

ALL OF A SUDDEN Daniel 4:27-37

Intro: “All of a sudden” is a phrase that we are all familiar with. We have heard people say, “All of a sudden the rain came” or “the cool breeze began to blow.” Was the rain really all of the sudden; had not the storm been predicted? The rain and the cool breeze had come because of atmospheric conditions.

In Daniel 4:30-31, we read of the king exalting himself, of his praising his ability and power. In verse thirty, the scripture says: “While the word was in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.” That sure sounds like all of the sudden, but in reality it was not. The God of mercy and grace had given the king twelve months to repent; yet, he went on in his sin. The storm clouds had been gathering and the storm hit all of the sudden!

I. VS. 27, A CALL TO REPENTANCE

- A. Note the “Wherefore” at the beginning of this verse. Because of what the dream predicted the king had best get right.
- B. Daniel, like Nathan before him, was not afraid to tell the king the truth. In the days of king Nebuchadnezzar, a man, even in the high position that Daniel held, could lose his head for pointing out the faults of the king for the king had the power of life and death in his hand. Most all in the court of the king praised him and did not cross him, nor give bad reports about the kingdom such as the neglect of the poor. True men of God have always preached “thus sayeth the Lord” without fear or favor of men.
 1. Elijah was a thorn in the side Ahab and Jezebel because he did not bite his lip when it came to proclaiming the truth.
 2. John the Baptist, of whom Jesus said, “Among those born among women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist...,” told King Herod that his affair with Herodias was a sin (Mark 6:14-29).

- C. Daniel's plea was for Nebuchadnezzar to repent, change his mind and acknowledge Jehovah as the only true and living God. Daniel's invitation was about to be ignored and the consequences were on the way.

II. VSS. 28-33, THE CONSUMMATION OF THE DREAM

- A. VS. 28, "All of this came upon king Nebuchadnezzar." God had warned the king through the dream and through the faithful witness of Daniel. He was told to repent, have a change of mind, get right and help the poor.

1. God is still calling men to repent. Acts 17:30 says, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent."
2. The Gospel according to John says: "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in name of the only begotten Son of God."(3:18)

- B. VS. 29, Twelve months, a full year, the king went about his business. He did not have a change of mind nor a change of heart. Oliver B. Greene writes: "Since judgment did not fall at once, perhaps Nebuchadnezzar thought Daniel was mistaken or that God had forgotten...the God of Daniel never forgets. He does not always pay on Saturday night nor at the end of the month, but He never fails to pay."(172) Dr. R.G. Lee's great sermon, "Pay Day Someday" points out the fact that a spiritual pay day is coming to the unrepentant. Romans 6:23 says: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ the Lord."

1. God gave the king twelve months to get right, yet he refused. God gave the antediluvians 120 years of warning before the flood came.
2. Friend, I do not know how long you have left on this earth, but be assured that your payday is coming.

- C. VS. 30, The king walked about his magnificent home and looked about the great city he had built and spoke highly of himself. One thing is certain, the king was full of pride (Vs. 37).

1. Proverbs 16:18 says: "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."
 2. "God resisteth the proud but giveth grace to the humble" (James 4:6).
- D. VSS. 31-33, Payday comes to Nebuchadnezzar.
1. VS 31a, All of a sudden a voice from heaven interrupts the great king. It is a voice bearing a message from the greatest of all kings. Nebuchadnezzar should have known that God would not forget. Wiersbe says: "God has every right to break into our lives and speak to us." (270) Do men today live as though God has forgotten his Word that says: "The soul that sinneth it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:20)? Do not forget the rich farmer of Luke 12:16-21 to whom the Lord said: "This night shall thy soul is required of thee..."
 - a. While the words were still in the mouth of the king his life changed.
 - b. The magnificent kingdom was taken out of his control. His ability to govern was gone.
 2. VSS. 31b-32, In these verse, we have the sevenfold judgment of the Sovereign God of the universe upon Nebuchadnezzar. Seven is the number of perfection. God wants him to know who is in control.

One- "Thy kingdom is departed from thee"

Two- "They shall drive thee from men"

Three- "Thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field"

Four- "They shall make thee eat grass as oxen"

Five- "Seven times shall pass over thee"

Six- "Until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men"

Seven- "And giveth it to whomsoever He will"
 3. VS. 33, For seven years, the heart and mind of the king were as that of a beast. Nebuchadnezzar went from a king filled with pride to a monstrous beast that roamed the fields.

PROPHECY AS SEEN IN DANIEL FOUR

Prophecy	Type in Daniel 4 Nebuchadnezzar Antichrist	Revelation Antitype
Kingdom	King of Babylon	Antichrist king of Babylon Rev. 17
Time Span	Seven years Daniel 4:25	Seven years tribulation Daniels Seventieth week
Sin	Pride Dan. 4:30	Pride Rev. 13:6
Attack on Jerusalem Desecration Of Temple	Daniel 1:1; 2 Kings 25:9	Daniel 9:27 Mathew 24:15
Dominion over Earth	Daniel 4:22	Rev. 13:4,8
King humbled	Daniel 4:37	Rev. 19:19-21

III. VSS. 34-35, THE CONVERSION ON THE KING

- A. VS. 34. The first person narrative from verse 1-3 picks up once again.
1. He looked heavenward and all of a sudden he was changed inside and out. Isaiah 45:22: "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." When Nebuchadnezzar looked to the God of heaven, his sanity returned. The prodigal son came to himself and was delivered just as the king was saved.
 2. What a change the seven years had made on the king. He thought of himself as high and mighty, but now he blesses the true God and honors Him "whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation."
- B. VS. 35, The king is saying loud and clear that God is Sovereign and that man is nothing. The Psalmist in

Psalm 8:4 says: "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visiteth him?"

1. Yes, God is Sovereign; and yes, man is responsible (John 6:37).
2. No one can stop God from doing as He decrees (Romans 9:14-23).

IV. VSS. 36-37, THE CONCLUSION

- A. VS. 36, It is likely that Daniel and other faithful servants of the king held things together while he was unable to rule. A good employee will do all he can to make his employer successful.
 1. God blessed the king and the king was thankful.
 2. These blessing were the result of the king's conversion. "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Rom. 5:20).
- B. VS. 37, There was a true change in the king for he did not boast of what he had accomplished. He had come to realize that it is from God that all blessings flow.
 1. We see that his pride has been dealt with, and he has been humbled. The Word of God say that, "...God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." (1 Peter 5:5)
 2. Pride does go before the fall as is illustrated in the life of king Nebuchadnezzar. Yet, also illustrated in his life is the fact that God does give grace to the humble.

Conclusion: The king gave abundant testimony of what God can do to those who look to Him. The moment you believe, you are all of a sudden set free from condemnation.

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