

CHANGE: PLAN A OR PLAN B?

I'm An Overcomer, Part 4

Pastor Ken Ritz * June 18, 2017 * New Life Vineyard Church

Daniel 4

King Nebuchadnezzar, To the nations and peoples of every language, who live in all the earth: May you prosper greatly! It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me... I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. Verse 1-4

... as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 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?" Verse 29

I had a dream that made me afraid... So I commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream for me...I told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me. Finally, Daniel came into my presence and I told him the dream." Verse 5-8

WHEN I NEED TO CHANGE ---

Plan A: God uses _____

"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. Isaiah 1:18 (TNIV)

Daniel answered, "My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries! The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky... 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. 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...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." Verse 19-26

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.

Verse 27

All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 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?" Verse 28

WHEN I NEED TO CHANGE ---

Plan B: God uses _____

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... Immediately 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. Verse 31-33

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle. Psalm 32:8-9

At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored... 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. Verse 34-37

**All scriptures from NIV unless otherwise noted*