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A1573 ~ Nebuchadnezzar goes Mad.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

In heaven before the creation of human beings, the most beautiful angel became so obsessed with himself that he forgot that he was dependent on God for his very heavenly existence. The angel known by his name in Latin as Lucifer was appointed to be in charge of beauty and music. He rebelled against God's rulership and became the devil or as we call him Satan today. Satan is now subject to God's judgement and will have no more power than we do to escape God's decisions.

Pride became the first sin and it was through pride, that Lucifer became the devil. Pride leads to every other character fault. It is a complete anti-God state of mind.

As long as you are proud, you cannot know God. A proud person is always looking down on things and people and is not willing to bow down or look up to God on His throne.

DRAMA - <u>The Bible In Living Sound</u>.

After Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of his dream about a large tree, the king had almost a year in which to repent. But Nebuchadnezzar's pride was again his downfall. As king over the earth, he was not content to be the head of gold in the Gentile era. He wanted to be the entire statue of gold. No matter what position we have in life, God gave it to us and He is the sovereign ruler over life itself.

God judged Nebuchadnezzar with a disease similar to a modern-day mental illness, which made him think and act just like an animal. After seven years, Nebuchadnezzar finally came to his senses and worshipped God as the only true and sovereign God. Nebuchadnezzar recognised the lordship of God over all and was converted. After this, Nebuchadnezzar was reinstated as king but he lived only a further seven years. God still resists the proud but He gives grace to the humble.

Mental illnesses have greatly increased in recent decades. As individuals fail to put into memory the words of Scripture and live by them, their minds and bodies are unable to benefit from God's healing power. In Romans, Chapter 1, it says: "Even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting."

God made a set of health rules to help us avoid sickness. Each believer in the Lord Jesus should learn to follow these rules to give health. Renewal and life comes from God when we obey Him first of all. The rules of health mean getting adequate rest, being still and waiting on God, not going to bed angry with another person and forgiving others quickly. We need to be a peace-maker whenever possible, avoiding evil and foolish friends, not being anxious or stressed by worry and not going into the wrong kind of debt.

We also need to eat a diet based on God's provision and keep busy to avoid gossip and laziness. We also need to avoid contact with contagious diseases, seek healing from God Himself, confess our sin and receive forgiveness for it, and not let our minds fill with depressing thoughts. This long list shows that some sickness come from the mind, some from spiritual neglect and some from germs we pick up from other people.

A pastor was healed dramatically from a mystery illness when he had been given less than three days to live. He asked himself 'where does sickness and disease come from for believers in Christ'. He did a thorough study of the Bible to see what he could find out. He discovered that God in His great creating work, provided a law that all living things have a built in healing process. If you break a branch off a tree and check it again after some weeks, the wound has healed and sometimes a new shoot has burst from the tree near the wound.

In both the Old and New Testaments, God wants His people, those who love Him, to have an abundant life. When Moses had travelled with the Children of Israel across the Red Sea, God, in Exodus Chapter 15, told them that if they would obey Him, He would protect them from the diseases He had brought on the Egyptians. Although God willed good health for His people, it was clear that for His promise to become a reality, the people needed to will obedience and trust in His promises too.

When on earth, the Lord Jesus healed many people of their sicknesses, raising some from death and helping others to get back to wholeness of life. He healed all and not just physical problems but those of the mind and spirit as well.

When God made human beings, He gave the body many safeguards against illness. When David the Psalmist said: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made," he didn't tell just the half of it! The brain is programmed by the genetic code and never sleeps. If it did, we would forget to breathe while asleep!

The law of healing is also written in our genetic code. If the body becomes ill or invaded by germs, then a number of defence systems are automatically called into action right away to restore the body's balance and keep everything functioning as perfectly as possible. Now suppose a speck of dust falls into your eye. There is no need to worry as the human eye manufactures a tear containing strong antiseptic properties to clear it.

God even made safeguards for our bodies which we can't easily tamper with. For example, if the body has a pain somewhere, it's a warning that something is wrong and we need help for a problem.

We can only turn off the pain by swallowing painkillers. When we drink a lot of water, all this water doesn't thin out our bloodstream. God has certainly programmed us for good health.

But not every person with a health problem has caused it. In John's Gospel, Chapter 9, a man born blind and then healed by Jesus is a clear case of this. The Pharisees wanted to know if the cause of his blindness was by his or his parents' sins. Jesus told them it was neither. No guilt could be laid on either parents or son for the blindness. We too, have to be careful not to judge situations when we don't know the details.

The pastor in his study of Biblical health concluded that sickness often comes from the devil. It's the devil who comes like a thief wishing to kill, steal and destroy. God has placed a hedge of protection around us or Satan would have destroyed the human race long ago.

Satan's primary battlefield is the mind. Our thought life affects our emotions and the way we feel affects our bodies and how they work. Satan can plant thoughts into our minds but we are able to choose what thoughts we focus on. Control your thoughts, for what we think, that is what we basically are. We can make up our minds to be happy or miserable but unhappiness often precedes sickness. In Isaiah, Chapter 26, it says: "You (Lord) will keep him in perfect peace; whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."

A medical student found that in class that day he was studying the human hand. As the class explored further into the way a hand works for so many different situations, he was amazed. He admitted to himself that there had to be great intelligence to have designed it so marvellously. Soon afterward, this man became a Christian. Have you ever marvelled at some work of God and given Him the praise which He should receive? Don't wait for some ill health to bring you low. Call out to the Lord today. Chapter 55 of the book Isaiah says: "Turn to the Lord and pray to him, now that he is near. Let the wicked leave their way of life and change their way of thinking. Let them turn to the Lord, our God; He is merciful and quick to forgive."

MUSIC - Integrity Music.

That was Lisa Glasgow singing "The Lord Bless You."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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