

**EXPERIENCE
PUPPETS**

I'M ABOUT TO LOSE MY MIND



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Cast:

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| 1) Nebuchadnezzar | 3) Melzar |
| 2) Daniel | 4) Voice |

Melzar: Attention everyone! Attention! (Reads from a scroll.) Nebuchadnezzar the king has issued the following proclamation: I, Nebuchadnezzar, bless the Most High God and give praise and honor to the one who lives forever. His dominion is everlasting and his kingdom continues through each generation. All the peoples of the earth are as nothing in his eyes. He follows his plan and his will both in heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. I praise and honor the King of Heaven whose works are truth and his ways justice. Anyone who walks in pride, he can humble. (Rolls up scroll.) Now, you may be wondering how a proud king, who once thought he was god, would send out this proclamation. Let's go back to the beginning of the story to find out.

Scene 1: The Palace

King: Ahhh! Boy it's great to be me! I'm the head of the greatest kingdom on this planet and all my enemies have been conquered. People around here treat me like a god. These people sure are lucky to have me for their king... (The king drifts off to sleep and then wakes with a start.) Wow! What a dream! That's nothing like my last dream about the statue. This one's scary! I don't have a clue what it means, but I don't think it's good. I need help. (Pause) I know I'll have my advisors tell me what it means. After all, that's why I pay them the big bucks. Melzar! Melzar, get in here!

Melzar: You called your majesty.

King: Melzar, I just had a dream that has really troubled me and I need your help.

Melzar: I'd be glad to help sir. Just tell me the dream and I'll tell you what it means.

King: While sleeping I saw a huge tree in the middle of the earth. It grew and became strong and could be seen from everywhere on earth. The birds of the air built nests in it and the land animals found comfort and shade under it and it provided food for all the animals that came near. Then some kind of being came from heaven and cut down the tree, but left the stump and put an iron band around it. Then he said to let the stump be wet with the dew and let him graze with the beasts. Let his heart be changed from that of a man and let him be given the heart of a beast for a period of seven times. Melzar! What does it mean!!!

Melzar: Hmm... A big tree... in the middle of the earth. Umm... Animals ... birds... provided food. Then there is the being that cut it down... Your majesty, sir... that is one strange dream. I can't make any sense out of it at all. Especially where it calls the tree and it and then changes it to a "him." I'm afraid that this one has me stumped, your majesty. Umm...err... sorry! I'll go and get together with the other wise men and see if we can figure it out.

King: Well, if they can't figure it out, what am I going to do? This one scares me more than that last one... Wait a minute. That last one. Let's see. Yea, it was Daniel who told me what the dream was and what it meant. Why didn't I think of that before? Daniel! Daniel, could you come here for a minute?

Daniel: Yes, your majesty. How can I help you?

King: Daniel, I just dreamed another one of those dreams that seems to mean something, but I can't figure out what. You were the only one who could figure out the last one about the statue. All my other wise men don't understand this one either. I was hoping you could tell me what it means.

Daniel: I would be glad to, your majesty, but you need to remember that the true and living God is the one who will help me to interpret the dream for you.

King: Yeah, yeah. Ok, here's the dream. Now tell me, Daniel, "What does it mean?"

Scene 2: (Nebuchadnezzar steps back, Daniel comes to the front talking to himself.)

Daniel: It can't be! Not to the king! Would God really do this? It seems so terrible. How can I tell this to the king?

King: Daniel, don't let the dream or its meaning bother you. Tell me what it means.

Daniel: My lord, I wish the dream concerned those who hate you and are your enemies and not you. The tree that you saw in the dream is you, O king. You have grown strong and your greatness reaches the heavens and your kingdom covers the earth. You saw a watcher, a heavenly being, come down with orders to chop the tree down, but leave the stump. This is the decree of the Most High God upon you, O king. They will drive you from men and you'll live with the beasts of the field and eat grass like oxen. You'll be wet with dew every morning for seven years until you know that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever he chooses. In the dream they left an iron band around the stump and left the roots in place. After you come to know that the Most High God rules, he will return the kingdom to you. Please, O king, listen to my advice. Turn away from your sins, especially your pride and show mercy to the poor. Maybe God will lengthen your prosperity.

Scene 3: The Dream Fulfilled

King: God was gracious to me. I listened to Daniel at first and made some changes. But as time went by I forgot about the dream and went back to my old ways. Then, one day I was out walking about the royal palace of Babylon and became filled with pride about all that I had done and made a foolish statement. I said, "Is not this great Babylon that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" While the words were still in my mouth, a voice came out of heaven.

Voice: O, King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has been taken away from you! They will drive you from men, and you will live with the beasts of the field. You will eat grass like oxen; and seven years will pass over you until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to the person of his choice.

King: (Slowly lifts head.) That very hour, the word was fulfilled concerning me. I was driven from men and became insane and thought I was an animal. They penned me in near the palace and for seven years I lived like an animal until my hair grew like eagle's feathers and my nails were like bird claws. At the end of the time, I lifted my eyes to heaven and my understanding returned to me. I blessed the Most High God and praised and honored him who lives forever. Then my insanity left and the kingdom was restored to me. My counselors and nobles also returned to me. (Daniel walks in and greets him.) I was restored to my kingdom and excellent majesty was added to me. I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and honor the King of all heaven, whose works are true and his ways justice. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

You know what my biggest problem was? Pride? That pride made me think only about myself and not about others. The Bible says that God hates pride and wants you and I to say no when we see it starting in our lives. You may be proud about how well you play soccer or how smart you are. You may be proud because you got a treat your brother or sister missed out on. Whatever it is, remember the Bible says that God resists the proud, or stands against them, but gives grace to the humble. I learned the lesson the hard way. You don't have to. When you are tempted to be proud, will you choose to say no?