

“Most High God – Part 2”  
Daniel 4:34-35  
(Preached at Trinity, April 27, 2014)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. So far in **Chapter 4** we have seen the fearful result of pride. It is a sin that is abominable to God. It is the sin of which all men are guilty. It was the sin that led to the condemnation of Satan. In the qualifications for the office of pastor are warned, **1 Timothy 3:6 NAU** - "*and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.*"
2. This was Nebuchadnezzar's sin. Because of this sin God brought fearful judgment upon Nebuchadnezzar.
  - A. In **Verse 30** we've seen that Nebuchadnezzar gave all of the credit for his greatness and the greatness of Babylon to himself. To himself alone he gave all the glory.  
**Daniel 4:30 NAU** - "The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?'"
  - B. God reduced Nebuchadnezzar to grovel upon the ground like a wild beast, but as I pointed out last time it was actually a great act of God's mercy. Most men live their life in pride and die and go to hell. God mercifully intervened in the life of Nebuchadnezzar by humbling him. This lasted for seven years. His hair grew long and became matted and his fingernails grew to resemble bird claws.
3. Finally, God brought Nebuchadnezzar to his senses and he knew that God alone was the one true God of all the universe. God alone is worthy of all praise and glory. He boldly proclaimed the sovereignty of God.  
**Daniel 4:34-35 NAU** - "But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom *endures* from generation to generation.  
<sup>35</sup> "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What have You done?'"
4. The name "Most High" has a particular significance. It points to God's absolute sovereignty. It points to His unequalled dominion upon the earth.
5. Last week I narrowed our focus to the nature of God Most High.
  - A. Nebuchadnezzar lifted his eyes to heaven—it was testimony to God's transcendence. He is high and lifted up.  
He is totally different from creation. He is not like us and we are not like Him. He is totally other, totally apart. The worst of heresies is when we try to make God like we are.

- B. The problem with fallen man is we don't truly see God as supreme. We don't see Him as the Most High God. When we come face to face with Him all other idols crumble, all other confidences are exposed in their weakness. We see God as the Ruler of all things.
6. After Nebuchadnezzar declared God to be high and above all—God Most High, he declared His sovereign dominion over all things.
- I. God is sovereign in administration over all the inhabitants of the earth.  
**Daniel 4:34-35** – “For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom *endures* from generation to generation. <sup>35</sup> And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and *among* the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”
- A. The Book of Daniel thus far has declared the fleeting nature of earthly kingdoms
1. One kingdom replaces another
  2. Every earthly kingdom is limited in power. They owe their existence to God
  3. God, on the other hand rules with absolute sovereign might. His is an everlasting dominion.  
 “For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom *endures* from generation to generation”
  4. In comparison to God's infinite dominion all other kingdoms are as nothing.  
 “And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing”  
**Isaiah 40:15 NAU** - "Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales"
- B. Nebuchadnezzar declares that God rules over all of creation.  
 “he does according to his will in the host of heaven, and *among* the inhabitants of the earth”
1. Our eyes are first drawn upward.  
 “he does according to his will in the host of heaven,”
  2. The “host of heaven” refers to all of the heavenly beings. It literally refers to an army. God rules over all.
    - a. Satan gathered together 1/3 of the angels. It must have been an innumerable multitude.
    - b. At the birth of Christ we read,  
**Luke 2:13-14 KJV** - "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."  
 The word for “multitude” is πληθος from which we get our word plethora.
    - c. It must have been a great and mighty force, but they were as ants before the Most High God.  
 God determines the actions and existence of every being in the heavens.

