

“The World Seems Out Of Control, But God Brings Down The Proud”

Daniel 4

Sermon Series: “The World Seems Out Of Control, But...”

Introduction: “And those who walk in pride He is able to put down (Proverbs 16:18; James 4:6,10).

Sidney Greidanus calls chapter 4 “a story about two sovereignties.” You have an earthly ruler acting like he is god, and the Most High God showing him who the real ruler and god is. On some level, this all of our spiritual stories since the Garden of Eden. We are prideful and want to be our own gods determining our own fate.

-We started at the end, but let’s now let Nebuchadnezzar share his story, what we often call in church, his testimony, and see what God would say to us and our lives today from it.

-(v. 1-3) He is testifying to what God has done for Him. He is declaring God’s goodness and greatness. He acknowledges God as King instead of Him.

Where had he been? (2:47) “God of gods”- He acknowledges the reality and power of Daniel’s god but still sees him as one of the gods. He requires the worship of an idol at the beginning of chapter 3. (3:15). He asks the question of, “And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?” He blesses God at the end of chapter 3 so he is making progress but is clearly not all the way to that place yet. (v.4). He recounts the story of God bringing him to that place in this chapter.

Conviction: God brings down the proud and lifts up the humble by His grace.

Why? Here are some truths from this text that undergird this conviction:

A. God’s grace is our only hope because it means He is working for us when we deserve judgment (v. 2).

-Packer quote

-1 Corinthians 15:10

B. Every good thing we have is a gift of God by His grace (v. 17, 25). It is not because we deserve it. However, we can turn even good things into god things, which make them bad, idolatrous things. This is what Nebuchadnezzar had done.

C. God knows and deals with all of our sins no matter who we are (v. 28-33, Numbers 32:23, 1 Timothy 5:24, Galatians 6:7, Romans 6:23, Proverbs 14:12).

D. It is not pleasant in the moment, but it is a gracious gift of God when He uses pain to break our pride and bring us to Him.

E. God is over all, including human rulers, and will not share His glory with anyone (v. 34-37).

Action: We will humble ourselves and depend on the grace of God.

What does this look like? It includes repenting (v. 27), looking to heaven (v. 34), and boasting in Jesus instead of ourselves (v. 2, 34).

Christ Connections: Philippians 2:6-11, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31