Introduction

In every family there are certain rules that are very important.

God hates all sin, but especially the sin of pride.

It is pride that fuels our desire for power and control.

There are times when power becomes an idol to get our own way over others.

Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful king in the Middle East from 605-562 B.C.

The Babylonian Empire extended from Iran to Egypt.

Nebuchadnezzar had power and wealth and no one could thwart him – no one except God.

I. God is sovereign over men and nations. Daniel 4:1-18

God is sovereign over every king and nation. He determines the times, the boundaries and the places where we live. Acts 17:26-27

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a great and large tree.

Nebuchadnezzar had grown proud of all he had made and now he was about to learn a very hard lesson. Only God is great!

God rules over kings and he rules over our lives too.

II. God is watching everything we do. Daniel 4:19-27

Daniel was terrified by the dream.

This is the interpretation. You will be driven away from the people and live like an animal for seven years until you acknowledge that God is sovereign over all.

God knows everything about us.

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.” Hebrews 4:13

We can fool ourselves sometimes. We can fool others. But we cannot fool God.

The Power Broker by Robert A. Caro
It is the story of Robert Moses, a master builder and his use and abuse of power in New York.

“All power tends to corrupt. Absolute power corrupts absolutely.” British Historian Lord Acton

III. God is able to humble those who walk in pride. Daniel 4:28-37

Babylon was an amazing city.

- The size of Babylon was staggering. – The wall around the city was 60 miles in circumference, 15 miles on each side, 300 feet high and 80 feet thick.
- The Great Temple of Marduk (Bel) was the most renowned sanctuary in all the Euphrates valley. Babylon was a city of Gold.
- Nebuchadnezzar’s Palace was one of the most magnificent buildings ever erected on earth.
- The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

Nebuchadnezzar looked at all he had made and was patting himself on the back when a voice came from heaven.

Nebuchadnezzar experienced what some believe was a rare mental illness called boanthropy. It was a judgment from God.

It wasn’t until Nebuchadnezzar lifted his eyes toward heaven that his sanity was restored. And he praised and glorified the God of heaven.

There are two ways to live:

- Be your own god.
- Let God be God.

Conclusion

“The Christians are right. It is pride which has been the chief cause of misery in every nation and family since the world began…In God you come up against something which is in every respect immeasurably superior to yourself. Unless you know God as that – and, therefore know yourself as nothing in comparison - you do not know God at all. As long as you are proud, you cannot know God.” C. S. Lewis

It wasn’t until Nebuchadnezzar looked up, that he saw God.

We can’t heal ourselves.

It is only when we humble ourselves and turn to Christ, that we become a new creation in Christ.