
NT 12 – Nebuchadnezzar

We are going to continue with one more session on humility. I said last time that that was going to be the last on humility. But as I thought about it, as significant as humility is and as much of a topic as it is in the scriptures and of huge importance to each one of us, in being able to live the Word, I wanted to give a glaring example of pride versus humility. It is a record that most are familiar with in the Book of Daniel.

I want to read about Nebuchadnezzar, who is a prime example of someone who had the opportunity, given his experience with Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, to humble himself before God and before the Word. He didn't and then suffered the consequences, and eventually he did have to humble himself.

We are very familiar with Daniel, but I'm going to read through this, and hopefully we can see it with new eyes.

And before I do, I want to pray.

Heavenly Father, thank you so much for your grace, your mercy, your peace, your compassion, your love, as demonstrated by Christ, and as we can see in others who walk according to the new nature of the Christ-in-them and manifest it towards us.

Thank you for the body of Christ and all the believers who are doing their best to grow to maturity, to be disciples and to be examples to others, and to fulfill their ministry in the body of Christ.

Thank you for the Word, the life within it, the instruction to each one of us, and that we can come to it humbly, receive it, embed it in our hearts, and do our best to live it. With the help of your spirit at work within us, we give you the glory and praise.

In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Most of us are familiar with Daniel. We will begin in Daniel chapter two with the record of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

Nebuchadnezzar was the king. Daniel was in Babylon as an exile from Jerusalem. None of Nebuchadnezzar's magicians, none of his wise men could interpret the dream, and everyone was going to be killed, including Daniel and his companions, if someone did not come up with the interpretation.

So Daniel said, "Hey, I can interpret this dream." God revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel, and he went to the king and explained it to him.

Daniel 2:29

29 To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. **30** But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, **not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living**, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.

So right away we see there the humility of Daniel. I am going to contrast once again pride and humility. We will see that eventually the king is humbled before God by God. God reveals the dream to Daniel. He interprets it, and he tells the interpretation to the king.

Jump down to verse 46.

46 b Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. **47** **The king answered and said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.”** **48** Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. **49** Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king’s court.

This is the first incident of Nebuchadnezzar encountering the true God and people who speak for God. **It is obvious to him that this is the God of gods, Lord of kings, and able to reveal mysteries. Yet that was not enough to capture Nebuchadnezzar’s heart.** We are going to see this in chapter three as well.

Daniel Chapter 3

Daniel 3:1ff

1 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits^a and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. **2** Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

He obviously thinks pretty highly of himself, and he is the king of this great Babylonian empire. He is very powerful, the most powerful man on the earth. He is going to take advantage of that and make sure everybody worships him. He sets up the image of gold.¹

3 Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Notice it says a number of times, Nebuchadnezzar made it. Nebuchadnezzar set it up. It’s all about him, which can be so blatantly obvious not only through all of history with leaders, but we see it in 2024, don’t we?

And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. **4** And the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, **5** that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

¹ There is a Babylonian document from the time of Nebuchadnezzar's reign which warns citizens not to harm the statue that had been set up, stating 'beside my statue as king...I wrote an inscription'. However, it is unclear from the text of Daniel whether the image was of the king or one of his gods.

Of course he wants that. They can't all be at his palace every day to bow down and **worship him**. But if there's an image, everybody can fall down and worship it.

6 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace."

Consequences are dire, in this case, death, for not worshiping the king. You may think that's so Old Testament and so barbaric. Well, 2024 in North Korea, if you don't worship the divine ruler, you can be killed, exiled, imprisoned. So things really have not changed. The human heart has not changed.

7 Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

There he is again, no question about who wants worship, who sees himself as over everyone, and everyone has to worship him.

8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews.

No surprise there. It is a problem for the Jews. But again, do we see the same thing today, that people maliciously accuse the Jew? So this was in probably around 570 BC, and here we are in 2024. That has not changed either. You see the timelessness of the Word. Again, human hearts have not changed.

So they maliciously accused the Jews.

