AND DESTRUCTION – PROV 11:2; 16:18.

- THE OTHER HEBREW WORD TRANSLATED “PRIDE” (GA’ON) CONVEYS EXALTATION OR MAJESTY, USED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY – 16:18.

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THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPTURES, PRIDE (SELFISH) IS CONDEMNED, RESULTING IN PRESENT AND FUTURE SHAME AND DESTRUCTION – PROV 11:2; 16:18.

- IN CONTRAST TO PRESUMPTION AND SELF-EXALTATION, GOD CALLS US TO FEAR HIM, HATE EGOTISM, AND HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE HIM – 8:13; 11:2; 16:19.

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THE STORY OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR SHOWS US THAT GOD IS ABLE TO WORK IN THE HEARTS OF PRIDEFUL PEOPLE, HUMBLING THEM BY DEMONSTRATING HIS OWN SUPREMACY – DAN 4:1-3.

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THE DREAM OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR FRIGHTENED AND DISTRESSED THE KING, BECAUSE IT WAS MYSTERIOUS YET OBVIOUSLY INDICATIVE OF SOME KIND OF DIVINE JUDGMENT – DAN 4:4-18.

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THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DREAM REVEALS THAT GOD DOES NOT ALLOW PRIDE TO GO UNPUNISHED BUT ALSO THAT THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY (HOPE) OF CHANGE – DAN 4:19-27.

- THOUGH PRIDE IS DIFFICULT TO ERADICATE FROM OUR HEARTS, GOD CAN HUMBLE US THROUGH HIS WORD (PROPHECY) AND HIS WORK (PROVIDENCE) IN OUR LIVES – PHIL 2:12-13.

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THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DREAM REVEALS THAT GOD DOES NOT ALLOW PRIDE TO GO UNPUNISHED BUT ALSO THAT THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY (HOPE) OF CHANGE – DAN 4:19-27.

- LIKE DANIEL, WE MUST FAITHFULLY TEACH PRIDEFUL PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF POSSIBLE NEGATIVE PERSONAL CONSEQUENCES, SO THAT THEY MAY BE SAVED – 4:19, 27.

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THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DREAM REVEALS THAT GOD DOES NOT ALLOW PRIDE TO GO UNPUNISHED BUT ALSO THAT THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY (HOPE) OF CHANGE – DAN 4:19-27.

- GOD CHOSE TO HUMBLE NEBUCHADNEZZAR WITH PROVIDENTIAL DISCIPLINE, WHICH GOD STILL UTILIZES TODAY, THOUGH WITHOUT SPECIFIC PROPHETIC ANNOUNCEMENT – 4:20-26.

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THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DREAM REVEALS THAT GOD DOES NOT ALLOW PRIDE TO GO UNPUNISHED BUT ALSO THAT THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY (HOPE) OF CHANGE – DAN 4:19-27.

- IN DISCIPLINING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, GOD WOULD YET AGAIN DEMONSTRATE HIS ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL – 4:25-26.

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THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DREAM REVEALS THAT GOD DOES NOT ALLOW PRIDE TO GO UNPUNISHED BUT ALSO THAT THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY (HOPE) OF CHANGE – DAN 4:19-27.

- THE ADVICE DANIEL GAVE NEBUCHADNEZZAR IS A MODEL FOR ALL PRIDEFUL PEOPLE IF THEY DESIRE TO HUMBLE THEMSELVES BEFORE GOD – 4:27.

1. LISTEN TO THE ADVICE OF OTHERS, ESPECIALLY GOD.

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THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DREAM REVEALS THAT GOD DOES NOT ALLOW PRIDE TO GO UNPUNISHED BUT ALSO THAT THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY (HOPE) OF CHANGE – DAN 4:19-27.

- THE ADVICE DANIEL GAVE NEBUCHADNEZZAR IS A MODEL FOR ALL PRIDEFUL PEOPLE IF THEY DESIRE TO HUMBLE THEMSELVES BEFORE GOD – 4:27.

2. BREAK AWAY FROM SELFISHNESS AND ARROGANCE.

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THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DREAM REVEALS THAT GOD DOES NOT ALLOW PRIDE TO GO UNPUNISHED BUT ALSO THAT THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY (HOPE) OF CHANGE – DAN 4:19-27.

- THE ADVICE DANIEL GAVE NEBUCHADNEZZAR IS A MODEL FOR ALL PRIDEFUL PEOPLE IF THEY DESIRE TO HUMBLE THEMSELVES BEFORE GOD – 4:27.

3. BEGIN PERFORMING ACTS OF SERVICE FOR OTHERS.

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A YEAR LATER, AFTER A MOMENT OF SELF-EXALTATION, NEBUCHADNEZZAR LOST HIS MIND AND WAS DETHRONED, BUT EVENTUALLY HE CAME TO HIMSELF AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE RULE OF GOD – DAN 4:28-37.

- TO OVERCOME PRIDE WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND OUR INABILITY TO THWART HIS PURPOSE – 4:35, 37.

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

A YEAR LATER, AFTER A MOMENT OF SELF-EXALTATION, NEBUCHADNEZZAR LOST HIS MIND AND WAS DETHRONED, BUT EVENTUALLY HE CAME TO HIMSELF AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE RULE OF GOD – DAN 4:28-37.

- IF WE, LIKE NEBUCHADNEZZAR, HUMBLE OURSELVES, GOD WILL EXALT US AND GIVE PRESENT AND FUTURE GLORY – 4:36; 1 PET 5:5-6.

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THE TRANSFORMATION FROM PRIDEFUL TO HUMBLE IS DIFFICULT, BUT THE RECORD OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR SHOWS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE.

- OUR REACTIONS OFTEN MORE ACCURATELY DEMONSTRATE OUR HEARTS, WHETHER THEY ARE HUMBLE OR PRIDEFUL, THAN OUR ACTIONS DO, BUT THE MORE WE INTERACT WITH GOD, THE MORE WE WILL CHANGE – DAN 2:5, 12; 3:6, 13, 19; 4:19.

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THE TRANSFORMATION FROM PRIDEFUL TO HUMBLE IS DIFFICULT, BUT THE RECORD OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR SHOWS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE.

- INTERACTION WITH GOD MUST NOT BE SUPERFICIAL, HOWEVER; WE MUST COME TO KNOW HIM AS HE IS AND WORSHIP HIM ACCORDINGLY – DAN 2:47; 3:28-29; 4:2-3, 34-35, 37.