

Daniel 4:28-37 - Neb's Testimony about True Sovereignty

Intro – Daniel 4 is the [conversion] testimony of the King of Babylon. He is in the final years of his reign, and he is relating the events that changed his life [and destiny]. These events were so life changing that he published a decree and sent it worldwide to declare the great things God had done for him. The “*great things*” included a great trial, tragedy & humility. The road to salvation is often paved with humiliation. Angelic Watchers had noticed Neb's excessive pride and were going to cut him down to size. So, Neb was given strange dreaming as a gracious warning. The dream disturbed him...but didn't change him. This dream became just another squandered opportunity for Neb to repent. He didn't heed the dream, so he was going to fulfill the dream. Today we will note: *Neb's Humiliation and Neb's Confession.*

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S HUMILIATION

- Dan. 4:28-30 *God's patience with Neb's pride*
 - God gave Neb many opportunities to repent in life.
 - God even gave an addition 12 months after dreaming and Daniel's pleading
 - Time hardens and rarely softens.
- 4:31-32 *times up*
 - Audible voice from on High announced the sentence for all to hear.
 - Seven years in the woodshed until he is broken and gives a good confession.
 - God only disciplines those He loves. (Herod received no time or mercy – Acts 12:22-23)
- 4:33 *Pride & Punishment*
 - God took away Neb's sanity, dignity, and his humanity. I/OG erased for a time?
 - Neb was not just sent to the Funny Farm...he was driven away to the farm
 - Neb was literally put out to pasture in the back 40
- Neb's testimony in not very flattering to himself
 - Neb was a man full of pride and full of himself. He was big man on campus...on earth
 - God used unusual mean to break him and shake him to his core.
 - The road to salvation is often paved with humiliation.
 - God chisels us down to size so we can fit through the *Narrow Gate to Life*.
 - Oversize loads are only allowed on the *Broad Road to Destruction*
 - Conversion testimonies often include this element of humiliation.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S CONFESSION

- God did not destroy Neb...He was dealing with Neb. 4:34a
 - Temporal discipling < eternal life limited punishment & coerced acknowledgment
 - Neb temporarily lost his reason, but he was aware & remembered the discipline

Elements of Neb's confession & conversionPardon & Profession

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| 1. His reason returned. He came to his senses | 4:34 | Prodigal son - Luke 15:16-17 |
| a. Sin blinds the mind and darkens the soul | Rom. 1:21 Eph. 4:18 | pride is a prison |
| b. Sin runs from the light | John 3:19-20 John 1:5 | |

2. He blessed, praised and honored the Most High God 4:34
 - a. Neb did not curse God for the punishment...he blessed Him. Heb. 12:9-11
 - i. Conversion brings adoration. Consistent adoration
 - b. *Blessed, praised & honored* "indicate continued action" ¹³⁴³ (not just a once and done)
 - i. This is not a temporary praise (like in the past) but is a continuous praise.
3. Neb acknowledges God eternality 4:34 - "*Him who lives forever...*"
 - a. God is eternal in Himself. God has life in Himself - John 5:26/ Acts 3:17 He is the source of life.
 - i. He was, is and is to come - Rev. 4:8 I AM is His name - Ex. 3:14
 - b. God's dominion is like Himself...eternal. God has always ruled the universe.
 - i. Never a moment is all of eternity when God didn't dominate & rule.
 - c. His kingdom will never end.
 - i. Generations come and go but God's kingdom is a constant
4. Earthlings are nothing - 4:35a (this may be an unnerving truth to swallow but swallow it we must)
 - a. Earthly kings need their people - Prov. 14:28
 - i. God does not need us...we need Him Acts 17:25
 - b. Neb's conversion involves personal humiliation as a king and as a man.
 - c. Man's problem is that he thinks more highly of himself than he ought - Rom. 12:3
 - d. Isaiah 40:15-17 Mankind is worthless and adds nothing to God.
 - i. We are small and insignificant Psalm 8:3-4 Ps. 144:3-4
5. God always gets His way. 4:35b
 - a. Psalm 115:3 God is sovereign Job 42:1-2
 - b. This applies to the host of heaven and the inhabitants of earth.
 - i. God rules over angels and demons (Jesus showed power over the spirits)
 - ii. God rules over mankind and all earthy affairs. Eph. 1:11 Rom. 11:36
 - c. God always get His way....He is the Potter and we are the clay.
6. None can question Him or stop Him 4:35c
 - a. Isaiah 45:9-10 Rom. 9:19-21
7. God is true and just in all His ways 4:37a
 - a. Neb doesn't complain about the chastisement
 - b. Rev. 16:7 Ps. 9:8 Psalm 89:14
8. God can bring the proud low 4:37b
 - a. God hates pride. It is top of list of things He hates - Prov. 6:16-17
 - b. Job 40:10-14 Deity can bring humility
 - i. Neb was a proud man, but God humbled him
 - c. Pride is man's main problem. Elevation of self & denigration (or redefinition) of Deity
 - i. Man still buys Satan's lie that "*you shall be as God*"
 - ii. Man thinks that he is sovereign and in control - "*...master of my fate and captain ...*"
 - iii. Man thinks that his will is supreme & that God's will is subservient to his
 - d. Neb found that life changing truth that God is God and Neb was not
 - i. God is the Most High and Neb is brought very low.
 - e. Nebs conversion testimony is about True Sovereignty. A Life changing truth
9. Neb bowed...but did he believe?
 - a. I would like to think so. He went out right...ended well (we'll find out in heaven)
 - b. Every knee will bow....but it is much better to believe before you bow.