

GRACE FOR THE HUMBLE:
GOD'S PROMISE THROUGH DANIEL

GOD'S PROMISE

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

1 Peter 5:5 NVI

MY PROMISE

I will seek humility

Story - Daniel - 4:1-37

Bible Reading: Philippians 2:3-11

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

INTRODUCTION

One of the characteristics of humility is "to do good" and to have a right concept of who we are. In the Bible, Daniel is an exceptional example of humility and reverence to God. Having been brought to Babylon, he was able to keep a humble spirit and consecrated to God even though the place he had been brought to was a nation of pagan worship that dishonored God. From the beginning, Daniel gave God His place and never thought that his position or his success had been accomplished by himself.

Chapter 4 of Daniel tells us the story of a King named Nebuchadnezzar that instead of being humble, tried to

exalt himself more than he should. The results did not wait and Daniel, the servant of God, gave him terrible news. “No one makes fun of God!” The Bible says that he was “put out from among the people and he ate grass like the oxen...” (Daniel 4:33)

The best thing we can do is to live a humble life so that God can give us grace.

1. – AN EXCELLENT COUNSEL – Philippians 2:3-4

If there is a teaching about the attitude that was in Christ about to be shared, do you believe that it would be good to pay attention to the counsel that is coming before that? Of course. Since we have seen the story of Neboconezer that the least thing he had was humility. Look at what he himself says, “Is not this the great Babylon that I have built for a royal house with the strength of my own power, and for the glory of myself?” (Daniel 4:28) It is a good thing to consider, then, to follow his example is not the most recommendable thing to do. In order to listen to a counsel, we must have a certain attitude.

The counsel is simple – a) Never do anything because of egotism or for vain purposes. Be simple, easy but pleasing to God. B) When you intercede for other people, you will be able to live a moderate, humble and genuine life.

2 – WE SHOULD KNOW GOD’S CHARACTER – Philippians 2:5

Simply compare Neboconezer with Jesus Christ is absurd but necessary. Neboconezer represents the spirit of that age that seeks to exalt and aggrandize itself. On the contrary, the opposite happens in Jesus Christ. (Remember the humble will be exalted and that applies to the character of God).

The question is, if we are willing to have that same attitude or that “same feeling” as some of the Biblical versions call it. God’s character in relation to pride is very simple. When you empty yourself, when you think better about the rest instead of yourself, you begin to understand a little about the character of God in Jesus Christ. Do you think that you can reach it?

3. – DESCENDING TO THE EXALTATION – Philippians 2:6-11

Did you know that Philippians 2:6-11 was a song that was sung by the first believers in the first century? It was a song that reminded them to commemorate and celebrate the tremendous love that God had for us in His "humble" and sacrificial character. The way of humility is truly the way of exaltation.

The goal of humility in Jesus Christ is so that every "tongue" confess that He is the Lord. That was not the case of Neboconezer who instead of being exalted, look at what happened, "At the same hour, the word about Neboconezer was fulfilled and was taken from among men and ate grass like the beasts of the field." (Daniel 4:33) The proud man was now on the same level as the beasts of the field.

The same thing happened to Satan when he tried to compare himself with God and to be higher than God. At that very moment of haughtiness and pride, he was rejected and thrown out of the presence of God. Pride does not have good consequences. God does not despise a humble and contrite heart.

Today, your exaltation begins. How? By humbling your heart before Christ so that someday, He will give you the Crown of life!