

I. Introduction.

II. Beware of pride. v. 4,10-12,20-22, 29-30

- A. Your earthly success can be spiritually dangerous. Prov. 30:8-9
1. Nebuchadnezzar took pride in the glory of Babylon: A flourishing tree. v. 20-22
 - a. Politically: The unchallenged monarch for life. v. 4
 - b. Militarily: The world's lone superpower. v. 11,4
 - c. Economically: The prosperous provider. v. 12
 - d. Culturally: The builder of a glorious empire. v. 30
 2. Our nation has achieved world dominance militarily, economically, & culturally.
 3. Individuals can also be empire builders. Luke 12:16f
 4. Even churches can become empires.
- B. Worldly achievement can turn your eyes away from God.
1. Nebuchadnezzar represents all who seek greatness without God. Is. 14:13 Ge. 11:4 Rev. 14:8 18:2,10 Dan. 2:32,37-38 I Pe. 5:13
 2. God wants us to humbly submit to His dominion (rule). Ps. 145:15-17 127:1
 3. He is watching and will not allow human anti-dominion to succeed – He is opposed to the proud. v. 13,23 Ge. 11:5 Js. 4:6
- C. Repent before the LORD crushes you. v. 27
1. Why did Nebuchadnezzar go to Daniel last? v. 7,18
 2. Daniel pleads with Nebuchadnezzar to turn from his pride. v. 27
 3. Was God's judgment of the King contingent? v. 29 Je. 18:6-10 Jonah 3:4,10
 4. Imitate Daniel's bold witness. v. 22,27
 5. Some here are in as much need of warning as Nebuchadnezzar.

III. God will humble you. v. 28-33

- A. God has graciously warned you.
1. Nebuchadnezzar had wasted many opportunities to learn. 2:47 3:28-29
 2. It is possible to know a lot about God while remaining proud and unconverted. 3:28-29 2:46f Mt. 7:22f
 3. God has appealed to you in many times and in many ways. Ro. 1:18ff 2:14ff
- B. God can very quickly cut you down to size.
1. God suddenly brought Nebuchadnezzar very low. v. 30-33 Isa. 14:12,15f Ps. 92:9
 2. Superman suddenly becomes *Subman*. v. 14
 3. The LORD had brought similar judgment upon Israel and Judah. Isa. 6:11ff
 4. God can suddenly humble our nation and its rulers. Acts 12:21-23
 5. God can humble you individually. Lu. 12:20-21 Acts 12:20ff
- C. Don't think that delay means God tolerates your rebellion. v. 29 II Pe. 3:3-10
1. Nebuchadnezzar didn't receive judgment for a year.
 2. Don't think you are safe just because lightning hasn't struck (yet). Num. 32:23
 3. The LORD will judge sinful nations and individuals. Gen. 15:16 Isa. 13-20,34:1ff

IV. Humbly submit to the Sovereign God. v. 1-3,34-37

- A. God alone can deliver you. v. 34a
 - 1. Nothing man could do would have helped Nebuchadnezzar.
 - 2. Mankind has spiritual problems which only God can remedy. Jer. 17:9 Eph. 2:1ff
 - 3. Nebuchadnezzar finally humbles himself and acknowledges God's sovereignty. v. 34a

- B. The LORD's Kingdom is the only great kingdom. v. 34b Ps. 145:13
 - 1. God alone is eternal and self-existent. v. 3 Ps. 145:13 John 5:26
 - 2. All human kingdoms are temporary. 2:36-45 7:13-14,27 Isa. 2:2
 - 3. Jesus came as the humble and true King, the anti-Nebuchadnezzar. Phil. 2:6-11 Mark 10:45
 - 4. He will return as the exalted Rock who crushes Satan's dominion and establishes God's perfect kingdom forever. 2:45 Isa. 2:2
 - 5. He is a King worthy of our worship. In Him all find refuge and sustenance. v. 12

- C. God rules over heaven and earth. v. 35
 - 1. All men are nothing before Him. v. 35a Isa. 40:7:15-17 Ps. 49:12
 - 2. Human rulers reign only by His will. v. 17,32 Ps. 113:7-8 Pr. 21
 - 3. The Lord does as He pleases. No-one can challenge Him. Ps. 115:3 135:5-6 Eph. 1:11 Isa. 14:27 29:16 45:9 Jer. 18:2-12
 - 4. All God's ways are just. v. 37b

V. Concluding applications.

- A. God is still sovereign over nations and rulers. v. 17,23 Job 12:23
 - 1. He appoints and removes human leaders according to His purpose.
 - 2. He speaks to the nations, warning them. Isa. 34:1ff Jer. 1:5 Jonah 1-4 Pr. 14:34
 - 3. He judges the nations and individuals who arrogantly defy Him. Ps. 9:19-20
 - 4. His kingdom is everlasting. v. 3b
 - 5. God's sovereignty is a comforting truth in times like these.

- B. In salvation God is everything and man is nothing. Eph. 2:8-9 Phil. 3:9 Jo. 3:27 15:5 Eph. 1:4ff I Pe. 3:18 Eph. 2:4ff John 6:37,44 1:12-13 I Co. 1:30-31

- C. Have you humbled yourself before God? Js. 4:13-17 Ps. 115:3 I Chron. 29:10ff

- D. God is exceedingly merciful and kind to those who turn to Him. v. 36-37 Js. 4:10 Ps. 121:1 John 3:15-16 Isa. 57:15

Discussion questions

- 1. Why is earthly success risky?
- 2. In what ways is our nation like Babylon?
- 3. How is Nebuchadnezzar typical of all people?
- 4. What can we learn from Daniel's witness to Nebuchadnezzar?
- 5. Why is Nebuchadnezzar without excuse?
Why are we without excuse?
- 6. In what ways could God humble our nation?
- 7. Which of God's attributes does Nebuchadnezzar acknowledge? v. 34-37
- 8. How is Nebuchadnezzar's experience like your own conversion?
- 9. Do you believe Nebuchadnezzar was truly converted?