

# 10

DANIEL 4:28-37

## BROUGHT LOW



### THIS WEEK'S **focus**

All of us struggle with pride. It comes in many shapes and sizes. It even comes in false humility. But it's there, lurking behind and underneath most of our other sins. And throughout our lives, the Lord will give us reminders of it. Despite our hard work, put-together lives, and moral merit badges, God alone will receive ultimate glory. At every moment that we find ourselves brought low—in small or significant ways—we should allow it to draw our eyes upward to the Most High God. Because He is over all creation, God will humble our prideful hearts.



### CENTRAL **truth**

God will humble our prideful hearts.

# DAILY devotions

## MEMORIZE DANIEL 4:37

### 7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about man?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

# DANIEL 4:28-30

## DWELL

Daniel had warned the king that God would humble him and drive him out of his palace to live with wild animals until he acknowledged the Most High God's divine rulership (vv. 24-27). But this knowledge didn't lead the king to humility; instead, it led him deeper into his pride. Walking on the rooftop of the palace one night, he was struck by how great the kingdom was that he had built by his own power and for his own glory.



Why was it a problem for the king to be proud of his kingdom?



How can you acknowledge God's role in providing for your needs and in your accomplishments?

## MEMORIZE

Use a phone or computer to record yourself reading Daniel 4:37 aloud. Listen to this recording throughout the week.

## PRAY

Thank God for all that He has given you—your talents, skills, resources, accomplishments, other people to help you, and more.

day 2

# DANIEL 4:31-33

## DWELL

Nebuchadnezzar hadn't even finished talking before God proclaimed His judgment on the king, just as Daniel had predicted. The once mighty king was reduced to living like a cow, unkempt and eating grass. The once proud king was brought lower than the most humble human, to the level of the animals that God had once given Adam and Eve authority over in the garden of Eden. This was a perfect illustration of how, in the kingdom of God, "Many who are first will be last, and the last first" (Mark 10:31).

↑ What does the king's punishment tell us about God? About humans?

→ How can these verses be a "wakeup call" to you in your perspective on your life? How do they prompt you to think or act differently?

## MEMORIZE

Write Daniel 4:37 on a note card and place it in a folder or binder where you will see it frequently. Read it to yourself each time you see it this week.

## PRAY

Ask God to guide you in seeing your accomplishments humbly. Offer Him thanks and praise.

day 3

# DANIEL 4:34-37

## DWELL

If Nebuchadnezzar had been stubborn enough, he might have spent the rest of his life living like an animal, refusing to acknowledge God's power and glory. But one day, he turned his eyes toward heaven and declared that Daniel's God truly was the Most High God. Apparently he had learned his lesson and his praise was genuine, because God restored—and even increased—all the king's former wealth and authority to him. He no longer glorified himself above all, but exalted God instead.

↻ What did the king specifically praise God for? Rewrite verses 34-35 in your own words.

↔ How can you use your accomplishments to communicate God's honor and glory to those around you?

## MEMORIZE

Break Daniel 4:37 into 3-5 smaller parts and try to recite a different part to yourself from memory throughout each day.

## PRAY

Use Nebuchadnezzar's words of praise in verses 34-35 to form your own prayer of thanksgiving and praise.

day 4

# PROVERBS 16:17-20

## DWELL

Throughout our lives, there will be many times that we're forced to choose between two paths, two ways of living. We can choose to live in a prideful way that glorifies us and our own desires, or we can choose to live in a way that humbly and wisely takes into account the teachings of Scripture and the way of Jesus. If we choose the way of pridefulness, we are setting ourselves up for a fall, like King Nebuchadnezzar experienced. The way of humility may not make us as popular by the world's standards, but we can trust that the Lord's ways are always good.

↓ How is the upright person described in these verses? How are their decisions different from those of an arrogant person?

→ What might some examples be of living humbly and upright in your day-to-day life?

## MEMORIZE

Draw Daniel 4:37 on a piece of paper using colored pencils or markers, using a different color for the most important words and phrases. Hang it in your room or locker.

## PRAY

Thank God for guiding us on the path of wisdom and understanding through His Word.

day 5

# JAMES 1:9-11

## DWELL

Within the body of the church, both those who are rich and those who are poor will be on equal standing in the coming kingdom of God: the poor will be exalted, and the rich will be humbled. Therefore, James says, the poor should boast in the future heavenly reward that is promised them. As for the rich, rather than boast in their own wealth and social standing, they should recognize that these things will one day pass away and practice humility despite their current worldly status. James was not saying that having money was bad—his concern was more for their hearts, since their money would tempt them toward pride more than those who had little.

↻ How does James use the example of grass and flowers to illustrate what pride can do to us?

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↻ Why is it sometimes difficult to be humble? How can prayer and studying Scripture help you with this?

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## MEMORIZE

Practice reciting Daniel 4:37 aloud from memory with a friend or family member. They can prompt you with the next word if you need help remembering.

## PRAY

Thank God that He has promised life in an eternal kingdom for all who trust in Him alone.