

TAMING THE BEAST



1. A STRIKING PROCLAMATION. Vs. 1-3

“Nebuchadnezzar the king to all the peoples, nations, and men of every language that live in all the earth: ‘May your peace abound! It has seemed good to me to declare the signs and wonders which the Most High God has done for me. How great are His signs, and how mighty are His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation.’”

2. A TERRIFYING NIGHTMARE. Vs. 4-18

“I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and flourishing in my palace. I saw a dream and it made me fearful; and these fantasies as I lay on my bed and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.” vs. 4-5

“But finally Daniel came in before me...” vs. 8

“Yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze around it in the new grass of the field; and let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him share with the beasts in the grass of the earth. Let his mind be changed from that of a man, and let a beast’s mind be given to him, and let seven periods of time pass over him.” vs. 15-16

“...in order that the living may know that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes, and sets over it the lowliest of men.” vs. 17

3. AN ACCURATE INTERPRETATION. Vs. 19-25

“Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was appalled for a while as his thoughts alarmed him...Belteshazzar answered and said, ‘My lord, if only the dream applied to those who hate you, and its interpretation to your adversaries!’”

vs. 19

4. A GRACIOUS OPPORTUNITY. Vs. 26-27

“Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you; break away now from your sins by doing righteousness, and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.”

“But the one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer, but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.” James 1:25

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his life upon the rock.” Matt. 7:24

“But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in that law he meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does he prospers. The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff which the wind blows away.”

Ps. 1:2-4

5. A BEASTLY RESPONSE. Vs. 28-33

“All this happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king. Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon. The king reflected and said, ‘Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty.’ vs. 28-30

6. THE MIRACULOUS GRACE OF GOD. Vs. 34-37

“But at the end of that period I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever...”

vs. 34a

“Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.” James 4:10

“...all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.” 1 Peter 5:5-6

“Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven, for all His words are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.” vs. 37

POINTS TO PONDER AND APPLY:

A. The things of this world will never satisfy.

B. The way to tame a beast is through Humility.

C. Perhaps you're living with a beastly person.

D. It's much better to humble yourself than to be humbled by the Lord.

E. It is the height of arrogance to ignore God's Word.

F. The Lord may intervene at any moment to humble a person.

TAMING THE BEAST

