

DANIEL: Thriving in Babylon

Lesson Five • Daniel 4

The God Who Is Large and In Charge

Thriving in Babylon

Thriving in the last days has as much to do with knowing who is **LARGE AND IN CHARGE** as it does with making personal decisions.

- ❖ This was the Dream's **REVELATION**. (v. 17)
- ❖ This was Daniel's **INTERPRETATION**. (24-25)
- ❖ This was the Voice from heaven's **DECLARATION**. (31-32)
- ❖ This was Nebuchadnezzar's **PROCLAMATION**. (1-3, 34-35)

Who Really Is Large and In Charge Here?

1. The **NIGHTMARE** of Being Cut Down to Size. (4-18)

2. The **WARNING** to Repent Before It's Too Late. (19-27)

3. The **PRIDE** that Comes Before the Fall. (28-33)

"Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18
"When pride comes, then comes dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom." Proverbs 11:2
"A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor." Proverbs 29:23

4. The **EXALTATION** of the Humble. (34-37)

*"But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, **raised** my eyes toward heaven and my reason **returned** to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever...At that time my reason **returned** to me. And my majesty and splendor were **restored** to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was **reestablished** in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me." (34, 36)*

We **SHOW** that we **KNOW** that the **MOST HIGH** is **LARGE** and **IN CHARGE**, when we **HUMBLE OURSELVES** before Him as the **KING** of heaven and earth!

Our God Is Large and In Charge!

- ❖ This is **REASSURING** for the Humble who know their God, the King of Heaven.

No matter who is ruling on earth, the Most High is ruling in heaven over all things.

- ❖ There will be a **RECKONING** for the Proud who refuse to bend the knee before the King of Heaven.

Pride is picking a fight with God that you are destined to lose every time... perhaps for all eternity.

"The proud look of man will be abased and the loftiness of man will be humbled, And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day." Isaiah 2:11

- ❖ This is **RESTORING** for those who do humble themselves before the King of Heaven.

The King of Heaven is sovereign over all things but is also merciful to all peoples; He answers to no one but is longsuffering with everyone.

"He mocks those who mock, but gives grace to the humble." Proverbs 3:34 (CSB)
"For My hand made all these things, thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word." Isaiah 66:2
"Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you." James 4:10

- ❖ This is **REDEEMING** for those who humbly receive the Servant King who humbled Himself on earth to save sinners and now reigns over all things in heaven.

As a fallen sinner humble yourself before the King of Heaven—Jesus of Nazareth—who humbled Himself to become the God-Man who is the Sovereign Savior of all peoples!

*"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.** Philippians 2:5-11*

*"But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' **I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.**" Luke 18:13-14*

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:29