



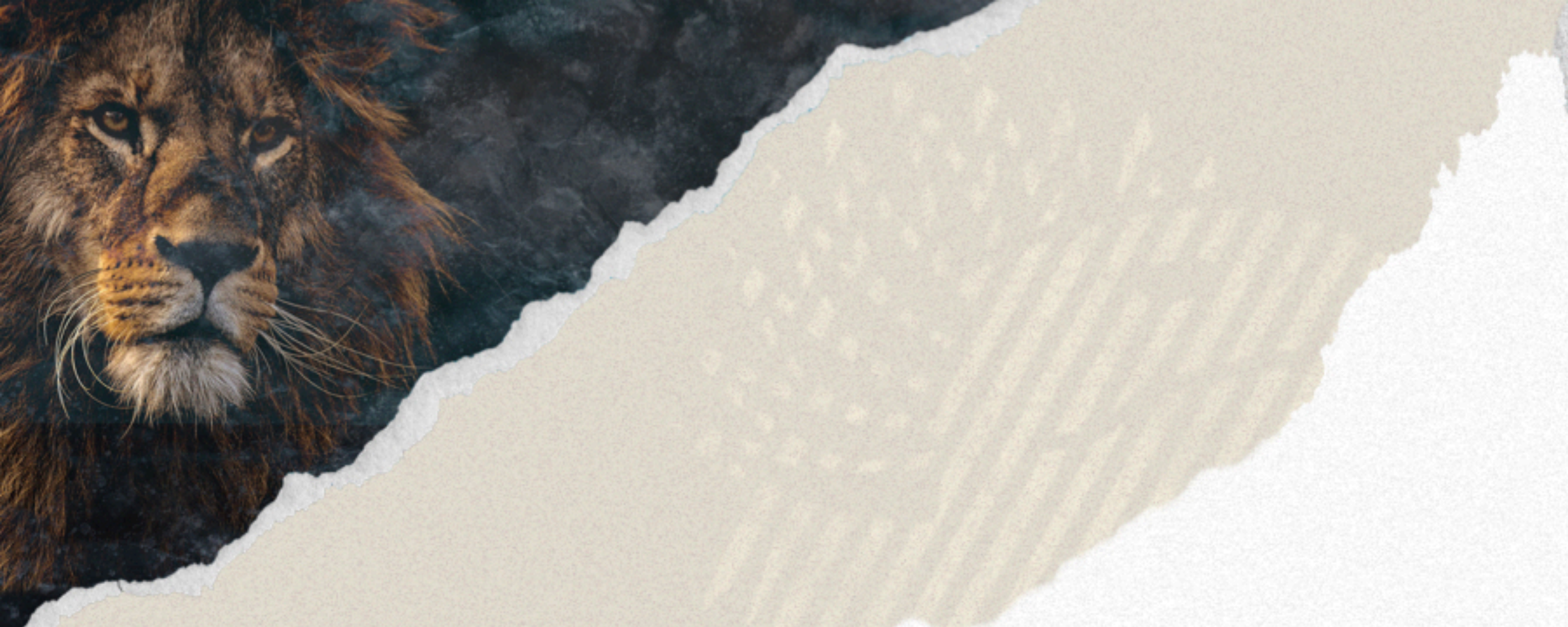
THE BOOK OF DANIEL

The Danger Of Pride (Humility)

Chapter 4

Goal Of Chapter 4

The goal of this chapter is to warn us against the dangers of pride. At the core of all humanity is this sin called pride and its consequences normally lead to many other sins. How God deals swiftly with the King due to his pride should heed as a warning to all of us. After being humbled by God, even King Nebuchadnezzar said in verse 37 “Those who walk in pride he is able to humble.”



Loving The Unlovable

This Jeremiah (whom was the prophet during this time) told the people that were exiled in Babylon to “Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf”

In verses 19-20 it can easily be assumed that Daniel lived out Jeremiah’s prophecy by how much he loved King Nebuchadnezzar. After he interpreted the dream for the King, the Bible says Daniel was dismayed, and his thoughts alarmed him. Daniel went on to say “My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!”

Daniel loved a pagan Babylonian King who killed and captured his people. This seems to be a good application of how we should love those who are different from us. Politics, race, and economics have all been dividers among God's people. However, Daniel’s love for the King should teach us about how we should love people.

The Fleetingness of Material Gain

A lesson we should learn from King Nebuchadnezzar’s fall was how quickly God took his wealth. Verses 29 to 31 shows us the King walking on his roof in pride basking in all of the wealth of his kingdom and while the words were still in his mouth God took the kingdom from him. This shows us that the wealth and material possession we have are all given to us by God and can easily be taken away especially due to pride. The fleeting nature of material passion should help us not to bask in the things we have, but rather give praise to the one that gave them to us. It might have been your skills, grind and personality that helped you gain wealth, but even those character traits were given to you at birth by God. All that we have belongs to him and he should get the glory for it all.

Scriptures On Pride:

Proverbs 11:2
When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

James 4:6
But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

Proverbs 16:18
Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 21:4
Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin.

James 4:10
Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Luke 14:11
For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

1 Corinthians 13:4
Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant

Galatians 6:3
For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Scriptures On Humility:

Psalms 147:6
The Lord lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

Proverbs 15:33
The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 22:4
The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.

James 4:10
Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

John 3:30
He must increase, but I must decrease.”

1 Peter 5:6
Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you

Romans 12:10
Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Colossians 3:12
Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Questions:

1. Have you ever struggled with pride? Be as honest as possible.
2. If we let Daniel's love for King Nebuchadnezzar guide how we should love those different from us, then how are you doing with loving people who are different from you?
3. What material possession have you put too much confidence in? (If you struggle coming up with something, think to yourself about something you would be devastated to lose.)