Week Four
The Book of Daniel

The central theme of this chapter is the eternal dominion of the God of Israel and his absolute sovereign power and authority over all things. Because of this everything is held accountable to Him. The king is a special case. He has seen his power in Daniel, he witnessed his power in the fiery furnace but yet God has a greater lesson for him to learn.

1. Royal Letter
   a. This is a formal royal letter (epistle) meant for all the people.
   b. King is giving absolute thanks and praise to the "Most High God".

Psalm 2:10-11 "therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, your rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with the trembling."

2. King's Dream
   a. Verses 4-5   Circumstances of the Dream
   b. Verses 6-9   Interpreter of the Dream
   c. Verses 10-17   Contents of the Dream
   d. Verse 18   Request of the Dreamer

3. Daniel's Interpretation
   a. Daniel is shaken and alarmed because he knows exactly what the dream means in the implications of the dream for the king.
   b. Daniel interprets the dream and then takes the role of prophet and tells the king that he needs to repent of his sin and start doing social justice and righteousness.

4. Central theme of the chapter
   a. 4:17, 4:25, 4:27

5. The King is changed
   a. God gave 12 months for him to repent
   b. Verse 30 is the final straw
   c. Verse 32 is the lessen that the king needs to learn

The shocking truth is the temporary transformation of the greatest king of the day into a subhuman creature as a result of divine judgement for the sin of his pride. God is teaching this king, and all who read this, that He is God alone and all must find their humility before Him.

6. God's Grace & Mercy
   a. God's grace and mercy come back to the king and he is restored. FULLY RESTORED!
   b. God honors those who honor Him.

His final confession encapsulates the basic message of the bible: assume a posture of humility before the Mist High God.

1 Peter 5:6 "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you"