

## THE GLORY BELONGS TO GOD ALONE

*The glory for all we do belongs to God.*



THE STORY: DANIEL 4:3-27

MONDAY

### Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's second dream and warned him

Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's second dream and warned him – Nebuchadnezzar had another dream which disturbed him. He called in his advisors who were unable to interpret the dream. Daniel was then summoned and interpreted the dream as a warning to Nebuchadnezzar from God. There was a promise of restoration in the interpretation (Daniel 4:25). The judgment would not be permanent but would end when Nebuchadnezzar knew the rule of heaven (Daniel 4:26). Daniel suggested that the king repent and show mercy to the oppressed so that God might, in turn, show mercy to the king.

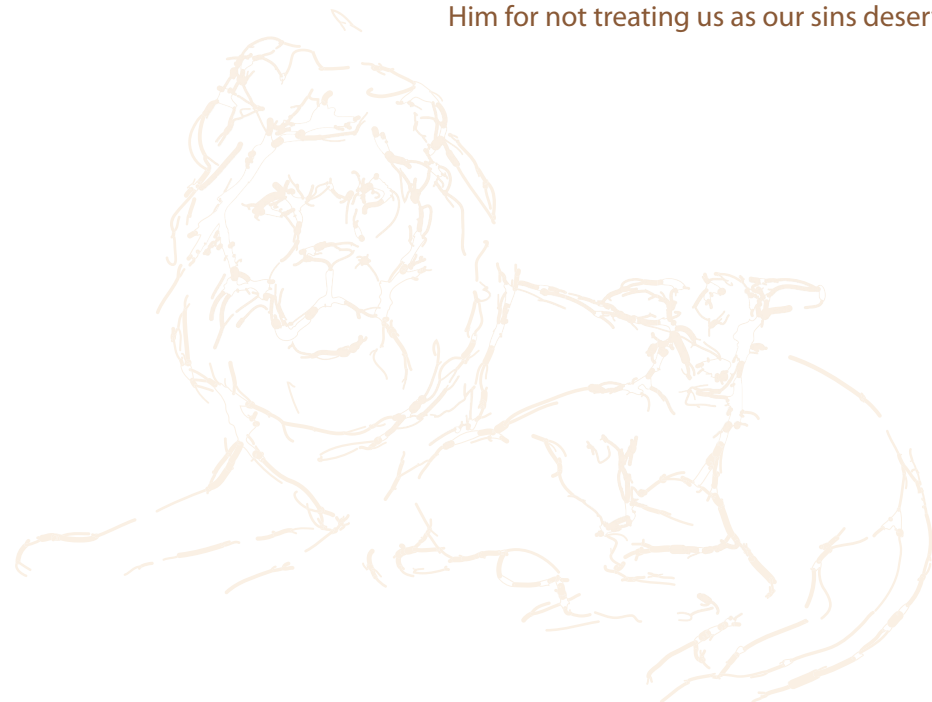
#### TALK ABOUT IT:

What do we learn about Nebuchadnezzar in verse 8? (*Nebuchadnezzar was still worshipping other gods. The previous encounter with the God of Shadrach and his friends did not cause the king to stop worshipping other false gods.*)

How did God show mercy to the king in the midst of his sin? (*God could have simply destroyed the king. Instead, God gave him a dream and an opportunity to repent.*)

#### PRAY:

Thank God for His mercy - that he is slow to anger and abounding in love. Thank Him for not treating us as our sins deserve.





## Nebuchadnezzar was humbled

Nebuchadnezzar was humbled – The sin of Nebuchadnezzar was exposed in his prideful declaration and exaltation of himself in Daniel 4:30. Nebuchadnezzar attributed his success to his own might. He took the glory for himself. Immediately, he received the foretold judgment. Daniel tells us he lost his right mind and became like an ox. God made him eat grass, and he was driven away from among men. Even his physical appearance changed. He had long hair growing upon his body and his nails became like claws.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

