

1. Introduction
 - a. Me: Control issues
 - b. You: We like to think we are in control...
 - c. What does God have to say?
2. There was a king who thought he was in control... Nebuchadnezzar
 - a. Explain who Nebuchadnezzar was, Daniel's exile in 605 BC
 - b. Nebuchadnezzar was a sovereign King. He was the law, no law above him
 - i. His word was what happened, no question → parents, can you imagine?
 - ii. Nebuchadnezzar makes impossible demands, Daniel 2:5-6
 - iii. Compare with Persia after him → Daniel 6:6-9
 1. Daniel in lion's den, the king had no power to stop it
3. Backstory, Nebuchadnezzar's dream and threat → *20 Daniel answered [his friends] and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. 21 He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; 22 he reveals deep and hidden things; Daniel 2:20-22a*
 - a. Daniel knows that Nebuchadnezzar thinks he is a sovereign king, but he is just a pawn in a world he knows nothing of...
 - b. God is forever, Nebuchadnezzar is not, v.20
 - c. God changes kings like he does the seasons - even sovereign ones, v.21
 - d. God knows all things, Neb. was stressing over a dream, v.21-22
 - e. God deserves thanks, praise because it all comes from me, v.23
4. *31 "You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. 32 The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. 36 "This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. 37 You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, 38 and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all-you are the head of gold.*
 - a. Don't miss the irony! "You are the king of kings, to whom God has given you all that you have."
5. *39 Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. 40 And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. 41 And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron*

shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. 44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever. 45 just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure." - Daniel 2:31-45

- a. True sovereignty - "the dream is certain"
 - b. Nebuchadnezzar thought he was sovereign (king of kings), but he really wasn't.
 - c. We can relate to this: We think we are a lot of things... Until we realize that we aren't. (Smart, in control, strong, Youth is wasted on the young)
 - d. The reality is this, no matter how strong, important you think you are, all of us will fade away and be forgotten.
 - i. Superstars, kings, grandparents - in just a few short generation, nobody will remember our names → books, artists, politicians
 - ii. All will be forgotten, from dust to dust
 - iii. *There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after. - Ecclesiastes 1:11*
 - e. In his pride, Nebuchadnezzar thought he was special, a king of kings, but his dream revealed the truth...
 - i. Yes, his kingdom was pretty amazing, but temporary and subpar
 - ii. Lesson - **Get some perspective. You are not in charge.**
6. What would you learn from this dream? Would you? Does Nebuchadnezzar? No.
- a. Has another dream warning him about a tree that gets cut down... *17 The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.'* - Daniel 4:17
 - i. v.17 That the living may know there is one who is greater... you will be humbled. Kind of terrifying
 - b. So what happens? *29 At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 30 and the king answered and said, "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?" 31 While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, 32 and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the*

Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will." 33 Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws. - Daniel 4:29-33

- i. And just like that <snap> the king of kings becomes no better than a cow
- ii. *34 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; 35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?" 36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble. - Daniel 4:34-37*
- iii. He humbled himself (looked up instead of within), glorified God
 1. We have a word for how he describes God - sovereign
 - a. Another phrase, the true King of kings...
 - b. The king Nebuchadnezzar looks up to his King
- iv. The lesson: "those who walk in pride he is able to humble"

1. Humble yourself or be humiliated. You are not in charge.

7. Why do I share all this?

a. In the bible, the title king of kings is given to two people.

b. Jesus is the true and better King of kings.

c. 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. 17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, 18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great." 19 And I saw

the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh. - Revelation 19:11-21

- i. Jesus is faithful and true, c.f. That to the other kings
 - ii. He judges and makes war in righteousness c.f. To other kings
 - iii. His eyes are a flame of fire...
 - iv. A name no one knows but himself...
 - v. Dipped in blood (a sacrificial king)
 - vi. Sword in his mouth, not his fist
 - vii. Kings and men will fall before him...
 - viii. He is the true and better king. He is the King of kings.
 - ix. He has real sovereignty. Real control. Real authority.
- d. What does that teach about us?
- i. You are not as strong (XYZ) as you think you are.
 - 1. Solution: get some perspective
 - ii. "those who walk in pride he is able to humble"
 - 1. Solution - Humble yourself or be humiliated
 - iii. You are not in control. → "If you want it done right..." // Panicking over things you can't control (stocks, weather, etc), KIDS
 - 1. Solution: You aren't in control, but you can trust in the only one who is in control
 - iv. He takes all that authority and he says, "Go."
 - v. Jesus is the king of kings, which means he's your king too. Do you acknowledge him? Do you live life like you're the king?
- e. The point is this: **In the end, all rulers will be conquered or abolished. Jesus alone will reign supreme as King and Lord of all the earth. There is no power, no king, no lord, no person who can oppose Him and win.**
- f. **He is God. You are not.**