**Series: Counter Cultural – The Message of Daniel**

**Today: The Success Test**

**Speaker: Ronnie Norman, Senior Minister**

***Daniel 4***

*King Nebuchadnezzar, To the nations and peoples of every language, who live in all the earth: May you prosper greatly!*

*2It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me.*

*3How great are his signs,
    how mighty his wonders!
His kingdom is an eternal kingdom;
    his dominion endures from generation to generation.*

*4I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. 5I had a dream that made me afraid.*

**IMAGE OF DREAM**

<https://i.ytimg.com/vi/a4LS0f-ChAg/hqdefault.jpg>

*22Your 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.*

*23“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, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live with the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.’*

*24“This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: 25You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes. 26The 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. 27Therefore, 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.”*

1. **Pride Talks**
2. **I Did.**
3. **I Deserve.**
4. **I Decide.**
5. **Sanity Restored**

**A. Exalt the King of Heaven.**

*34At 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.
35All the peoples of the earth
    are regarded as nothing.
He does as he pleases
    with the powers of heaven
    and the peoples of the earth.
No one can hold back his hand
    or say to him: “What have you done?”*

*36At 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. 37Now 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.*

**B. Do Humble Things.**

*27Therefore, 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.”*