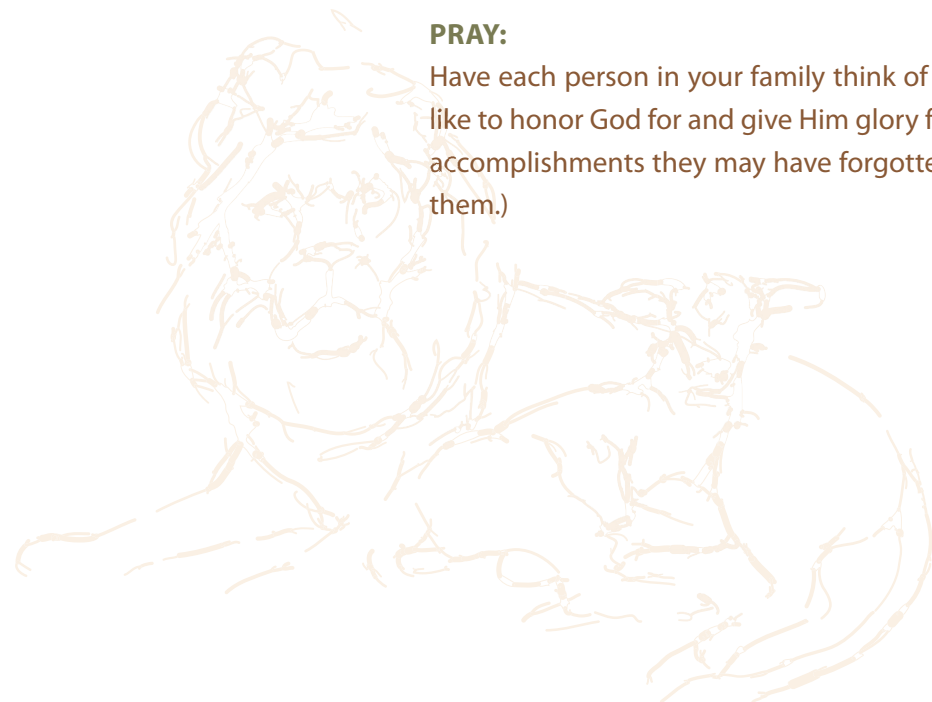
What was the Nebuchadnezzar's sin that brought on the judgment of God? *(In spite of the warning brought to him by Daniel's interpretation of the dream, the king did not repent. He also demonstrated pride by giving himself the glory for all that the Lord allowed him to accomplish. That was when God judged him.)*

Is it good to take credit for something we have done? *(There is a difference between receiving the encouragement of others and self-glory. When God uses us to do good things, he wants us to receive encouragement for these accomplishments. But if we forget who enabled us to do those things and find self-satisfaction (as if we received little or nothing from God or others), we fall into the sin of prideful boasting and self-glory. This was the sin Nebuchadnezzar committed.)*

How can we avoid Nebuchadnezzar's sins? *(Remember to thank God regularly. When we thank God and give Him the glory for all we accomplish, two things occur. First, we remember that it is only by God's grace that we can do anything. Second, we bring honor and praise to God.)*

### PRAY:

Have each person in your family think of at least one accomplishment they would like to honor God for and give Him glory for. (Parents, help your children remember accomplishments they may have forgotten so that they can give God the glory for them.)





## Where is Jesus?

Nothing happens by mere chance or apart from the sovereign control of God. Every part of the story of King Nebuchadnezzar happened just as God ordained that it would. Throughout history God moved so as to allow His people to survive exile. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul tells us that God works all things according to the counsel of His will which works toward the coming of Christ in the fullness of time (Ephesians 1:7-11).

In other words, all the things that happened to King Nebuchadnezzar happened according to God's plan. God worked in Nebuchadnezzar's life and ultimately brought this pagan king to faith. All the while, God was preserving a remnant of Israel who would later return and rebuild Jerusalem. Our Savior would later come out of this remnant. God gave His word to Abraham that all nations would be blessed through Abraham's offspring. The Word of the Lord stands forever!

All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever. (1 Peter 1:24-25)

