

# God's Dominion is an Eternal Dominion

November 6, 2016 – Daniel 4:33-37

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*“Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like cattle. 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. At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified Him Who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; His kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as He pleases with the powers of the heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back His hand or say to Him: ‘What have you done?’” At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. 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.”*

Recently Americans cast their vote for the President of the United States. The Lord has truly blessed us as a nation and as individual American's.

Despite the blessings which the Lord has graciously granted upon the United States, and the privilege to vote, there are many people who are nervous, concerned, worried, afraid apprehensive and other things concerning the recent elections.

And so this morning we want to look at this section of Scripture and emphasize GOD'S power and GOD'S control even over powerful earthly leaders, including Nebuchadnezzar (actually the II, who ruled over Babylon from 605 B.C. until 562 B.C.)

Since this account of the life of Nebuchadnezzar is found in the Book of Daniel, it helps us to remember the time frame. (Daniel lived about 625 B.C. to approximately 530 B.C.) We can remember the account of Daniel in the Lion's Den. However the account of the lion's Den took place after Nebuchadnezzar and during the reign of Darius the Mede.

Nebuchadnezzar was the ruler of Babylon and the Babylonian empire, the area presently known as Iran and Iraq in the area of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Nebuchadnezzar was a very powerful leader with a vast kingdom.

The Babylonian warriors were known as a ruthless and cruel people. The Babylonians captured Jerusalem and carried the tribe of Judah into slavery in 586 B.C. It is after this time that Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a GREAT Tree. The Great Tree was cut down, its branches trimmed and its leaves stripped off.

Nebuchadnezzar was troubled by this dream, and so he called in all his magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners to interpret the dream. None of them could interpret the dream, so Nebuchadnezzar called in Daniel the Hebrew.

Daniel interpreted the dream and told King Nebuchadnezzar, “The Great Tree was You – king Nebuchadnezzar, and that you Nebuchadnezzar will be removed from your position of authority and you will eat grass like a cow (Boanthropy).” Daniel announced to king Nebuchadnezzar to renounce his sin and do what was right to avoid this.

Unfortunately, Nebuchadnezzar found himself walking on the roof of his royal palace one day, admiring the kingdom and the city and 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?”**

It was to this that there was a voice from heaven and God Himself said, “This is what is decreed for you, king Nebuchadnezzar: your royal authority has been taken away from you. You will be driven away from the people and you will live with the wild animals eating grass like cattle.”

And so, GOD, The Maker of Heaven and Earth, God who created all things took away Nebuchadnezzar's sanity. Nebuchadnezzar went from one of the most powerful men in the world, to being insane and eating grass like a cow. God is in control!

Nebuchadnezzar had become proud and arrogant. And God humbled the man. This is the same Nebuchadnezzar that was prophesied about in the reading from Ezekiel 30:1-12 (Ezekiel served as prophet from about 592 B.C to about 570 B.C.) and would destroy the nations listed (Cush, Put, Lydia, Arabia and Libya and even Egypt.)

God had prophesied through Ezekiel that He would use Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian armies to discipline other nations, yet here in the book of Daniel we hear that God humbled the same man.

After time, Nebuchadnezzar recognized the folly of his ways and gave the glory to God in heaven.

**Vs. 34** – At the end of that time, **I, Nebuchadnezzar raised my eyes toward heaven**, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified Him Who lives forever. His **dominion is an eternal dominion**; **His kingdom endures from generation to generation**.

Nebuchadnezzar is led to admit that God's Dominion is Eternal. God's Eternal Kingdom lasts forever. For the unbeliever it means eternity in hell.

For us as believers it is forever in HEAVEN, Heaven is ours because of God's never ending love which HE poured out upon us in Christ Jesus! Heaven is ours because of our Savior Who Lived the perfect life that we as proud human beings cannot live. Heaven is ours because Christ died the death that we deserve to die, when He took our sin upon Himself and suffered Hell in our place. Even as Jesus is risen from the dead and lives on high in glory, we shall live with Him.

Some have asked the question: Did Nebuchadnezzar have saving faith, or did Nebuchadnezzar simply acknowledge the God of all Creation? When we are in heaven, we will know for certain. But we do hear these words of Nebuchadnezzar:

**Vs.. 37** – **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.**

Who did you vote for? That is your business.

But God our Creator, Sanctifier, and Savior is in Control! AMEN!