

I, Nebuchadnezzar

Rich Nathan

July 2 & 3, 2016

Strangers in a Strange Land

Daniel 4

In case you haven't heard, we are just five months away from electing a new president of the United States. I hope that doesn't come as a shock to you. But as the presidential campaign heats up, one of the questions that I would love to ask each of the candidates is this: "What do you think the essential problem is with people in America right now? We have lots of problems and lots of issues. Candidate A, you think you deserve to be in the White House for four years and be the most powerful person on earth, tell me why you deserve to run this country by sharing with us your brilliant diagnosis. What is the ultimate problem in our country? Why aren't we happier than we are? Why are our families breaking down? Why don't people get along? Why so much division and gridlock?"

What is the basic problem in our world?

One side will tell you that the main problems in America are all around issues of equality. There's a growing income gap between rich and poor – in other words, income inequality. There's a wage and opportunities gap between men and women – gender inequality; a need for criminal justice reform – racial inequality. There's an educational gap requiring free college for all. From one side of the aisle, the basic problem in America is a lack of equality.

The other side will tell you that the main problem in America is that Americans are being kicked around by the rest of the world – by illegal immigrants flooding into our country taking our jobs, by Chinese imports and Chinese currency manipulation undercutting American manufacturers. By free trade agreements. We need to build a wall around America. The main problem is that Americans have for too long been suckers and we're being abused by the rest of the world.

What do you think is the main problem plaguing America? Too many guns? Do we need to ban whole categories of guns? Or maybe you think we have too few guns in America? Everyone ought to be packing heat. What do you think is the main problem facing America? Sky high health care costs? Declining public school education? The growing national debt?

If you turn to a therapist and you ask therapists what they think people's ultimate problem is you'll get a variety of responses. The problem is dysfunctional families.

Family systems are broken and we need to invest heavily in skills training for fathers and mothers.

The problem is unmet needs. People are walking around like empty cups with unmet needs – a need for affirmation, a need for security, a need for meaningful work, a need for self-expression and self-actualization and it's all these unmet needs that causes people to be miserable.

Other therapists would say: “No, the issue is a conflict between their unconscious urges and this parental figure in your conscience creating neurotic repression.” Another might say, “No, that's not the problem, the problem is a failure to attach – to your mother, to your father.”

Bad mothers. Bad fathers. Psychological repression. Unmet needs. Failure to attach. These things don't come close to getting to the root problem.

Most Christians can't tell you what the basic problem is in our world or even in ourselves. At some churches, they think that our ultimate problem is sexual immorality. Premarital sex. Adultery. Gay sex. In some churches, you might think that the most fundamental issue that we all face is sexual or that it's drinking or gambling or smoking.

In other churches, to listen to the preaching, you might believe that the ultimate problem is that you didn't give a large enough donation to enable the minister to buy him a new private jet. That's why you're not prospering, that's why you're not successful. The ultimate problem is you don't give enough, you don't tithe enough.

It is the case that not only have non-Christians not known or forgotten what our basic problem is, but even those of us who consider ourselves followers of Christ don't know or have forgotten what our basic problem is. In our world, in our country, in our institutions, in our families and in our own homes, with all the politicians and politics and all the therapists and all the talking heads constantly screaming their diagnosis of what it is that ails us, followers of Christ have forgotten what God says is our basic problem. Somewhere in the midst of all the racket, we need to hear a sure word from God. Because unless we hear God's diagnosis of the problem, we'll never be able to come up with a solution.

I started a series a few weeks ago from the book of Daniel. In the passage we're going to look at today in Daniel 4, the ruler of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar, displays for us in the starkest terms what our basic problem is. It's as if God is saying – look at King Nebuchadnezzar. He is Exhibit A of man's basic problem.

Four times in the chapter that we'll be looking at today we read the words, “I, Nebuchadnezzar”.

Daniel 4:4

I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous.

Daniel 4:18a

This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had.

Daniel 4:34a

At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven...

Daniel 4:37a

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven...

Do you want to understand what the basic problem is facing our country? And what the basic problem is inside of every human heart? It's found in the title of today's talk, "I, Nebuchadnezzar". Let's pray.

So, how would we understand this "I, Nebuchadnezzar" spirit that is part of every one of us? There's an "I, Nebuchadnezzar" or an "I, Rich", "I, fill-in-your-name" inside of each of us. It is at the root of all of our conflicts and all of our unhappiness. What would we call that thing? That "I, Nebuchadnezzar" thing in us? The Bible has a word for it, it's called pride.

