

Advancing through Testing III

“Speaking truth to power test” *Daniel 4*

There is no advancing without testing. You will be tested, before, during and after your season of advancing. Testing is called **temptation** from the satanic side, **proving** from the divine side and **testing** from the human side.

No matter what conditions arise, followers of Jesus are called to find an opportunity to advance the kingdom of God in perilous times.

We will be tested with our commitment to speak the truth.

We will be tested will we speak the truth in love.

We will be tested will we speak truth to power.

Daniel was led by the Holy Spirit’s inspiration to include this official proclamation by Nebuchadnezzar in his writings.

Nebuchadnezzar has seen the power of the Most High God. **Vs 1-3**

Nebuchadnezzar has a dream of a tree. **Vs 4-18**

Though Nebuchadnezzar has seen the power of the Most High God, he believed it was his own power and wisdom that had consolidated the kingdom under his authority. **Vs 30**

The interpretation of the dream cause Daniel to hesitate for an hour.

NLT **Daniel 4:19** Upon hearing this, Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar) was overcome for a time, frightened by the meaning of the dream. Then the king said to him, ‘Belteshazzar, don’t be alarmed by the dream and what it means.’ ‘Belteshazzar replied, ‘I wish the events foreshadowed in this dream would happen to your enemies, my lord, and not to you!’

Nebuchadnezzar would be a far-reaching king as the tree is large and great.

Nebuchadnezzar would be cut down until he learned the Most High is the only all powerful one.

KJV **Daniel 4:25** That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

Will you speak truth to power in sacred space, public space, and the marketplace?

Sometimes those in authority believe they have ultimate authority.

The Most High is the only one with absolute authority.

The Most High is Sovereign: He does whatever He wills, if He wills, when He wills.

- The Lord deals with righteous and the wicked authority.

I

The king Nebuchadnezzar dreams a disturbing dream.

Dreams and visions are one of the languages of God.

The Most High knows how to get the attention of the righteous and wicked.

Proper interpretation of dreams is critical in perilous times.

- If the Most High gives the dream, the Most High can interpret the dream in perilous times.

II

Daniel had no struggle or disturbance about interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's first dream to him (2:27-45), he now was reluctant to interpret this second dream.

The first dream exalted Nebuchadnezzar; he was the head of gold (2:38).

But this second dream debased the Nebuchadnezzar.

When the king saw Daniel's reluctance, he encouraged Daniel not to be alarmed but to share its meaning with him.

Kingdom leaders need people who speak truth to them.

Kingdom leaders may feel reluctance, hesitation, or fear.

- Be confident in who called you.
- Be confident who's with you.
- Be confident in what he has invested in you.
- Be confident in what he has entrusted into your sphere of influence.

III

Nebuchadnezzar reigned for 43 years (605-562 b.c.).

His insanity lasted seven years and he returned to the throne for a short time afterward before he died.

^{KJV} **Daniel 4:30** The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? ³¹ While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

^{KJV} **James 4:6** But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, **God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**

His last years did not take place until he had time to conclude his extensive building operations (v. 30).

Thus, this incident may have taken place about the 35th year of Nebuchadnezzar's rule, or about 570.

Seven years is a long time to be "out of your mind."

^{KJV} **Daniel 4:37** Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour **the King of heaven**, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk-in pride he is able to abase.

This would be some 30 years after the experience of the three men in the fiery furnace, about the 50th year of Daniel's life.

- When assigned, will you speak truth?
- When assigned, will you speak truth to power?
- Will your assignment neutralize fear and complete the assignment?

*Rhema Christian Center
Bishop La Fayette Scales
Saturday & Sunday, March 11 & 12, 2023
9:30 a.m.*