

Dual Citizens: A Tale of Two Kings | Daniel 5:18-31

Daniel 5:18-31

¹⁸O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty. ¹⁹And because of the greatness that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whom he would, he killed, and whom he would, he kept alive; whom he would, he raised up, and whom he would, he humbled. ²⁰But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken from him. ²¹He was driven from among the children of mankind, and his mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. He was fed grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will. ²²And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, ²³but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.

²⁴“Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed. ²⁵And this is the writing that was inscribed: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin. ²⁶This is the interpretation of the matter: Mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; ²⁷Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; ²⁸Peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

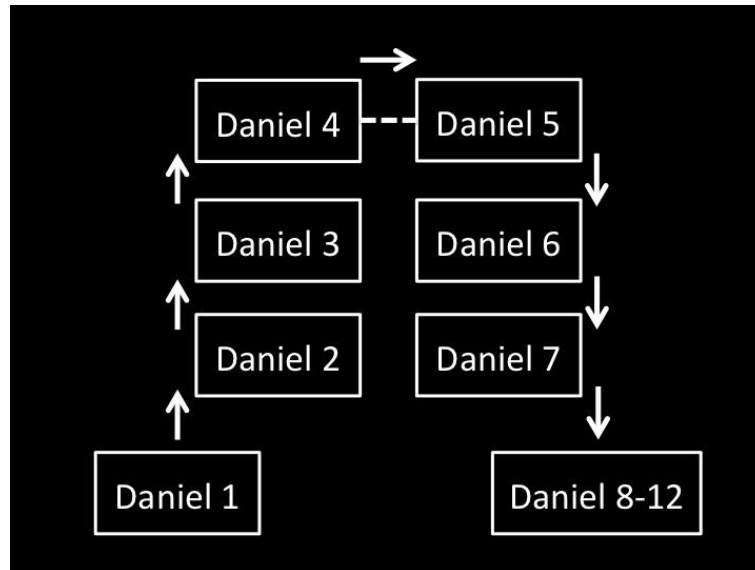
²⁹Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

³⁰That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. ³¹And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

“In contrast to the very *I*-centric style of comparison leaders, we were struck by how the good-to-great leaders *didn't* talk about themselves...It wasn't just false modesty. Those who worked with or wrote about the good-to-great leaders continually used words like *quiet*, *humble*,

modest, reserved, shy, gracious, mild-mannered, self-effacing, understated, did not believe his own clippings; and so forth."

–Jim Collins, Good to Great



The Sneaky Destruction of Pride

Daniel 5:23

²³ but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.

Pride = my story + my lens

Self-Promoting Pride

Self-Pitying Pride

What symptoms of pride do you see in yourself?

The Surprising Power of Humility

Daniel 5:21

...until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of mankind and sets over it whom he will.

Daniel 4:34-35

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?"

Humility = my story + God's lens

"Is not this the invitation of the gospel? We can own up to who we really are in the presence of God, who loves us beyond all measure. We can repent and surrender our false-self strategies to the One who lived, died, was raised and ascended to heaven. As we do, both initially and daily, the interpretation of our story changes. And when our interpretation changes so does our identity...[God's] interpretation of me leads me into a truer way of being me. His interpretation of me reinterprets my interpretation of me."

–Plass & Cofield, *The Relational Soul*