

Nebuchadnezzar Exemplifying God's Opposition to Pride

by Bob Hoekstra

The sermon highlights Nebuchadnezzar's pride and God's severe opposition to it, emphasizing the importance of humility before God.

Scripture: Psalm 138:6

Topics: "Pride And Humility", "Gods Sovereignty"

Description

Bob Hoekstra preaches on the consequences of pride as seen in the life of King Nebuchadnezzar, who boasted about his own greatness and power, leading to God's judgment and the loss of his kingdom. The contrast is drawn between Nebuchadnezzar's prideful evaluation of his kingdom and David's humble acknowledgment of God's greatness and sovereignty. Just as Nebuchadnezzar faced severe consequences for his pride, so did Herod in the early church when he failed to give glory to God and was struck down by an angel. The sermon emphasizes the importance of walking in humility and giving glory to God in all things.

Transcript

All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar . . . he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you." (Daniel 4:28-31)

Our lofty and holy God is committed to graciously revive the hearts of all who walk in humility and lowliness. "Though the LORD is on high, yet He regards the lowly; but the proud He knows from afar" (Psalm 138:6). Those who walk in pride experience quite a different response from the Lord. King Nebuchadnezzar exemplified God's opposition to pride.

Nebuchadnezzar was a powerful king in Babylon. One day, he was in his royal palace reflecting upon the greatness of his kingdom. He concluded that it all came to pass because of his own might and for his own glory. "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" This prideful evaluation was in stark contrast to David's earlier humble profession. "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all. Both riches

and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name" (1 Chronicles 29:11-13).

Before Nebuchadnezzar had finished his self-centered pronouncement, heaven declared God's opposition to his pride. "King Nebuchadnezzar . . . the kingdom has departed from you." The consequences would be appropriately severe. "And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses" (Daniel 4:32). This radical action was much like another proud ruler experienced in the days of the early church. "So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. And the people kept shouting, 'The voice of a god and not of a man!' Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died" (Acts 12:21-23).

Lord God Almighty, creator of all and ruler over all, I repent of the times I have spoken pridefully, as Nebuchadnezzar did. I long to openly profess David's humble, God-glorifying perspective day by day throughout my life, Amen.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/bob-hoekstra/nebuchadnezzar-exemplifying-gods-opposition-to-pride/>

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