

# Steadfast in a Sovereign God

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## When Humans Become Beasts ♦ Daniel 4

### FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN:

Pride has been at the root of sin from the beginning. Read Genesis 3:4-7. When Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they were in essence, deciding for themselves what was right and wrong. But deciding what is right and wrong is not humanity's place, that is God's - The Creator's - place alone. Adam and Eve let Satan convince them that they could choose their own way to live in God's creation, regardless of God's design. This played to their pride and led them to sin.

Read Daniel 4:28-35. Nebuchadnezzar let his pride lead him astray. He thought that his empire was acquired by his own power, but the truth was God gave him his empire as part of His eternal plan of salvation. As a result, the king was humbled until he recognized God's sovereignty.

Christians must be careful of pride in our own lives. Keep yourself humble and reliant on God, as you prayerfully consider these scriptures this week: Psalm 89:11-18; 2 Cor. 10:17-18; Philippians 2:3-11; James 4:6, 10

### January 2025 Growth Goals

- ❑ Read the Book of Daniel.
- ❑ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ❑ Watch the Bible Project videos on the Book of Daniel (available on the website).
- ❑ Consider taking ten days this month to replace a small daily comfort or activity with scripture reading and prayer.

### FOR CHILDREN:

Make a marshmallow King Nebuchadnezzar, then place him in the microwave for about 30 seconds and watch him puff up with pride (*do this with adult supervision*). Then take him out and set him down to see what happens to all that hot air! Read Daniel 4:28-34.

Nebuchadnezzar thought his kingdom was all his own doing. He didn't recognize that it was God that gave it to him. We should be careful that our pride doesn't lead us toward a similar experience of "deflation." The best way to do that is to thank God each day for His blessings, and to ask Him to teach us and guide us when we sit down to read our Bibles!

### FOR THE MATURE CHRISTIAN:

After Nebuchadnezzar died four kings ruled in quick succession. The last was Nabonidus. He went north in an unsuccessful attempt to stop Cyrus the Persian (a.k.a. Darius) from advancing against Babylon. Daniel 5 picks up with his son, Belshazzar, ruling as co-regent in the city. As the enemy army closed in, Belshazzar holds a feast as a last ditch effort to placate his false gods. In the process he mocks the Living God by desecrating the holy vessels of the Temple.

God's judgment of Belshazzar written on the wall reveals that he had been found wanting as a good king. Because humanity is created in God's image, human dominionship must reflect divine concerns. Those in Christ take on Jesus' royal character (*1 Peter 2:9*). Their lives, too, should be an outworking of God-centered "royalty." Reflect on your royal responsibility with the following: Deut. 17:18-20; Psalm 72:1-4; James 1:27.

### Weekly Memory Verse:

"How great are His signs,  
And how mighty are His miracles!  
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
And His dominion is from generation to generation."

Daniel 4:3

### Weekly Affirmation:

God Defines  
What It Means  
to be Human!