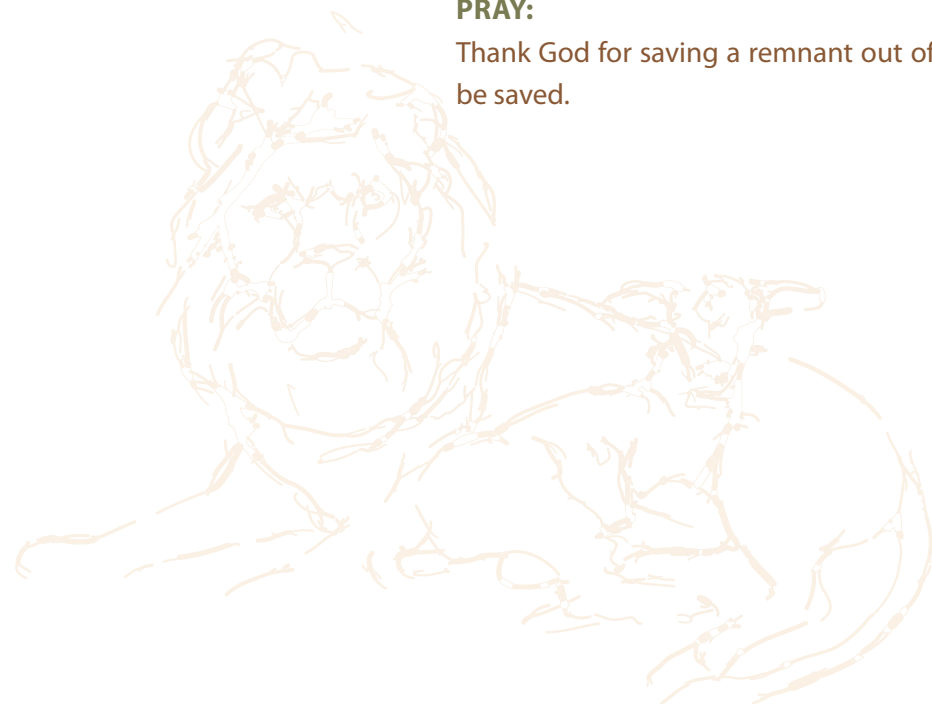
### TALK ABOUT IT:

Is everything that happens to us part of God's plan? *(Yes. God works and weaves all these things together to accomplish His plan.)*

How did God use Nebuchadnezzar's life to protect His people? *(By promoting Daniel, honoring the worship of Shadrach's God, and finally by humbling the king, God ensured that his people in Babylon were preserved.)*

### PRAY:

Thank God for saving a remnant out of which Jesus would come so that we could be saved.





## Nebuchadnezzar was restored

Nebuchadnezzar was restored – At the end of the seven seasons, Nebuchadnezzar lifted his eyes to heaven (Daniel 4:34). His sanity returned to him. He immediately blessed, praised, and honored the Most High God. Nebuchadnezzar gave glory to God in a wonderful prayer and finished with a declaration of worship that God was able to humble those who walked in pride. The period of his humbling was completely defined by God. Nebuchadnezzar did nothing to earn his restoration. Nebuchadnezzar’s restoration was by God’s grace alone.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Read Psalm 18:27. What does God do to the proud who lift themselves up? *(The Bible tells us that God brings the proud down low.)*

What does God promise to do for those who live humbly before Him? *(Just as God promises to bring down the proud, He promises to raise up the humble and pour out His grace upon them. Read 1 Peter 5:5.)*

### PRAY:

Pray that God would help you to humble yourself and avoid the discipline of the Lord. Have your children ask God to help them live humbly by being obedient and submissive to their parents.





## On the road to Emmaus.

This verse, cited in Matthew 21:42 and Mark 12:10, refers to Jesus. Jesus is the stone that the builders rejected. He has now become the cornerstone. Jesus was rejected as the Messiah by His own people. They were looking for someone to overthrow Rome and restore an earthly kingdom of Israel. But Jesus was not an earthly cornerstone. He is a heavenly one. Jesus was rejected by men, but has become the most precious cornerstone (1 Peter 2:4-9).

### TALK ABOUT IT:

How do we know 1 Peter 2:4-9 refers to Jesus? *(Jesus is mentioned in 1 Peter 2:5 as the subject of the discussion. Jesus is the object of our faith.)*

Why was Jesus rejected? *(Jesus was building a heavenly kingdom, not an earthly kingdom. The rulers and people of Jesus' day wanted to rebuild Israel. In a sense, they didn't want a spiritual cornerstone. They wanted an earthly cornerstone for earthly greatness.)*

What is a "stumbling stone?" *(Many folks are trying to earn their way into heaven and are stumbled by grace. They just can't believe that there is nothing we can do to earn our way. They don't want to believe that salvation is not by works. If salvation is by grace, then there is nothing they can do to ensure their own salvation. In their pride they refuse and are stumbled by Jesus.)*

Is Jesus still the stumbling stone? *(Yes!)*

### PRAY:

Thank God for His free gift of salvation in Jesus.

