

***The Backbone to Humility
(Daniel 4)***

Bryan Burkholder – 6/21-22/2014

Webster's definition of Backbone – “firm, and resolute character”

Pride prevents us from having backbone. Humility is the definition of backbone.

1) The Story of Nebuchadnezzar's Humbling

***Neb's Thesis
Daniel 4:1-3 (NKJV)***

¹Nebuchadnezzar the king,

To all peoples, nations, and
languages that dwell in all the
earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

² I thought it good to declare
the signs and wonders that the
Most High God has worked for
me.

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

“Clearly, at issue in the chapter is the relationship between earthly power and heavenly power – the power of Nebuchadnezzar vs. the power of God.” Daniel, by C. L. Steow

Neb's Dream
Daniel 4:4-18 (NKJV)

⁴ I, Nebuchadnezzar, was...
flourishing in my palace. ⁵ I saw a
dream which made me afraid...
⁶ Therefore I issued a decree to
bring in all the wise *men* of
Babylon before me... ⁷but they did
not make known to me its
interpretation .

⁸ But at last Daniel came before
me... I told the dream before
him. ⁹ "I know that the Spirit of
the Holy God *is* in you... explain to
me the visions of my dream...

¹⁰ "These *were* the visions of my
head *while* on my bed: I was
looking, and behold, A tree in the
midst of the earth, And its height
was great...

¹³ ...there was a watcher, a holy
one, coming down from heaven.
¹⁴ He cried aloud and said thus:
'Chop down the tree and cut off
its branches..... ¹⁵ Nevertheless
leave the stump and roots in the
earth..... ¹⁶Let him be given the
heart of a beast.... ¹⁷...In order
that the living may know that the
Most High rules in the kingdom of
men, Gives it to whomever He
will, And sets over it the lowest
of men.'

Daniel's Interpretation
Daniel 4:19-27 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Then Daniel...was astonished... and his thoughts troubled him. "My lord, *may* the dream concern those who hate you!"

²⁰ "The tree you saw.....²² *it is* you O King...²⁵ " ...Your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field....till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses." ...²⁷ "O King, let my advice be acceptable to you: break off your sins by *being* righteous...."

Neb's Humbling
Daniel 4:28-33 (NKJV)

²⁸ All *this* came upon Nebuchadnezzar... ³⁰ The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" ... ³³ That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' *feathers* and his nails like birds' *claws*.

Neb's Restoration ***Daniel 4:34-37 (NKJV)***

³⁴ And at the end of the time....

My understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High...

³⁶ ...I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me.

³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works *are* truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.

2) Signs of Pride and Humility

- A. Response to your circumstances
- B. Praise and worship
- C. Urgency to share God's work in your life

3) Things God Consistently Uses to Humble Us

- A. The body of Christ (*1 Cor. 12*)
- B. Marriage/family (*Eph. 5*)
- C. Life (*Matt. 5:45*)

Flexibility equals strength.

Humility equals spiritual backbone.



Sometimes when you push against your family members, you are actually pushing against God. What family circumstance is God using to humble you?