What is the basic definition of pride?

When the church historically answered the question: What is the basic problem with the world, they didn't answer by pointing to guns or how our country is being treated by the rest of the world or various kinds of inequality. It's not that these things aren't important – they are important – it's just that they are not in first place in terms of naming the problem. When the church historically answered the question: What is the basic problem with the world, they said that at the root of every other sin is one ultimate sin – the sin of pride.

Right away, I need to tell you what pride is NOT because we use the term in ways that can confuse us and leave us asking what's wrong with that? For example, when you say "I'm really proud of my son or my daughter," that's not necessarily what is condemned by the Bible or by the church historically. Very often, when we say we're proud of someone what we really mean is that we admire them. We take joy in their accomplishments. Of course, that admiration can quickly become twisted and turn into the kind of pride that the Bible and the church have historically condemned. If I say that I'm really proud of my son or my daughter what I may mean is that I must be an amazing father. I'm not admiring them so much. I'm not admiring their accomplishments. I'm actually admiring myself or enjoying my accomplishments. "Look what I have produced!"

I have such wisdom in parenting. I was so consistent in my example to my kids – in my words, in my discipline.” It is possible that when we say, “I’m proud of someone.” What we’re really trying to do is turn the spotlight on ourselves. “I, Nebuchadnezzar”

With the sin of pride, what the Bible condemns is an excessive, inordinate, exaggerated view of ourselves. An excessive, inordinate, exaggerated view of what we deserve from others and from God. With pride, we’re talking about trying to turn the table on God and putting ourselves as the creature in the place of the Creator. We’re talking about succumbing the very first temptation that our first ancestors, Adam and Eve, succumbed to. “You shall be as God.” We display sinful pride every time we say to ourselves, “I know better what I need than God does. I have a better idea of how a successful life should be lived than God does. I know God’s word says this, but I, Nebuchadnezzar (I, Rich, I, fill-in-your-name) don’t necessarily agree.” Friend, do you ever think that you have a better idea of how to do life or how to be happy than God does?

My will, my desires, my demands, my preferences, what I want, what I demand should always win the day above the needs, concerns and desires of other people and above what God wills and what God wants. “I, Nebuchadnezzar” I’m going to set up my little kingdom and everyone must bow down and serve me.

In the Bible, it was through pride that Lucifer became the devil and lost his place in heaven. The snare of the devil is always pride. An appeal to pride is the devil’s calling card. It was through pride that our first parents, Adam and Eve, fell.

You know what’s really tragic, friends? The saddest thing is that the child-raising philosophy that has been most popular in America over the last few decades has really been a lifelong lesson in becoming “I, Nebuchadnezzar”. We reinforce sinful pride rather. Jean Twenge is a psychologist and professor at San Diego State University wrote a book called *Generation Me*. Its subtitled *Why Today’s Young Americans are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled – and More Miserable than Ever Before*.

She takes to task the message that we have been communicating to children for the last few decades. For the last few decades we have told our kids, “You are special; you are amazing; you are incredible.” All the time, for everything, for tiny normal accomplishments! Sesame Street had a song that ran for years, it was called “Believe in Yourself”. One of the lines is:

You can be whatever you want to be,
As long as you believe in yourself.

Barney, that annoying purple dinosaur, if you were a child in the 90’s or at the beginning of the 21st Century, you definitely were exposed to Barney. One of Barney’s most popular DVDs was “You can be Anything” – no limits, no reality check on your actual

talents – you can be anything! Barney and Sesame Street and my mom and my dad and my teachers at school are all telling me that I am amazing; I am special; I am incredible; that the world revolves around me. “I, Nebuchadnezzar”

What are the basic signs of pride?

How can we discern this “I, Nebuchadnezzar” part of our own hearts? This part of us that says, “I want to be worshipped! I don’t want to give worship to someone above me, namely God. I want to be worshipped. I want my will to be done. I want to be recognized. I want to be always admired.” How do we discern pride in ourselves? Let me suggest three diagnostic tests.

One sign of sinful pride in our own hearts

We are intensely competitive

This “I, Nebuchadnezzar” part of every sinful and fallen human heart is intensely competitive. C.S. Lewis, in his book *Mere Christianity*, says this,

Slide

“The more pride one has, the more one dislikes pride in others. In fact, if you want to find out how proud you are the easiest way is to ask yourself, ‘how much do I dislike it when other people snub me, or refuse to take any notice of me, or shove their oar in, or patronize me or show off?’ The point is that each person’s pride is in competition with everyone else’s pride. It is because I wanted to be the big noise of the party that I am so annoyed at someone else being the big noise.... Pride is essentially competitive – is competitive by its very nature – while the other vices are competitive only, so to speak, by accident. Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man.

