

Daniel 4:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

Analysis

Immediate fulfillment follows: 'The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.' The phrase 'the same hour' emphasizes instantaneous judgment. The physical details—eating grass, wet with dew, overgrown hair and nails—depict complete descent into animal-like existence. This graphic description demonstrates the completeness of the king's humiliation. The mighty emperor becomes unrecognizable, living outdoors in bestial condition. Pride's consequences couldn't be more dramatically illustrated.

Historical Context

Ancient royal palaces featured elaborate gardens and courts. Nebuchadnezzar, who built magnificent structures, now lives exposed to elements. The detail about hair and nails suggests extended period without grooming—markers of civilized human life abandoned. Ancient Near Eastern culture highly valued royal appearance, dignity, and grooming. Kings appeared in elaborate ceremonial dress with careful attention to appearance. Nebuchadnezzar's disheveled, bestial state represented ultimate shame and loss of human dignity in ancient cultural context.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 – God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do the physical details of degradation emphasize the totality of God's judgment on human pride?
2. What does the complete loss of human dignity teach about pride's ultimate consequence—dehumanization and reduction to animal existence?

Interlinear Text

בָּה	שְׁעָתָה	מְלֻמָּד	סְפִת	עַל	גְּבוּכָדְנָצָר	מִן
הָ	The same hour	was the thing	fulfilled	upon	Nebuchadnezzar	from

וְמִטְלָא כְתֹרוֹן יְמִשְׁבָּא טָרִיְד אֲבָשׁ א
men and he was driven grass as oxen and did eat with the dew

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 4:25 (Parallel theme): That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall

pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

Daniel 4:32 (Parallel theme): And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

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