

## DANIEL: WHEN CULTURES COLLIDE

### Dealing With Conceit

#### Daniel 4

##### A Message \_\_\_\_\_ (1-3)

1 King Nebuchadnezzar sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: "Peace and prosperity to you!  
2 "I want you all to know about the miraculous signs and wonders the Most High God has performed for me.  
3 How great are his signs, how powerful his wonders! His kingdom will last forever, his rule through all generations.

##### A Frightening \_\_\_\_\_ (4-18)

4 "I, Nebuchadnezzar, was living in my palace in comfort and prosperity.  
5 But one night I had a dream that frightened me; I saw visions that terrified me as I lay in my bed.  
  
10 " "While I was lying in my bed, this is what I dreamed. I saw a large tree in the middle of the earth.  
11 The tree grew very tall and strong, reaching high into the heavens for all the world to see.  
12 It had fresh green leaves, and it was loaded with fruit for all to eat. Wild animals lived in its shade, and birds nested in its branches. All the world was fed from this tree.  
13 " "Then as I lay there dreaming, I saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven.  
14 The messenger shouted, "Cut down the tree and lop off its branches! Shake off its leaves and scatter its fruit! Chase the wild animals from its shade and the birds from its branches.  
15 But leave the stump and the roots in the ground, bound with a band of iron and bronze and surrounded by tender grass. Now let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the wild animals among the plants of the field.  
16 For seven periods of time, let him have the mind of a wild animal instead of the mind of a human.  
17 For this has been decreed by the messengers; it is commanded by the holy ones, so that everyone may know that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world. He gives them to anyone he chooses— even to the lowliest of people."

Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ Advice (19-27)

19 “Upon hearing this, Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar) was overcome for a time, frightened by the meaning of the dream. Then the king said to him, ‘Belteshazzar, don’t be alarmed by the dream and what it means.’

“Belteshazzar replied, ‘I wish the events foreshadowed in this dream would happen to your enemies, my lord, and not to you!’

25 You will be driven from human society, and you will live in the fields with the wild animals. You will eat grass like a cow, and you will be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses.

26 But the stump and roots of the tree were left in the ground. This means that you will receive your kingdom back again when you have learned that heaven rules.

27 “ ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, please accept my advice. Stop sinning and do what is right. Break from your wicked past and be merciful to the poor. Perhaps then you will continue to prosper.’

A Conceited King Brought \_\_\_\_\_ (28-33)

28 “But all these things did happen to King Nebuchadnezzar.

29 Twelve months later he was taking a walk on the flat roof of the royal palace in Babylon.

30 As he looked out across the city, he said, ‘Look at this great city of Babylon! By my own mighty power, I have built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor.’

31 “While these words were still in his mouth, a voice called down from heaven, ‘O King Nebuchadnezzar, this message is for you! You are no longer ruler of this kingdom.’

32 You will be driven from human society. You will live in the fields with the wild animals, and you will eat grass like a cow. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses.’

33 “That same hour the judgment was fulfilled, and Nebuchadnezzar was driven from human society. He ate grass like a cow, and he was drenched with the dew of heaven. He lived this way until his hair was as long as eagles’ feathers and his nails were like birds’ claws.

1 Corinthians 4:7 ... What do you have that God hasn’t given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift?

A \_\_\_\_\_ Of God's Greatness (34-37)

34 "After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven. My sanity returned, and I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored the one who lives forever. His rule is everlasting, and his kingdom is eternal.

35 All the people of the earth are nothing compared to him. He does as he pleases among the angels of heaven and among the people of the earth. No one can stop him or say to him, 'What do you mean by doing these things?'

36 "When my sanity returned to me, so did my honor and glory and kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored as head of my kingdom, with even greater honor than before.

37 "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven. All his acts are just and true, and he is able to humble the proud."

How To Deal With Conceit

Do Not \_\_\_\_\_ Yourself With Others

2 Corinthians 10:12 Oh, don't worry; we wouldn't dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant!

Galatians 6:1 Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

2 Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

3 If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.

4 Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else.

5 For we are each responsible for our own conduct.

Be \_\_\_\_\_ When You Have What You Need

Deuteronomy 8:10 When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

11 "But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the Lord your God and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today.

12 For when you have become full and prosperous and have built fine homes to live in,

13 and when your flocks and herds have become very large and your silver and gold have multiplied along with everything else, be careful!  
14 Do not become proud at that time and forget the Lord your God, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt.  
15 Do not forget that he led you through the great and terrifying wilderness with its poisonous snakes and scorpions, where it was so hot and dry. He gave you water from the rock!  
16 He fed you with manna in the wilderness, a food unknown to your ancestors. He did this to humble you and test you for your own good.  
17 He did all this so you would never say to yourself, 'I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.'  
18 Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath.

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### Stay In Step With The Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!  
24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.  
25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.  
26 Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

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### Remind Yourself Of Your Need For God

Isaiah 66:2 My hands have made both heaven and earth; they and everything in them are mine. I, the Lord, have spoken! "I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts, who tremble at my word.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

1 John 2:15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.  
16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.  
17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.