3. All of heaven bows before God  
**Nehemiah 9:6 NAU** - "You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You."
  4. The name "LORD of Hosts" is used 229 times in the Old Testament  
 The Hebrew word is transliterated in the Greek – Sabaoth.  
 Jesus Christ is Lord Sabaoth – the Lord of Hosts.
- C. Then our eyes are turned to the earth  
 "he does according to his will in the host of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth"
1. Once again, our Confession provides us with direction –  
**Trinity Hymnal, 671 - Chapter 2:2**  
 "God, having all life,<sup>17</sup> glory,<sup>18</sup> goodness,<sup>19</sup> blessedness, in and of himself, is alone in and unto himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creature which he hath made, nor deriving any glory from them,<sup>20</sup> but only manifesting his own glory in, by, unto, and upon them; he is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things,<sup>21</sup> and he hath most sovereign dominion over all creatures, to do by them, for them, or upon them, whatsoever himself pleaseth;<sup>22</sup> in his sight all things are open and manifest,<sup>23</sup> his knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to him contingent or uncertain;<sup>24</sup> he is most holy in all his counsels, in all his works,<sup>25</sup> and in all his commands; to him is due from angels and men, whatsoever worship,<sup>26</sup> service, or obedience, as creatures they owe unto the Creator, and whatever he is further pleased to require of them."  
**Trinity Hymnal, 672 - Chapter 3:1**  
 "God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass . . ."  
**Trinity Hymnal, 673 - Chapter 5:1**  
 God the good Creator of all things, in his infinite power and wisdom, doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures and things,<sup>1</sup> from the greatest even to the least,<sup>2</sup> by his most wise and holy providence, to the end for the which they were created, according unto his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will; to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, infinite goodness, and mercy.<sup>3</sup>
  2. Every action of every man is beneath the control of God – This is the clear teaching of Scripture  
**Acts 17:28** – "In Him we live and move and have our being"  
**Daniel 5:21 NAU** - "the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and *that* He sets over it whomever He wishes."
  3. God rules and overrules the hearts and minds of men.  
**Proverbs 19:21** – "*There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.*"
    - a. When God took Nebuchadnezzar's mind away he became like an animal.

- b. Judas, Pilate, Herod all had evil imaginations towards Christ not knowing that they were marching to the beat of God's decree  
**Acts 4:27-28 NAU** - "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur."
- c. We can see God's overruling hand in the parable of the rich fool  
**See Luke 12:17-20**  
**Luke 12:19-20 NAU** - "And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years *to come*; take your ease, eat, drink *and* be merry." <sup>20</sup> "But God said to him, 'You fool! This *very* night your soul is required of you; and *now* who will own what you have prepared?"

II. What are some implications of God's sovereignty for your life and the life of our church?

- A. Whatever enemies may come against you or our church they have been ordained according to the council of God – all power comes from God
  - 1. Since God has ordained it, no enemy shall ever be great enough to defeat a believer  
**Isaiah 54:17 NAU** - "No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their vindication is from Me," declares the LORD."
  - 2. No enemy shall ever defeat the church of Christ  
**Matthew 16:18 NAU** - "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."
    - a. In Rev. 2-3 we see each church represented by a lampstand and Christ stands in the midst of them
    - b. This should also serve as a warning to the church  
 With each church Jesus says, "I know"  
**Revelation 2:4-5 NAU** - "But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup> Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place-- unless you repent."
  - 3. God tells you as temptations threaten to undo you, God will always provide the means of escape  
**1 Corinthians 10:13 NAU** - "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."  
 The Lord's Prayer is a testimony to God's sovereignty  
 "and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"

4. The devices of our enemy will progress no further than God has ordained  
**Genesis 50:20** – “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.”
- B. Of whatever use you are to the kingdom, it is God who enables you
1. Demonstrated in Moses  
**Exodus 4:11-12 NAU** - "The LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes *him* mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? <sup>12</sup> "Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say."
  2. Demonstrated in Jeremiah  
**Jeremiah 1:5-9 NAU** - "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations." <sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Alas, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, Because I am a youth." <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' Because everywhere I send you, you shall go, And all that I command you, you shall speak. <sup>8</sup> "Do not be afraid of them, For I am with you to deliver you," declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth."
  3. Demonstrated in the Apostle Paul  
**1 Timothy 1:12 NAU** - "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service,"  
**2 Timothy 4:16-18 NAU** - "At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen."  
THIS IS CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST!

Conclusion: Are you trusting in the absolute, unchanging, all powerful Sovereign God?

1. If you belong to Him nothing shall ultimately defeat you. He is the God Most High.
2. If you do not belong to Him, you cannot escape Him – He is God Most High  
The truth of God’s sovereign rule must grip your mind. You must humble yourself before Him and submit to His sovereign will. This must be your highest goal.