Greed will certainly make a man want money, for the sake of a better house, better holidays, better things to eat and drink. But only up to a point.... It is Pride – the wish to be richer than some other rich man [that drives our desire for more money than we need or can enjoy].... If I am a proud man, then, as long as there is one man in the whole world more powerful, or richer, or cleverer than I, he is my rival and my enemy.

Do you see how pride rears its ugly head in you, friend? Do you find yourself in the most subtle ways competing to lift yourself up above someone else. Do you really struggle in your family because your brother or sister gets more attention. Do you struggle at work because someone else is rewarded or acknowledged or paid more than you? Do you find yourself critiquing someone else or putting someone down so you can subtly lift yourself up? Pride is essentially competitive. What’s another basic sign of this “I, Nebuchadnezzar” pride inside of every sinful and fallen human heart?

How can we spot pride in ourselves?

We accept more responsibility for success than for failure

Researchers have found over and over again that people readily accept credit when they are told they have succeeded. In other words, we attribute success to our own ability. But we attribute failure to something beyond our control. We just experienced bad luck. No one in our situation could have succeeded. You see this in sports all the time. An athlete who wins, readily accepts credit. And he or she will give some credit to their teammates. But if they lose, it always is due to something else – bad officiating, injuries on our team, bad breaks. If I win at Scrabble it's because I have amazing verbal dexterity. I'm just a great Scrabble player. If I lose, no one could have won with the terrible letters I got. What am I supposed to do with that Q if I don't have a U? That's just bad luck.

Do you see this in yourself? The tendency to accept all the credit for things you're succeeding at, but push off away from yourself the failure? That's sinful pride.

We believe we are better than we are

Surveys tell us that concerning almost every area that is socially desirable, concerning virtually every admirable quality, most people see themselves as better than average. So, for example, the vast majority of American business people see themselves as more ethical than the average American businessperson. Most people see themselves as less racially prejudiced than the average person. Most drivers believe that they are better drivers than the average driver.

They asked high school seniors to indicate how they feel about themselves compared to others their age. Leadership ability - 70% of high school seniors rated themselves above average as leaders. Now, you need to actually read this along with me because this is an amazing finding.

In "ability to get along with others" zero percent of the 829,000 students who responded rated themselves below average, 60% rated themselves in the top 10% and 25% saw themselves among the top 1%

As one writer put it, "To paraphrase the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, the question that everyone seems to be asking is this, 'how do I love me, let me count the ways.'"

If you say, "Well, you know, kids don't really have an accurate self-perception. They haven't been out there getting knocked around. They don't have any experience in the real world. They don't have a realistic appreciation of where they fit."

I read a survey of college professors. These weren't high school students. They are college professors. People with a lot of education. 94% of college faculty think that they are better than average in their department.

We are intensely competitive. We accept more responsibility for success than for failure. We believe we are better than we are.

What is the basic result of pride?

We ignore warnings

Read with me

Daniel 4:1-8

King Nebuchadnezzar,

To the nations and peoples of every language, who live in all the earth:

May you prosper greatly!

2 It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me.

3 How great are his signs,
how mighty his wonders!

His kingdom is an eternal kingdom;

his dominion endures from generation to generation.

4 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. 5 I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me. 6 So I commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream for me. 7 When the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners came, I told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me. 8 Finally, Daniel came into my presence and I told him the dream. (He is called Belteshazzar, after the name of my god, and the spirit of the holy gods is in him.)

In chapter 2, Nebuchadnezzar has a troubling dream. It doesn't matter what someone's belief system is, friends. Someone may not believe in God at all. They may think that there's nothing and no one really out there, that we live in a windowless room. There's no light and no communication coming in from outside the universe. But if the world is, as the Bible describes it to be, a world with windows, if God exists and is constantly interacting with us, no matter what we believe, we can't help but bump in to God somewhere in this world.

In Nebuchadnezzar's case, God speaks to him at night when his defenses are down and he gives him troubling dreams. In the dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw a great tree that

towered above. But the other trees and the tree was suddenly cut down. He wakes up in a cold sweat and finally calls the Jewish prophet Daniel to interpret the dream. What did the dream mean?

Listen to Daniel's interpretation.

