

MESSAGE 6: WHEN GOD TESTS YOU WITH SUCCESS

Parts 1-3

DANIEL 4:1-37 WHAT GETS US INTO TROUBLE

1.

“I, Nebuchadnezzar, was enjoying a time of peace and prosperity in my kingdom and palace. I was taking it easy, without a care in the world!” Daniel 4:4

“I said to myself ‘Just look at this great city of Babylon that I have created! I, by my own mighty power, have built this beautiful city for my glory. I built it to show my power, my might, my majesty, and my glory!’” Daniel 4:30

“The Lord despises pride; You can be sure that the proud will be punished.” Proverbs 16:5

2.

Because you’ve been arrogant and you’ve ignored God, you’re about to lose your kingdom & your sanity.

(See Daniel 4:24-25)

“Here’s what you should do: Repent of your sins and start doing what is right. Then begin to show merciful kindness to the poor and oppressed. Then perhaps God will allow you to keep prospering.” Daniel 4:27

3.

“Twelve months later, all of what King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed did actually happen to him. He was taking a walk on the flat roof of his royal palace in Babylon. As he looked out across the city, he boasted to himself . . . As the words were still on his lips, a voice came from heaven, ‘This is what God decrees for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your power is being taken away and you are no longer the ruler of this kingdom! You’ll be deposed from the palace, ostracized by everyone, and forced to live with the wild animals. Immediately it all happened.’” Daniel 4:28-33a

STEPS TO RECOVERY

1.

“After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven and my sanity returned.” Daniel 4:34a (NLT)

2.

“My sanity returned, and I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored The One who lives forever.” Daniel 4:34b (NLT)

We get better when we replace _____ with _____

“Remember how God led you through the wilderness these past forty years . . . He humbled you by letting you go hungry . . . and he tested you with hardships many times . . . to test your character and to see if you will obey whatever he commands you to do . . . Now God is bringing you into a good land — a land with plenty of water . . . with bountiful crops . . . orchards full of fruit . . . abundant copper and iron in the ground. and you

will lack nothing! So when you are full and satisfied and prospering PRAISE the Lord with gratitude for all he has given you!

“BUT BE CAREFUL that you do not forget the Lord and that you continue to always obey every command of God! Otherwise when you have built your fine houses and your gold and silver have multiplied, your heart will become PROUD and you will forget that it was God who saved and delivered you out of your slavery and gave all this to you!

“And when you become successful. do not think ‘I did all this by my own strength and I became rich by my own power.’ Instead remember that it is God, your Lord, who gives you the ability and strength to produce wealth!

“I warn you: If you ever forget God and begin turning things into idols that you worship, God will destroy it all and your nation, just as he has destroyed other nations before you who forgot God.” Deuteronomy 8:2-20

TRUTHS ABOUT GOD THAT STABILIZE MY LIFE

• _____
“God’s rule is everlasting, and his kingdom is eternal!” Daniel 4:34c (NLT)

• _____
“All the people of the earth are nothing compared to him.” Daniel 4:35a (NLT)

• _____
“He has the power to do whatever he pleases — among the angels of heaven and with those who live on earth. No one can stop him or challenge him, or even question what he does . . . And those who walk in pride he is able to humble” Daniel 4:35b, 37

“When God restored my sanity, he also gave me back my honor and kingdom. All my leaders returned to me, and my kingdom became greater than ever! So now I praise and exalt and glorify the King of Heaven because everything he does is always right and true and fair.” Daniel 4:36

• _____

3. _____
“King Nebuchadnezzar sent a letter to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: May you prosper! I want to tell you all about the wonderful miracles that God has done for me!” Daniel 4:1-2