



# CAPITOL COMMISSION<sup>®</sup>

## The Leader who Became a Beast

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**Daniel 4:28-33** *“All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar; 29) At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. 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?” 31) While the word was still in the king’s mouth, a voice fell from heaven: “King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! 32) And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.” 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.” (NKJV)*

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*THE WICKED IN HIS PROUD COUNTENANCE DOES NOT  
SEEK GOD; GOD IS IN NONE OF HIS THOUGHTS.*

PSALM 10:4

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Was there any detail in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream that was not fulfilled? Did this happen on the very anniversary of his dream? How much of Nebuchadnezzar’s boasting was actually true? Is there any gratitude to God in his proud words? Was his prideful boast halted by God’s immediate interruption? How many times did God make it personal? What was the goal of this calamity? Did he have time to repent?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

➤ JANUARY 18: DANIEL 4:34-37 *THE EMPEROR EXCHANGES PRIDE FOR PRAISE OF THE MOST HIGH!*

➤ JANUARY 25: DANIEL 5:1-9 *THE PRAISE OF FALSE GODS IS ANSWERED WITH THE FINGER OF GOD!*

Nebuchadnezzar, having never lost a battle, was not known as much for his military genius as he was for his passion as a builder. Likely he had conquered the nations, not primarily to build an empire, but to gain their wealth and free labor by slavery, to build his capital, Babylon. His oppression was extremely cruel as his captives were driven, according to their own Babylonian records, to build his entire palace in just 15 days! Worse, the bricks made for Babylon required the stamp of his name, to prove he was the builder. The ancient Greek historians, referenced by Stephen Miller, were astonished by the grandeur of the city with its incredible system of double walls, with the inner wall 21 feet thick with a tower every 60 feet and outer walls 11 feet thick and a similar distance between towers. Then he built another set of walls, the outer 25 feet thick and the inner 23 feet thick. East of the city there arose a system of these double walls 17 miles long and wide enough at the top for chariots to pass one another. Since the Ishtar Gate was 40 feet high, it is assumed that the walls reached that height, and on the outside of this gate were ornate tiles with dragons and bulls (557 of them) in beautiful colors with a glazed blue background. That just begins the projects burdening the oppressed peoples taken captive. It does not include the 400 foot long bridge spanning the river in the midst of the city or the seven level ziggurat built with the temple of Marduk on top, towering at 288 feet, or the other 53 temples built in Babylon or the three palaces—probably covering 200 x 350 yards. Most notable was the “hanging gardens,” one of the seven wonders of the world, a mountain of terraces far above the walls, watered by slave labor with a system of hand pumps and hoists. Daniel must have been often overwhelmed with pity for these slaves, some worked past exhaustion even to execution.

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### BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 14<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR SPEAKER’S CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 14<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR SPEAKER’S CONFERENCE ROOM

# Virginia

## The Leader who Became a Beast

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*THEREFORE PRIDE SERVES AS THEIR NECKLACE;  
VIOLENCE COVERS THEM LIKE A GARMENT. THEIR EYES  
BULGE WITH ABUNDANCE; THEY HAVE MORE THAN HEART  
COULD WISH. THEY SCOFF AND SPEAK WICKEDLY  
CONCERNING OPPRESSION; THEY SPEAK LOFTILY.*  
PSALM 73:6-8  
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### I. CONTINUING PRIDE DANIEL 4:28-30

It all arrived on the anniversary of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. He may have initially been pricked in his pride when he had experienced this life-shattering dream where he was seen as a towering tree that had been the means of food and shelter for those who had been gathered from many nations. But then there was a divine decree to chop the tree down so that only the stump and roots remained and he would eat grass with no shelter until seven times passed over him, "*till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses*" (Daniel 4:25). Daniel had risked his life to give his unsolicited advice in asking the king to repent (v. 26), yet the king had refused to repent for twelve long months and continued in his pride. Now as he overviews his city, he likely thinks the warning of God is not true and the dream is irrelevant. So he boasts, "*Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?*" In reality, the city was first built by Nimrod (Genesis 10:9-10), but Nebuchadnezzar had expanded and beautified it by his captives from many lands. Was his arrogant boasting actually true?

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*O VIRGIN DAUGHTER OF BABYLON; SIT ON THE GROUND  
WITHOUT A THRONE ... I WAS ANGRY WITH MY PEOPLE ...  
AND GIVEN THEM INTO YOUR HAND. YOU SHOWED THEM  
NO MERCY; ON THE ELDERLY YOU LAID YOUR YOKE VERY  
HEAVILY. ISAIAH 47:1, 6*  
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### II. CONFRONTING PERSONALLY DANIEL 4:31-32

The boasting was cut short when the thunderclap from heaven interrupted him. "*While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice from heaven fell.*" The king was arrested, caught in the act! Then there are 7 confronting references to "you" and "your" as God personally points at this proud leader: "*to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you!*" Notice the past tense of the verb, his leadership is already gone! There is no time now to repent. God has mercifully waited for a whole year while the king has arrogantly imposed upon His grace. From among humanity whom he had shown no mercy, literally "*you shall be driven.*" Instead of his palace in his capital, "*your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field.*" Literally he was struck with boanthropy, "*The grass, like an ox, you shall be made to eat.*" His pride would be crushed completely and overcome: "*seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.*" The final phrase is the ultimate purpose of God in His correction of the King (repeated 3x-4:17, 25) and the depth of His grace to him.

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*PRIDE GOES BEFORE DESTRUCTION, AND A HAUGHTY  
SPIRIT BEFORE A FALL. PROVERBS 16:18*  
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### III. CONFOUNDING PRECISELY DANIEL 4:33

Immediately, "*that very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar.*" Every precise detail of God's dream, sent to warn him and call him to repentance, now is enacted in full to attack his wicked pride. "*These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren*" (Proverbs 6:16-19). The brilliant builder who proves his desire for prestige and honor in every brick now becomes like a beast only desiring grass!

#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Does your pride cause you to lie and stretch the facts in your favor?
- 2) Do you arrogantly impose on God and sin away your day of grace by being unwilling to repent?
- 3) Are your sins among the seven abominations and will you turn to Jesus Christ in faith and repentance?