

WHY GOD BROUGHT DOWN NEBUCHADNEZZAR
Nebuchadnezzar's Problem
Dan. 5:18-20

INTRODUCTION

Pride is one of the most destructive behaviors of mankind. Pride is a fundamental affront to God; It denies God's sovereign control over all of His creation; It allow an inferior creation, man, to believe that He is the author of his own destiny; It causes men to act independent of God; It causes men to deny the existence of God; Therefore, it is no wonder that pride is the behavior that has summoned the most immediate response from God. Satan lost his place in the garden of God because of Pride; God divided the continents and confused the languages of men due to pride; Saul was rejected as king because of pride; Herod the king was struck dead because of pride; The man of lawlessness will be deposed because of pride; And, as we will find today, Nebuchadnezzar was deposed from his throne for seven years because of pride. Over the next five weeks, we will consider the issue of pride and its implications to believers in each dispensation.

- I. GOD PLACED NEBUCHADNEZZAR AS RULER OVER THE BABYLONIAN EMPIRE.
Dan. 5:18
 - A. "The most high God" -- a term used in Scripture to denote the true God. cf. Gen. 14:18 (of Melchizedek who was a priest of); Gen. 14:22 (seen by Abram as Jehovah); Dan. 3:26 (Acknowledged by Nebuchadnezzar)
 - B. It was He who "gave" Nebuchadnezzar a kingdom. Cf. Dan. 2:37
 1. The word for "gave" is yehab which is used of divine provision -- **"to supply, contribute that which is wanting; to meet or answer anxious desires."** -- Old Testament Word Studies Dan. 2:21,23 (of wisdom)
 2. Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom represented the finest kingdom that men could offer.
 - a) It was a kingdom of "majesty" -- reboo -- *greatness*; **"corresponds to the Hebrew "rebath" which is used in Scripture to note "increase (in whatever respect); abundance."** -- Brown, Driver & Briggs cf. Is. 55:7
 - b) It was a kingdom of "glory" -yeqar --Old Testament Word Studies translates: **"Costly things"; "that which is valued, precious, rare; esteem."** -- Holladay 2 Kings 1:13 (of lives)
 - c) It was a kingdom of "honor" -- hadar -- **pertains to the outward manifestation as seen in activity or in articles associated with a king or kingdom.** Cf. Is. 63:1 (of the Lord at the second coming)

C. Nebuchadnezzar's vast authority inflicted fear on others. Vs.19

1. All people, nations and languages "trembled" -- hava -- **to shake with terror as a result of reputation or perceived power**-- before him. Cf. Dan. 6:26 (of decree toward Daniel's God)
2. All people, nations, and languages "feared" --dechal -- "**were made to fear; dread**". -- before him. Cf. Dan. 2:31 (of the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream)

D. Nebuchadnezzar was given wide authority to judge.

1. He "slew" whom he desired (teseba -- to be inclined). cf. Dan. 2:4-5; 3:4-6
2. He kept alive -- chaya -- **allowed to live** --whom he desired. Dan. 2:46
3. He "set up" -- rum -- **elevated** -- whom he desired.
4. He "put down" -- shephel -- **humble or brought down** -- (Strong's) whom he desired.

II. NEBUCHADNEZZAR ASSUMED HIMSELF TO BE THE SOURCE OF HIS SUCCESS.

Dan. 5:20

A. Daniel explained to Belshazzar, his grandson, that his heart was "lifted up" --

"koom" -- **"to exalt oneself to a lofty position"**; the Hebrew equivalent is "gabahn" which means **"to soar, that is, be lofty; figuratively; to be haughty, be high; mount up, be proud, raise up great height, upward."** -- Strong's lexicon cf. Ez. 28:17 (of Satan's rebellion); 2 Chron. 26:16 (of Uzziah the king who transgressed against Jehovah).

B. His mind was "hardened in pride"

1. The word "mind" is ruach which is used in Scripture of the **human spirit** which is the place of human rationale. Cf. Dan. 5:12; 6:3 (of Daniel possessing)
2. "Hardened" is teqeph -- **"to grow strong or hard; to be and to become firm"**. K & D (**"The state of mind indicated here is that in which there is no sense of dependence, but where one feels that he has all resources in himself, and need only look to himself."** -- Alfred Barnes commentary on Daniel)
3. "In Pride" ;
 - a) "Pride" is the Aramaic word zud -- **insolence, haughtiness.** -- Strong's lexicon
 - b) "In" with the lamed prefix and article is better translated **by the pride.**

III. GOD DISPOSED NEBUCHADNEZZAR FROM HIS POSITION DUE TO HIS PRIDE IN TWO WAYS.

- A. He was “deposed” from his throne. Dan. 5:20.
1. Disposed is the Aramaic -- nachath (hophal) -- “**caused to come down--to be cast down**” from his throne. Cf. Dan. 4:13 (of a holy watcher coming down from heaven)
 2. “Throne” -- **seat of power; the place from which a ruler operates**. Cf. Dan. 7:9 cf. Rev. 13:2
- B. (They) the watchers took his glory from him. Dan. 5:20
1. “Took” (adah -- “**caused to pass, to remove**” -- Wilson’s Old Testament Word Studies) his glory from him.
 2. The glory (**Costly things**”; “**that which is valued, precious, rare; esteem**) was not removed from Babylon, but from Nebuchadnezzar.

CONCLUSION