Daniel 4:22-27

22 Your Majesty, you are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth.

23 "Your Majesty saw a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live with the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.'

24 "This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: 25 You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes. 26 The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules. 27 Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue."

God is trying to get through to Nebuchadnezzar. We see in the Bible the way that God works with people. He often begins to work with us with great gentleness. There will be an invitation extended to us. "Come," says the Lord, "let us reason together." And we hear God's invitation when Jesus said, "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest." We hear the invitation of God through the prophet Isaiah. "Come to the water and drink. Come and your soul will be satisfied."

God often begins with gentle invitation. With gentle pressure. He draws us, he woos us. But if we don't respond, God will become more assertive, more confrontational. He will give us something that makes us uneasy. He will trouble us with a troubling dream or a crisis. A wake up call. A clear call to repentance. God will send a shot across the bow. Have you ever had that, friend? Anything in your life that you understood to be a shot across the bow? It may be a troubling dream, a minor crisis, a minor accident, a health scare, a confrontation at work. If that doesn't get through to us then what we see in Nebuchadnezzar's life – the sky falls on our head. We have to stop and pay attention to God's warnings. It is pride that causes us to ignore his warnings and that's why pride goes before a fall.

Let me drill in here for a moment. There are times in many marriages when a couple experiences not just a little bit of friction, but a major crisis. There's a discovery of infidelity in our partner. Or there's physical abuse. There's a discovery of significant addiction. What do we do when there's a crisis? Many couples just try to move on. There are apologies extended. But because of pride many couples never take the problem as seriously as they need to. They never dig out all of the cancer. They just put a Band-Aid over the cancerous lesion and move on.

As a pastor, I have sat down with many married couples who have experienced a crisis in their marriage. One of the questions that I've asked on occasion when I didn't think that one or both of them grasped the seriousness of the problem, I've said to them, "If your marriage was a house, do you think what you need to improve your marriage is some touch-up paint? Do you just need some new decorations? Or a small home improvement project? Or would you say that you've got a major structural problem in the house? That you need to tear out walls and replace the support beams because the roof is about to cave in on your heads? Do you think all you need is a few counseling sessions, a second honeymoon vacation, a nice dinner out and it will all be fixed? Or is this a problem that runs really deep and you can expect to have to work on this for a very long time?"

Let me pause and ask you married people – what does your marriage need? A little freshening up? A few minor tweaks? Are you ignoring some major warning signs?

Nebuchadnezzar ignored the warnings. A full year after he had this dream and after the prophet Daniel speaking for God warned him about the danger of his pride and interpreted the dream for him, here's what we read

Slide Daniel 4:29-31

29 Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 30 he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

31 Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you.

God gives us the opportunity to repent. Do you know anyone who has refused warnings and paid the price? Some of you are old enough to remember the volcano at Mt. St. Helen's back in 1980. Seismologists issued the most extreme warnings that Mt. St. Helen in Washington State was about to blow. The government went out and tried to clear the surrounding area and said, "You've got to get out of here or you will die." There was one man by the name of Harry Truman (not the president, but a man of the same name) lived up near the mountain. An old, grizzled guy that the news media loved. He was the proverbial farmer with his shotgun on his front porch saying, "No

one's going to make me leave." He was filmed day after day sitting there in front of his house while the mountain shook. "I'm not going anywhere." And as the experts predicted, Mt. St. Helen blew. Harry Truman, having ignored the warnings, was buried under thousands of tons of ash and volcanic debris.

Perhaps in your life you have been unwilling to listen to warnings about in your relationship with someone who is an abuser. Maybe you've even gone on the internet and read articles about the danger of living with an abuser. You experienced their control. You have felt their undeserved jealousy and the rage. Maybe you have been pushed or shoved. What's it going to take before you do something drastic and get help or get out of there? Do you need a black eye? Or another black eye? Or a broken nose? A cracked rib? Has God been warning you about the danger you are in in living with an abuser?

Has God been trying to warn you about a hidden addiction? What will it take for you to seek help for yourself or a loved one? An arrest by the police for drunken driving? A bankruptcy for running up gambling or credit card debts? Is it going to take public shaming? Getting a venereal disease? A threat of divorce? Perhaps God has been warning you about your life. You need to surrender your life to Christ for the first time or come back to Christ if you've walked away.

God has been warning you, friend. Do not put your fingers in your ears. Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. Listen to the Lord when he speaks.

What is the healing of pride?

