

Series: Daniel: An Uncompromising Life
MEASURED, WEIGHED, AND DIVIDED
Daniel 4-5
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CATCHING UP WITH THE STORY

1. Kingdom of Judah has been conquered by Babylonian Empire
2. Assyrians, Babylonians and Chaldeans
3. Hero of our story - Daniel

I. REASONS FOR ARROGANCE

- A. **Babylon** - A global nation
- B. **Marduk** - Supreme god amidst Babylon's pantheon of gods
- C. **Nebuchadnezzar** - "King of Kings"

II. TALES 4 AND 5 OF 6

A. Daniel 4

1. A king dreams and is visited by a "watchman"
2. A cosmic tree falls
3. The king's dream turns into a living nightmare

B. Daniel 5

1. A party to end all parties
2. Desecration and judgment
3. The handwriting is on the wall!
4. Measured, weighed, and divided

III. DOWNFALLS

People with power make decisions

Divine Mercy	Divine Judgement
Humility	Pride
True Shame	Stubbornness
Turn to God	Turn to anything but God

1. We can learn from the story of others (1 Cor 10:6; Rom 15:4)
2. It's not for us to judge those in power (Mt 7:1-2; Rom 2:1-4)
3. The arrogant seem to live a life untouched by God's judgment (Ps 73:3-12)
4. Jesus embraces humility and submission (Phil 2:6-11)
5. Christians need to embrace Jesus' example in a world of Nebuchadnezzars. Story of Yu Jie

For Further Discussion:

1. What made Daniel capable of interpreting a king's dreams?
2. How does the culture of Babylon compare with our culture today?
3. If we're not supposed to judge those in power over us, what can we do as Christians?
4. Daniel goes from a relatively young man in chapter 3, to possibly an 85-year old man in chapter 5. His life is an example of long term faith despite living in Babylon. How can we endure in faithfulness in our culture?

For Further Study

1. Look up the story of Nathan as he calls King David to account in 2 Samuel 12. Nathan and Daniel both are called by God to speak boldly to their national leader. Does God call people to this role today? If not, why not? How did Jesus and Paul deal with civic leaders?
2. We ended today by contrasting the pomp and wealth of the Babylonian kings with the humility and poverty of the true King of Kings. What did Jesus give up in order to become a man? Why? What do you suppose Peter, James and John saw when Jesus revealed His true self to them in Matthew 17:1-9? Read also II Peter 1:16-20. How does that knowledge strengthen your faith?