

DANIEL 4
SESSION FOUR
FAREWELL LESSONS FROM NEBUCHADNEZZAR
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Read the following segments of Daniel: 4:4-5, 9-19, 22, 24-31.
Seven times= seven years, seven sets of seasons

PART ONE: THE SET UP

Nebuchadnezzar's example waves two warning signs that we're being corrupted by our "Babylons."

1. We lose touch with the poor. Note the KJV translation: "by showing mercy to the poor."

Compare verses 4 and 27. The Aramaic word translated "showing mercy" (KJV) or "being kind" (NIV) corresponds to the Hebrew transliteration by the same spelling (*chanan*). The Hebrew word means "to be favorable, be kind, be gracious; to pity, have mercy; to bestow; to complain; to make lovely" (Isa. 58:10-11).

Complain here is defined: find a public platform – with tact
How do we as the privileged ones be stewards of the grace we've been given?

2. We lose touch with our own poverty of spirit. (Matt. 5:3) See verse 30. The "I" is emphatic in the Aramaic, meaning it would well translate, "I, myself."

Bottom line: The way down is up.
Isaiah 47:8, 10 – I am, and there is none besides me.

PART TWO: THE FALL DOWN

1. Read God knows where and when to draw the line. In *Daniel: God's Pattern for the Future*, author Charles R. Swindoll writes, "God's patience is geared toward our repentance" (see also Rom. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9). His patience, however, does set limits.

Read Daniel 4:31-33. Various diagnoses have been offered through the years for Nebuchadnezzar's temporary condition. The two most common are lycanthropy and boanthropy.

Lycanthropy=wolf/man type delusion

Boanthropy=mental disorder where the victim believes he or she is an ox or a cow

Please note: This is not a lesson about mental illness. This is a lesson about divine discipline. The theme of our lesson is stated succinctly in verse 37.

Those who walk in pride He is able to humble.

2. God's patience sets limits. Thankfully, so does His discipline. (See v. 23)

Conclude with Daniel 4:34-37.

Bottom line: The way up is down.

I Peter 5:5-6

Humble yourself - confess who He is and that we are His children.