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The kings of long ago were powerful.

 They ruled over the people and everybody had to obey the king.

Those who dared to disobey were punished.

- King Nebuchadnezzar was a mighty king who had many servants.
- He told his servants what to do, and they always obeyed him.
- Nebuchadnezzar had a big army too.
- His soldiers were brave and strong and they went where he sent them.

 Nebuchadnezzar sent his soldiers to countries all around, to make all those countries a part of his kingdom.

He became a "very" great king.

- Then Nebuchadnezzar built a beautiful city. He called it Babylon.
- It was a city of palaces and gardens.
- There had never been such a wonderful city before, all bright with white stones and sparkling gold.

- One day King Nebuchadnezzar walked in his own beautiful palace.
- He was proud and happy.
- He looked at all the beauty of Babylon, and he said, "What a great king I am! I have built this beautiful city. My power has won me this great kingdom."

- But all of a sudden he heard a voice from heaven.
- The voice said, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, your kingdom is gone! It is taken away from you.
- Your servants will drive you out of your palace.
- You will have to live out-of-doors, like an animal....."
- And this is what happened.

- Nebuchadnezzar, the great king, was chased away out of his palace.
- For a long time he lived out in the fields, like a "wild" man.
- But one day, as Nebuchadnezzar walked in the field, he looked up to heaven, and he thought of God.
- Then he began to "praise" God.

- He said, "God is King above all. He does "His" will in heaven and on earth."
- Nebuchadnezzar knew, at last, that "he" was very small, and God is very great.
- After that, God gave the kingdom back to Nebuchadnezzar.
- Nebuchadnezzar was a great king, a mighty king.
- But he was very small beside God.

God is ALMIGHTY!!

- God made heaven and earth; He just spoke, and it was there!
- And God has "all things" in His hand.
- He guides and rules "all" kings and kingdoms of the earth.
- He rules the heavens, too.

- GOD is king of everything and everybody!
- We are just His little creatures.
- Nebuchadnezzar learned this at last and he said, "All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing." (Daniel 4:35)
- God is so mighty and great that we are "nothing" next to Him.

 In our daily lives we can begin to understand that God is Almighty.

 He is more powerful than anything. And His Power lives in you and me.

- Let's take a moment to mediate on a verse.
- Do you ever feel you have no strength or power?
- Do you ever feel like you don't have any energy?
- Then I would encourage you to begin to walk in the wonderful truth of this verse.

- To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. (Colossians 1:29).
- WITH ALL HIS ENERGY
- WHICH SO POWERFULLY WORKS IN ME.
- Isn't it great to know that God Almighty gives us His energy which so powerfully works in us.
- Let's take time to mediate on this wonderful truth.

LET'S PRAY:

 Great and Almighty God, we cannot even think of how great You are.

And we are so small.

We thank You for Your love and for Your care over us.

Help us never to be proud.

 Help us to remember that You are King over all, and all that we have belongs to You.

Then we will praise You forever!!

- Lord You are Almighty throughout the universe.
- Yet, Your power, strength, and energy works so powerfully in us.

- We believe Lord and thank You for Your power and energy in our daily lives.
- In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

 a) Who made Nebuchadnezzar a great king?

b) Why did God take the kingdom away from him?

c) Why did He give it back to him?

- d) What did Nebuchadnezzar acknowledge about God after what he went through?
- e) What does it mean that God Almighty lives in you?
- f) Do you believe that His energy works powerfully in you?
- g) Can you give an example of when God's energy powerfully worked in you?

BIBLE VERSES ON ALMIGHTY GOD

 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. (Genesis 17:1)

 The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life. (Job 33:4)

 "This is what the Lord says-- Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

(Isaiah 44:6)

 "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

(2 Corinthians 6:18)

 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8)

MEMORY VERSE:

 The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life. (Job 33:4)

SUGGESTED READING:

 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 heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" (Daniel 4:34-35)

A POEM:

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation.
O my soul, praise Him,
for He is your health and salvation!
All you who hear
Now to His temple draw near
Join me in glad adoration.

- Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 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?" (Daniel 4:29-30)
- Nebuchadnezzar is admiring all he has and he is giving himself the glory.

 The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. (Daniel 4:31)

 God intervenes and is about to put him in his place.

- You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle.
 Seven times will pass by for you <u>until</u> you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes." (Daniel 4:32)
- The key word here is "UNTIL".
- It would take a long time for this man so full of pride to still acknowledge God's grace in his life.

- 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. (Daniel 4:33)
- It is better to "humble ourselves" than for God to have to "humble us".
- Job exclaims, "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:6)

 At the end of that time, I,
 Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. (Daniel 4:34a)

 This humbled king got tired of looking down at the grass and dew and finally raised his eyes towards heaven.

 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. (Daniel 4:34b)

 Now he begins to rightly praise and glorify God.

- All 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?" (Daniel 4:35)
- The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. (Psalm 24:1)
- God is sovereign and does as He likes.

- 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. (Daniel 4:36)
- God is RESTORER to those who humble themselves and give God His rightful place as King and Lord..

 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. (Daniel 4:37)

He continues to praise God.

- "And those who walk in pride he is able to humble." (Daniel 4:37)
- Do you know someone who is walking in pride and you don't think God can change them?
- Remember, not only in your life but in other's lives as well, "those who walk in pride he is able to humble."

• LET'S PRAY: