Daniel 4

Chapter 4 gives us an account from Nebuchadnezzar of the divine warning, patience, chastisement and restoration, that he received from God.

Before getting into the details this account starts a brief introduction and a psalm of _____-(1-3)-Declaring the greatness of God

It is _____ and not bitterness that flows from his lips. The sin of pride leads to bitterness. The grace of humility leads to praise. Dwelling on the salvation of the Lord produces a life of praise to God. He who thinks little of grace will praise God little. G.C. Berkouwer wrote, *"Grace is the essence of theology; gratitude is the essence of ethics."*

"It was a true joy for the king to share what God had done in his life-delivered him from madness. This should be the attitude of any believer."-NAC

Scholars believe chapter 4 takes place roughly 30 yrs after the events of chapters 1-3-making Nebuchadnezzar between 65-75 years old (Daniel being roughly 50 years old at this time). Nebuchadnezzar, on the other side of the Lord's chastisement is looking back and is excited to _____ to others what the Lord has done for him. As an elderly man, Nebuchadnezzar is reflecting and wanting to share with others the great deeds of the Lord.

"The king was now an old man and must have been acutely aware that soon death would bring an end to his life and thereby to his reign. Yet he acknowledged that Yahweh's kingdom is 'eternal' and 'endures from generation to generation.'"-NAC

1. **Divine _____-Judgement is coming (4-26)**

All the previous revelations of God's power, sovereignty, and salvation did not impact Nebuchadnezzar. We are reminded here of the hardness of man's heart and the necessity of the _____ _____.

The Lord gives Nebuchadnezzar another _____ which foretells future events.

"This dream was given by direct divine revelation. It was prophetic in nature (and thus provides a striking illustration of the fact that phenomena produced by God's Spirit in an individual's life are not necessarily indications of the presence of God's grace [Matthew 7:22-23])."

The Lord blessed Nebuchadnezzar, but he refused to acknowledge the Lord as the Sovereign One. It was his _____ that the Lord was going to rip from him. Nebuchadnezzar's sin is in fact, a picture of the sin of us all: disbelief and a desire to promote our own glory.

"Today a minority would lay the same emphasis as Daniel on the absolute sovereignty of God, but that is to our spiritual detriment. For it is this strand of biblical teaching that humbles the pride of man…He (Daniel) realized that by declaring God's sovereignty over everyone, one simply emphasized that God really is God. Consequently, no truth about God is more likely to

evoke either humility or rebellion. In many ways, as Daniel had come to see in his dealings with Nebuchadnezzar, this is the litmus test that indisputably indicates an individual's true spiritual condition."

> It is infinitely better to be humbled by the Lord in this life than to be _____ humbled by the Lord at the great judgement.

2. **The Lord's _____ and man's presumption (27-29)**

Daniel called for the king to repent to not have these things befall him. The evidence of such repentance would be a life of _____ upon others. He who has received mercy is merciful to others.

The Lord _____ for a year, giving plenty of time for these things to be considered and acted upon. However, Nebuchadnezzar continued living his life either disbelieving the warnings or presuming upon the patience of the Lord.

"The evidence is that, like others, Nebuchadnezzar presumed on the patience of God. As the weeks passed and the promised terrible judgment did not eventuate, perhaps he assumed that the experience had been simply a 'bad dream.' There was no sign of the chastisement of God. Relieved, he continued in his old ways."

Without grace changing the heart the natural man will just continue in his sin _____ the warnings of the Lord.

3. **The Word of the Lord _____ firm (30-33)**

The boastful are cut down in their boasting, for God _____ the proud.

"The one who refused to honor God's glory loses his own glory. Refusing to share what he has with the poor, he becomes poorer than the poor. He becomes outwardly what his heart had been spiritual and inwardly-bestial."

4. **The Lord delights to be _____ to poor sinners (34-37)**

The Lord taught Nebuchadnezzar that He _____ is God and that it is His glory that man is to promote in this life.

When Nebuchadnezzar humbled himself and brought himself under the Lord as God, he was restored. Nebuchadnezzar had to come to grips with his own _____ in every area of life and to realize that the Lord alone is the Sovereign One able to build up and tear down.

This account also helps to illustrate for us the _____, the ruin we plunged ourselves into, God's salvation, and the benefits of that salvation.