

# DANIEL

## FACING LIONS

### SERMON NOTES

Steve Springsted | February 2, 2025  
Facing the Lions  
Daniel 4

The Situation for Jewish captives in Babylon

What is wrong with us? Why is our history full of wars?  
What is the root of this? What will change this?

An Outline of Daniel Chapter four:

- The King's declaration
- The King's dream
- The King's humiliation
- The King's restoration

### THE KING'S DECLARATION

When we turn to God, we want everyone to know!

The king seems to have taken the first steps toward salvation: Repent and recognize that God is God and we are not. (See Romans 1:21)

King Nebuchadnezzar recognized the power and majesty of God, the true King:  
His kingdom is eternal, His dominion endures forever

### THE KING'S DREAM

The massive tree represents THE GREATNESS of the king and kingdom.

The stump represents THE USELESSNESS of the king without God's enablement.

When people assume God's place, they become BEASTS.  
(We were never meant to rule over people. See also "Daniel" 7-8)

To live in God's favor begins with HUMILITY.

## THE KING'S HUMILIATION

The roof of your palace is a DANGEROUS place.

Everything you are and have is a GIFT from God. (James 1:17)

## THE KING'S RESTORATION

The FEAR of God is the beginning of wisdom. (Proverbs 9:10)

The discipline of God is an act of BLESSING.

For the Jews in exile, this brought HOPE.

## THE PROBLEM OF PRIDE

Sin has its roots in pride.

We are all KINGS in our own world.

The TWO SIDES of pride: Putting myself in the center of my attention: 'I am better' and 'I am lesser'. Both require comparison.

## EXPRESSIONS OF PRIDE

Desire to rule, controlling others, lacking gratitude, doubting God's goodness

## APPLICATION: HOW TO AVOID THE PRIDE THAT LEADS TO SIN?

**KNOW:** God is sovereign, the one and only true King and Lord

**FEEL:** I am a child of God. I don't need to be God in my or others lives.

**DO:** Live a life of thanksgiving, praise, and trusting God

**HOW:**

- 1) Saturate yourself in God's character in His Word
- 2) Follow Jesus TOGETHER. ("Kings don't have relationships" – R. Buffam)
- 3) Give up self-focus and comparison
- 4) Allow access to godly people
- 5) BE HUMBLE LIKE JESUS (Philippians 2:8)