9 They declared^b to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! **10** You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. **11** And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. **12** There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you;

This is a key phrase because human beings want others to pay attention to them. We have seen in one of our prior sessions as we looked at the devil, he wanted to be the main focus. He wanted worship to come his way and not to be directed towards God. Pay attention to me. Here we see Nebuchadnezzar wanted everyone to pay attention to him.

they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." **13** Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage

Rage can be the response of people who want worship when it isn't granted. They become furious when they are not given what they think they rightly deserve.

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. **14** Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?"

Are you not complying with what I say? I am the government. I am in charge! You must do what I say! If you don't, there are serious consequences. Again, have things changed? No.

15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good.^c

You will be fine as long as you do this! As a matter of fact, in 60 countries around the world where there is currently persecution of Christians, if you go ahead and deny Christ, well and good, you'll be fine. If you go ahead and renounce your conversion to Christianity and accept Islam, well and good.

But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

In other words, I'm in charge. There is no God that can deliver you, so you're under my control.

Are Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, fearful and shaking in their boots? Do they say, "Okay, we'll go your way please spare our lives?" No!

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. **17** If this be so, **our God** whom we serve

Notice it says, "our God" because it's not your God that we serve, and you certainly don't serve Him. Consider that these are three exiles, by the way, in the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar, who could easily lose their lives, and they take a stand humbly before their God.

17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.^d

They add, O king.

18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury,

Again we see this anger and fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. How dare you not listen to me and obey me, the king of the earth, the most powerful man who can do whatever he chooses to you?

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated.

20 And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. **21** Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics,^e their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace.

22 Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, **the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.**

So this is so hot! It killed the people who were throwing these three into the furnace simply because they got too close. But what happened to these three?

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

Why did they fall in? Because they're bound, and because the men who were to bring them in got incinerated, so they fall in. So end of story for them, one would think.

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?"

Meaning... end of story.

They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." **25** He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

In a sense, this is a precursor to the end about fire and what it does. There's a lake of fire in the Book of Revelation which is going to incinerate everyone. There is fire in I Corinthians 3, which burns up everything except the works that are done according to the Word.

So fire incinerates. And here again, we have a little precursor. Those believers, even though they're in the fire, are not burned up. This is miraculous! God is doing another miraculous thing for Nebuchadnezzar to observe first-hand!

This is number two. The first one was the interpretation of the dream.

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.

This is miraculous incident number two. It is even a little more dramatic than the interpretation of the dream. Three individuals are rescued by their God while Nebuchadnezzar's servants die from the flames. These three come out from the fire alive and unharmed.

27 And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men.

Think of Revelation 21 and 22. Think I Corinthians 3. Fire is going to have power of over unbelievers and will incinerate any works done not according to the Word in love, etc. We are going to cover that when we study crowns and rewards soon.

The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them.

Look at how God's work is complete and dramatic, so there is no question that it is His work!

28 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,

Now he is singing another tune as a result of his experience!

who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him,

Ah, again, Nebuchadnezzar has the opportunity to see what happens when one trusts in this God. You would think he would humble himself and also trust this God, since this God is so powerful. He has seen Him interpreting the dream and rescuing these three men who trusted in him. These three who had set aside the king's command and shown that there's someone, something bigger than Nebuchadnezzar.

And yielded up the bodies rather and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any God except their own God.

What an experience to go through. What a dramatic example should grip your heart and cause you to internalize this truth and this experience so you would alter your behavior from this point forward.

29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way." **30** Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Daniel Chapter 4

What does Nebuchadnezzar do as a result of this? He praises God.

1^a King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! **2** It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me.

Ah, he's acknowledging that this most high God has done this for him.

3 How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

This is going to be pivotal as we read forward. He has had these two incidents. He has these experiences. He has witnessed them firsthand.

He does declare that this is the most high God who has performed these signs and wonders. And instead of now saying, my kingdom is the great kingdom, and I'm the king, and I reign from generation to generation he is acknowledging that God's kingdom is everlasting, His dominion endures.

This is absolutely true, isn't it? And you would think with his second experience, this would have a lasting effect.

However, as we read on, Nebuchadnezzar has a second dream.

