

**Dan 4:24-26** “...this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: (25) that you be driven away from mankind .... until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes. (26) 'And in that it was commanded to leave the stump with the roots of the tree, your kingdom will be assured to you after you recognize that it is Heaven that rules.

The fourth chapter of Daniel apparently is written by Nebuchadnezzar and it contains a very important truth for all mankind to consider. King Neb. was the ruler over all the then known 'civilized' world but he had one small problem – “**pride**”. God expected him then to “**recognize that the Most High [was] ruler over the realm of mankind and bestow[ed] it on whomever He wished.**”

While none of us is king and ruler over much of anything, God still desires us to “**recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it [the right to rule - whatever, however small or large] on whomever He wishes.**”

As you may well know, King Neb. needed to learn that lesson the hard way. He hit the dust and bit grass until he learned and acknowledged that God was the ultimate ruler of all things. Most of us spend our lives learning and re-learning or NOT learning that same lesson. Some NEVER learn even when they are brought low through the circumstances of life, but to those who do learn, their “kingdom” is restored to them so that they can rule in the places and times allotted to them.

Well, King Neb. tells us that he learned the lesson the hard way and was eventually restored to power as God had promised. It was God's power and placement in the first place and it was God's power and placement in the last place. Later his son, Belshazzar was reminded of Neb's. painful lesson as he was being introduced to his own demise. [Dan.5:18-31]

The same lessons apply to each of us. Whatever is rightfully ours in the first place will be kept and restored to us in the the second and final place if and when we individually allow God to be God and Ruler over our vast personal fortunes and kingdoms.

Of course there is the tendency to push and shove and grasp and clutch while we persistently ignore the Sovereign God. We tend to worship our little tin gods who give us nothing because we are convinced that our plans and fortunes are better kept by our own great wisdom and puny efforts. From the greatest king of the then-known world to the least pauper in his realm God ruled then and the same GOD continues to rule now.

**His kingdom and power are limitless in both scope and time.**

Nebs lessons remain un-challenged and un-changed.

**Now it is our turn to live and, perhaps, learn.**

*George*

*“Our ambivalence about surrender to God is based on the illusory security of the kingdom of self in relation to the apparent risk of the kingdom of God.”* David G. Benner