How do we subdue this self-exalting, self-centered, self-deceiving, competitive God-defying part of us – How do we subdue our "I, Nebuchadnezzar" sinful pride that causes us to constantly pull away from God and to believe we can succeed in life independent of God?

God's answer to our pride is very simply the cross of Christ. See the cross says two things to me. First, we must be very bad indeed if the Son of God had to be beaten to a pulp, tortured and then nailed to a cross in order to save us.

If there was any other way for us to be saved – by trying harder, by cleaning up our acts, by adopting the right philosophy, by giving more to charity, or praying or practicing mindfulness – if there was any other way to be saved, then God wouldn't have had to send his son into the world to die for our sins.

We are way worse than we fear in light of Christ's death on the cross, none of us can boast before God. But there is a wonderful corresponding truth also heals our pride. God loves us way more than we can imagine. As I look at the cross and see what God

did for one there – I realize I don't need to lift myself in pride by putting someone else down. God, my Father, my Judge and my Lord, loves me. I don't have to pretend I'm better than I am or get upset because someone else is getting ahead of me. Let me read to you these verses

1 Corinthians 1:18, 27-31

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

We lose our reason

Daniel 4:28-33

²⁸All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, ³⁰he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”

³¹Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you.

³²You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.”

³³Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

There is lots of speculation about the particular mental disease that afflicted Nebuchadnezzar. Some have suggested that he suffered from a condition called boanthropy. It's a mental affliction where somebody imagines themselves to be an ox and they begin to behave like an ox. Others suggest a similar mental illness called lycanthropy where the afflicted person believes that he or she is a wolf. They begin to howl. That may be the origin of werewolf stories. But whatever the proper diagnosis is in terms of the mental affliction, it's apparent that God struck Nebuchadnezzar so that he began to act and behave like an animal. He lost his reason.

Now, the loss of reason and the inability to think clearly may in some cases be the result of pride. “I, Nebuchadnezzar's” descent into intellectual darkness is simply Exhibit A,

the most extreme example of the darkness that can come over our minds when in pride try to act like God, when we demand that the world bow down to us. When we refuse to acknowledge that God is above us. When we demand worship instead of giving worship to God. When we refuse to thank God, when we refuse to humble ourselves before God. The Bible says that a kind of darkness descends over our minds.

Here's what we read

Romans 1:21-22

²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

The mention of a failure to say thank you is crucial here because saying thank you indicates a certain dependence upon people or upon God. In Nebuchadnezzar's case, when he claimed to have built Babylon by his mighty powers for the glory of his majesty what he was saying was, "I am the source of every good thing in my life."

Nebuchadnezzar is Exhibit A of that classic line concerning the wealthy child who was born on third base and believed that he had hit a triple. Pride clouds our minds. It makes us believe irrationally that we are the sole source of everything good in our lives rather than being the beneficiaries of the contribution of teachers and parents and friends and hundreds of encouragements. Most of all, we are the beneficiaries of God's grace. God has given us the ability to think. It's God who wired us to work hard. It's God who enables our hearts to beat and our lungs to breathe. It is God who gave us our opportunities and it's God who gives us success.

Pride makes us think irrationally. What is it that makes us think clearly?

Daniel 4:34

At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

Daniel 34-37

His dominion is an eternal dominion;
his kingdom endures from generation to generation.
35 All the peoples of the earth
are regarded as nothing.
He does as he pleases
with the powers of heaven
and the peoples of the earth.

No one can hold back his hand
or say to him: “What have you done?”

36 At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Nebuchadnezzar thought that he towered over people. That he was better than everyone else. That his success was due to his own hard work and his own efforts. He ignored God’s warnings and had a terrible fall. But his reason was restored to him when he raised his eyes to heaven and began to acknowledge that in comparison to God he was nothing. He raised his eyes to heaven and saw how immense God is. How majestic and worthy God is. How powerful and how wise God is. When he began to acknowledge there is a God in heaven that is above him to whom we owe everything, God restored him.

And, Friends, God will restore and prosper you if you raise your eyes to heaven and worship God as infinitely greater than yourself.

Let’s pray.

I, Nebuchadnezzar

Rich Nathan
July 2 & 3, 2016
Strangers in a Strange Land
Daniel 4

- I. What is the basic definition of pride?

- II. What are the basic signs of pride?
 - A. We are intensely competitive

 - B. We accept more responsibility for success than for failure

 - C. We believe we are better than we are

- III. What are the basic results of pride?
 - A. We ignore warnings

 - B. We lose our reason