4^b I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace.

Things are still good. The king is at ease, at peace, at rest, and prospering in his palace.

5 I saw a dream that made me afraid.

This is the second dream.

As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me. **6** So I made a decree that **all the wise men of Babylon** should be brought before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream.

You'd think he would have known. He could have just gone to Daniel since the magicians didn't come through the last time.

7 Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not make known to me its interpretation. **8** At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods^c—and I told him the dream, saying,

He still has not moved over to the God of gods, the mighty one who worked wonders, whose kingdom is everlasting, and his dominion from generation to generation.

9 “O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation. **10** The visions of my head as I lay in bed were these: I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. **11** The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. **12** Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it.

13 “I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven. **14** He proclaimed aloud and said thus: ‘Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. **15** But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth. **16** Let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him. **17** The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that **the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.**’

You see that this is the purpose or the end of the dream. Pride vs. humility. Exalt yourself, you'll be humbled; humble yourself, you'll be exalted.

18 This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is in you.”

19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him.

We can speculate about what he might be thinking, because as he's getting the interpretation of the dream. He might be thinking this is not good for the king! He is the king and I'm the one

that has to tell him this bad news about himself. But he is humble before the Lord and he goes through with it.

This whole scenario again is a prime example of exalting self—the one who does is humbled. Then by contrast the one who humbles himself is exalted, as in the case of Daniel.

19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him.

The king answered and said, “Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you.”

He is putting a little pressure on him. “Hello, I think you might have it... come forward with it!”

Belteshazzar answered and said, “My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies! **20** The tree you saw, which grew and became strong, so that its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth, **21** whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which beasts of the field found shade, and in whose branches the birds of the heavens lived—

You have this mighty kingdom which reached the top of the heavens, visible to the whole earth, fruitful, beautiful. Others benefited from it.

22 it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth. Your greatness has grown and reached to heaven, your dominion to the ends of the earth.

As you look at the language, you see that this is going to have a great lesson for Nebuchadnezzar and for all the people who will see this play out, as it said back in verse 17, **“to the end, that the living may know that the most high rules the kingdom of men.”**

This is how it’s going to be known via this dream and the response and this prophecy fulfilled.

23 And because the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field, and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven periods of time pass over him,’ again, repeating exactly what Nebuchadnezzar had said to Daniel.

What was the content of the dream?

24 this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, **25** that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, **till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.**

These were probably not easy Words to say to the king. It took some courage to believe and to speak. But Daniel was humble before his God and spoke the truth exactly as God gave it to him.

There is a great lesson for us as well. Sometimes it's tough to speak the Word exactly as God gives it to us. First, exactly as it's written in the Word or by revelation, exactly as God gives it to us, because we know the impact it's going to have.

This is why humility is such a big deal. We have to be humble to speak it. Also if we are on the receiving end of reproof, as we read in Hebrews, Chapter 12, "discipline and reproof for the moment is painful, but afterwards it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness."

Humility and being humble is not a one-time event. It does not just occur in an incident, but it's a mindset, a heart issue which needs to be cultivated on a regular basis, so that when we do have blind spots and we are reproofed, we accept the reproof, so that there is the fruit of righteousness.

26 And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules.

27 Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: **break off your sins by practicing righteousness**, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity."

This is just enormous! **Break off your sins by practicing righteousness.**

He must have been leading a sinful lifestyle. He had those two experiences. He had been given opportunities to worship and serve the true God. He had the opportunity to not sin, and be obedient, but he is habitually sinning. God comes to him via this dream. Daniel interprets it and gives him this third opportunity.

Break off your sins by practicing righteousness and your iniquities.

The first part understood.

Break off your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.

There is an enormous truth here! It fits with the rest of the scriptures. It actually fits the with renewed mind principles of Ephesians and Colossians for us: putting off and putting on.

You break off your sins. How? By practicing righteousness. You put-off and put-on. You don't just put off, you put on. And you can break off your sins by instead practicing righteousness. Pursuing righteousness, you put off the old man. You put on the new man.

