

3j - The Lord Is King

Read Daniel 4



Dr. Seuss tells a story about Yertle the turtle. Yertle prided himself on being king of all he could see. However, from his little throne he couldn't see much, so one day he decided to build it higher. He summoned all the turtles in the pond to stack themselves on top of each other. Reluctantly, they obeyed. From his new vantage point atop this turtle throne, Yertle was now king of the pond, king of a tree, king of a house, and king of a bee. However, Yertle wasn't satisfied. More turtles were summoned and more and more, and Yertle was lifted up in magnificence and glory. Then, at the bottom of the stack, an insignificant turtle named Mack burped, and Yertle was toppled from his throne. Dr. Seuss concludes: "And today the great Yertle, that Marvelous he, is King of the Mud. That is all he can see."



In Daniel 4, we read about another king, like Yertle, who thought he was someone special. Then one day something shook his throne and the king saw things he'd never seen before.

1. In your opinion, why is Yertle the turtle both an amusing and pitiful creature?
2. In Daniel 4:1-3, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, begins his letter. How do his words differ from what we might expect from a pagan king?
3. If you had been Nebuchadnezzar, what would have disturbed you about the dream (before you knew its meaning)?
4. What is even more disturbing about Daniel's interpretation of the dream (Daniel 4:19-27)?

5. Why would it be especially easy for someone in Nebuchadnezzar's position to become proud?

How does this relate to Jesus' admonition to the rich (Matthew 19:24)?

6. What did Nebuchadnezzar need to learn about himself and God?

7. In what areas might we be tempted to be proud, and why?

8. Read Daniel 4:28-37. After receiving this vision, Daniel's interpretation and sound advice, why do you think Nebuchadnezzar failed to repent (Daniel 4:28-30)?

9. In Daniel 4:31-33, what statements and experiences indicate the extent to which God humbled this proud king?

10. In what ways is Nebuchadnezzar's experience both a warning and an encouragement to us?

11. What evidence is there in this chapter that he learned his lesson?

12. What does this chapter teach us about genuine humility?