

Character Studies from Daniel and Nehemiah

This week – How patient and gracious God is to us, even when we are sinfully proud.

Humbled Nebuchadnezzar said, “Those that walk in pride the King of Heaven is able to abase” Daniel 4v37.

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Daniel 2v1-6,16-19 (The God in Heaven knows all)	
Monday	Daniel 2v24-49 (The God of gods, Lord of Kings)	
Tuesday	Daniel 3v1-12 (Nebuchadnezzar's pride)	
Wednesday	Daniel 3v13-30 (There is no other God)	
Thursday	Daniel 4v1-18 (God's warning to Nebuchadnezzar)	
Friday	Daniel 4v19-37 (The King's humble repentance)	
Saturday	1 Peter 1v1-25 (Be obedient to the Lord, be holy)	

Important Thought for us Today: As pride and selfishness is naturally in all of us, God will need to humble each of us in order to save us. How will we respond?

From the day we are born, the centre of our world is ourselves - ME! We like it when everything revolves round us; we love it when we're popular, feel needed, and can achieve and have what we want. It's so easy to fall into the opinion that we must be the centre of attention, that we are better than others, or more important than others. Pride makes us look for praise and congratulation. Sadly, pride is in us all. Proverbs 16v18, tells us that *'Pride comes before a fall.'* At some point in our lives, we will be humbled by God - we will be shown that we are sinful and do wrong. What is important is how we react to this humbling. True believers are only saved through God's humbling hand, and although hard and painful at the time, it's later seen to be the best thing to have happened in their life! May you too have that same sweet peace of soul forgiveness.

Hymn 589 - asking the Lord for help to conquer our pride:

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| 1. Emptied of earth I long to be,
Of sin, of self, and all but Thee;
Wholly reserved for Christ that died,
Surrendered to the Crucified. | 2. Withdrawn from all the noise and strife
The lust, the pomp and pride of life;
For Heaven alone my heart prepare,
And have my conversation there. |
| 3. Nothing, save Jesus, would I know;
My friend and my companion Thou!
Lord, seize my heart, assert Thy right,
And put all other loves to flight | 4. All idols - tread beneath Thy feet
And to Thyself the conquest get:
Let sin no more oppose my Lord,
Slain by the Spirit's two-edged sword |

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

Pride - The King Commands All to Worship His Image.

- **Nebuchadnezzar took the success of Babylon as his alone But was it?**
 - **Inherited Success** - He enjoyed the success of his great empire builder father's work.
 - **Other People's Skills** - all the beauty that Babylon displayed was by paid craftsmen.
 - **Allowed by God** - Babylon's power was ultimately allowed by God's overruling hand.
- **Our sin of pride in what *we do* steals for ourselves the praise that should go to others, and primarily to our Creator God. Beware - God, the Almighty King of Heaven, knows everything.**
- **God in His mercy will humble the proud and give opportunity to repent:**
 - **Pride is warned:** Nebuchadnezzar was given a dream by God – one that he could not remember or understand. His own advisors failed to explain it to him.
 - **Almighty God**, Who knows all things, gave Daniel the dream and its' meaning.
 - **Humbled slightly** - The King now learnt that power came from God alone; He acknowledged that He was, *'The God of gods, Lord of kings and a revealer of secrets.'* Nebuchadnezzar promoted Daniel but, proudly, he would not repent.
 - **Pride surfaces:** Nebuchadnezzar still felt he deserved all the praise for Babylon's glory, power, and success. He now felt that he should be worshipped as a 'god'. He built a huge, golden statue of himself - ordering everyone to bow down to it.
 - **Humbled again** - The same three who refused to eat the Kings food, also refused to bow down to his statue, as it broke their God's commandment to worship only Him. They were thrown into a fiery furnace; God preserved them. *'Our God is able to deliver us.'* They continued to worship the one true God; **but still the King would not repent.**
 - **Pride remains:** The king's heart remained unchanged. God sent him a warning dream which Daniel again explained; though he, Nebuchadnezzar, was strong and powerful, like a huge tree, God would cut him down if he refused to repent.
 - **Warned, but he continued in pride:** The judgment did not come instantly; a year passed and the warning was completely forgotten by Nebuchadnezzar.
 - **Pride flourished:** The king again began to praise himself for Babylon's success.
 - **Judgement came, just as God said:** the king became insane, acting like an animal, unfit for human company. His rule of Babylon was interrupted for several years. **We see how the once mighty king had fallen!**
- **Nebuchadnezzar's Salvation – God Showed His Mercy, and Kindness to Him.**
 - *"Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of Heaven, all Whose works are truth, and His ways judgment: and those that walk in pride He is able to abase."* Daniel 4v37
 - **Nebuchadnezzar's pride** had delayed him from seeking the Lord early; suffering very much because of it. **We note that God is always gracious to those who repent.**

Do not follow Nebuchadnezzar's example – humbly seek the Lord today and know the sweet peace and joy of soul forgiveness by being one of His faithful servants.

Isaiah pleads: *"Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."* Isaiah 55v6.