Nebuchadnezzar is to break off his iniquities. How? By showing mercy to the oppressed instead of oppressing people and taking advantage of them. Instead of not being merciful to those in his kingdom who need mercy he is to show mercy. So that (here is the purpose) there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.

Now, given that Daniel had interpreted the first dream, given that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had been saved out of the fire, and given that the king had at that time acknowledged God as the God of gods, Lord of lords, when he gets his second dream interpreted and he hears this command and this counsel and this opportunity, you would think

he would humbly accept it and obey, so he would get the fruit. Perhaps he would enjoy a lengthening of his prosperity.

But no, what does he do? It is absolutely astounding.

28 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. **29 At the end of twelve months**

Does that take your breath away? It does to me. **He had twelve months to ponder this and to obey!** For twelve months on a daily basis he could think about this. How many times did he see Daniel? How many times was he reminded of this?

Yet as the king, with his pride and exalting himself, refused to be humbled!

29 At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, **30** and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, **which I have built by my mighty power** as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?”

Have human beings changed? Has the human heart changed? We know what is necessary in order for someone to really be changed and we’re going to see this here. Sometimes it takes receiving consequences and hitting bottom, which is about to happen to old Nebby.

“Is not this great Babylon, **which I have built by my mighty power**

Think of people today who are kings and have kingdoms and have power and have mega billions of dollars who refuse to humble themselves before God.

He says, “I have built by my mighty power, and it’s for the glory of my majesty.”

31 While the words were still in the king’s mouth,

Remember out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. So this is what’s in his heart. That is why he is speaking this!

31 While the words were still in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven,

How many people get to hear audible voices from heaven? Nebby gets an audible voice from heaven!

“O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, You had twelve months, bud. Time’s up! And if this doesn’t speak to the realities of end times as well, it shouts, people now have time to repent. However, there will come a time when “time’s up,” and then they will have to suffer the consequences.

32 and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox,

This is happening exactly as had been shown to him in the dream, exactly how the prophetic interpretation from Daniel came to him.

You’re going to be humbled. Those who exalt themselves will be humbled eventually. It may not be now. It may not even be seen in this life, **but it is going to happen.**

Philippians 2:9-11

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every

name, [10](#) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11](#) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Every knee **shall** bow!

And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, **until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.**"

Exactly as the initial dream came, and as the Words of Daniel came, you are going to be humbled until you know. Do you see God's graciousness and mercy and compassion and forgiveness here giving him another chance?

"Until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will." Until you understand that God is God and you are NOT. You are not God.

Think of Acts 12 where Herod exalts himself as a God. The people worship him as a God. And then right after, because he allowed this to go on, he was eaten with worms (He couldn't worm his way out of that one) and Herod died.

until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will."

[33](#) Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.

You would think that might be the end of the story, but it's not the end of the story. We see God's grace, mercy, peace, compassion, forgiveness on display. I believe this is an example for all of history of "exalt yourself and you will be humbled."

Think about how Nebuchadnezzar had the opportunity to humble himself a number of times and didn't, so God humbles him. God humbles him because he didn't humble himself.

Think back to Deuteronomy where God humbled the children of Israel in the desert. They didn't humble themselves, so He humbled them.

In this case, again, Nebuchadnezzar hasn't yet humbled himself and he's being humbled. Reflect again on Christ in the gospels when he shared on a number of occasions and gave a number of parables. "He who exalts himself shall be humbled. He who humbles himself shall be exalted." We don't have everything that Christ said or did, as John wrote.

John 21:25

[25](#) Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

If we had everything, there would be more books than the world could contain. And we know that Christ did other things and other miracles, and he spoke other Words and perhaps sermons, parables, etcetera.

We have what we have because that is what God revealed to men to write. But I wonder, just speculation, if in between, Christ wasn't thinking about the record of Nebuchadnezzar, who had

exalted himself and was humbled, or whether the disciples and the apostles who knew this record were thinking of it, or whether he mentioned it or shared it while they were walking from one destination to the next, I don't know. But what a great record that demonstrates exalt yourself and you will be humbled, humble yourself and you will be exalted.

Verse 34.

[34](#) At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever,

He finally looked up to God. There is repentance and humility associated with this because he lifted his eyes to heaven. He got his eyes off himself!

I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever,

So this third time, he gets it right. He finally realizes because he's hit bottom. He looks up to heaven, his reason returns. Any reasonable person is going to conclude that, hey, there's a God in heaven who created the heavens and the earth. He is to be praised and honored, and he's the one who lives forever. And if I want to live forever, I better get on board while there's still time.

for his dominion is an everlasting dominion,

Not mine, HIS dominion. And didn't he say this once before? Yes! In Daniel 4:3

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

It shows how couple of things. He could have believed it at the time; and he spoke it and believed it. But then over time, you forget. You get worn down, you no longer hold fast to those beliefs, and you drift away. But now, via this experience,

for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; [35](#) all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,

So he realizes, recognizes what is written throughout the scriptures, actually, that God is God. And for each individual person, their life is like a mist. Your life is like a vapor.

In another section, your dust, your life is like a breath, your life is like a shadow.

[35](#) all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth;

In other words, God is God and we are not. We are to humble ourselves before The Almighty God and not exalt ourselves. We have the opportunity to do that by adhering to the Word.

Consider the elites today and the globalists today. In a sense, Nebuchadnezzar had this global kingdom, and he set his image up in the plain for all to worship. He was making a name for himself. It is similar to the Tower of Babel, where it said the people wanted to make a name for themselves with a tower high to the heavens. Indeed there is nothing new under the sun. From beginning to end, people are doing the same thing.

In the end times, what happens to the elites of the earth and the wealthy who had it all?

Revelation 18:10

10 They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, “Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come.”

Revelation 18: 16,17

16 “Alas, alas, for the great city (Babylon) that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls! **17** For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste.”

Isn't it interesting that Nebuchadnezzar is the king of Babylon? And Revelation 18 talks about Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar. It happened in an instant. In a minute, God said, hey, look, the kingdom has departed from you with that audible voice.

31 While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you,...

33 **Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar.**

It happened in an instant. In revelation 18, it's in an hour. All the wealth of the world is gone.

35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

God is not accountable to man. We are accountable to him. What he said is going to happen, IS going to happen, as we see here in this record. A lesson for all of history, a lesson for all people today.

And ladies and gentlemen, this is written for us so we can learn from it. And if people today would only read just this section of scripture and say, hey, look, I ought to recognize that there's a God in heaven, and all the inhabitants of the earth on the side of the devil are accounted as nothing.

But what has God done but to **so love US**? He sent his son so that we can be redeemed, and then we're no longer nothing. We're something because of the Christ in us, the hope of glory, and we have eternal life.

36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me.

Talk about the grace, mercy, forgiveness and compassion of God because he humbled himself.

And remember, we covered this in prior sessions. It is totally consistent. The Israelite kings of Ahab and Manasseh and Jeroboam, who had sinned and done terrible things, and yet, because they humbled themselves and repented, God forgave them. Just enormous lessons here.

And it's not too late if the Lord hasn't returned, and it's not too late for people still alive today. But there does come that period of time when the Rapture comes and the Tribulation begins, and then during that period, people will still have a chance to repent.

But then revelation 18 time is up.

My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me.

This happened all because he repented and humbled himself.

37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

That is the final word in this section on Nebuchadnezzar! Is that magnificent of God or what?

This is why I wanted to share this record, to close out the reflexives section on Christ, **saying he humbled himself**. And then the commands in the epistles that we are to humble ourselves because we want to reject pride and self-exaltation and exalting ourselves and wanting glory in this life.

The sooner we come to grips with the fact that God is God and we are not the better; and the way to earn rewards, as we'll see, is to humble ourselves before God and be obedient.

Even Nebuchadnezzar says, "I praise and extol and honor the king of heaven."

What a contrast to having everybody bow down to his image and worshiping the king on earth.

I praise and extol and honor the king of heaven, for all his works are right,
He is right; He is righteous; He is just; He is truthful. All the attributes of God, all his works are right and his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.