



THE BOOK OF
Daniel

Putting Pride in Its Place

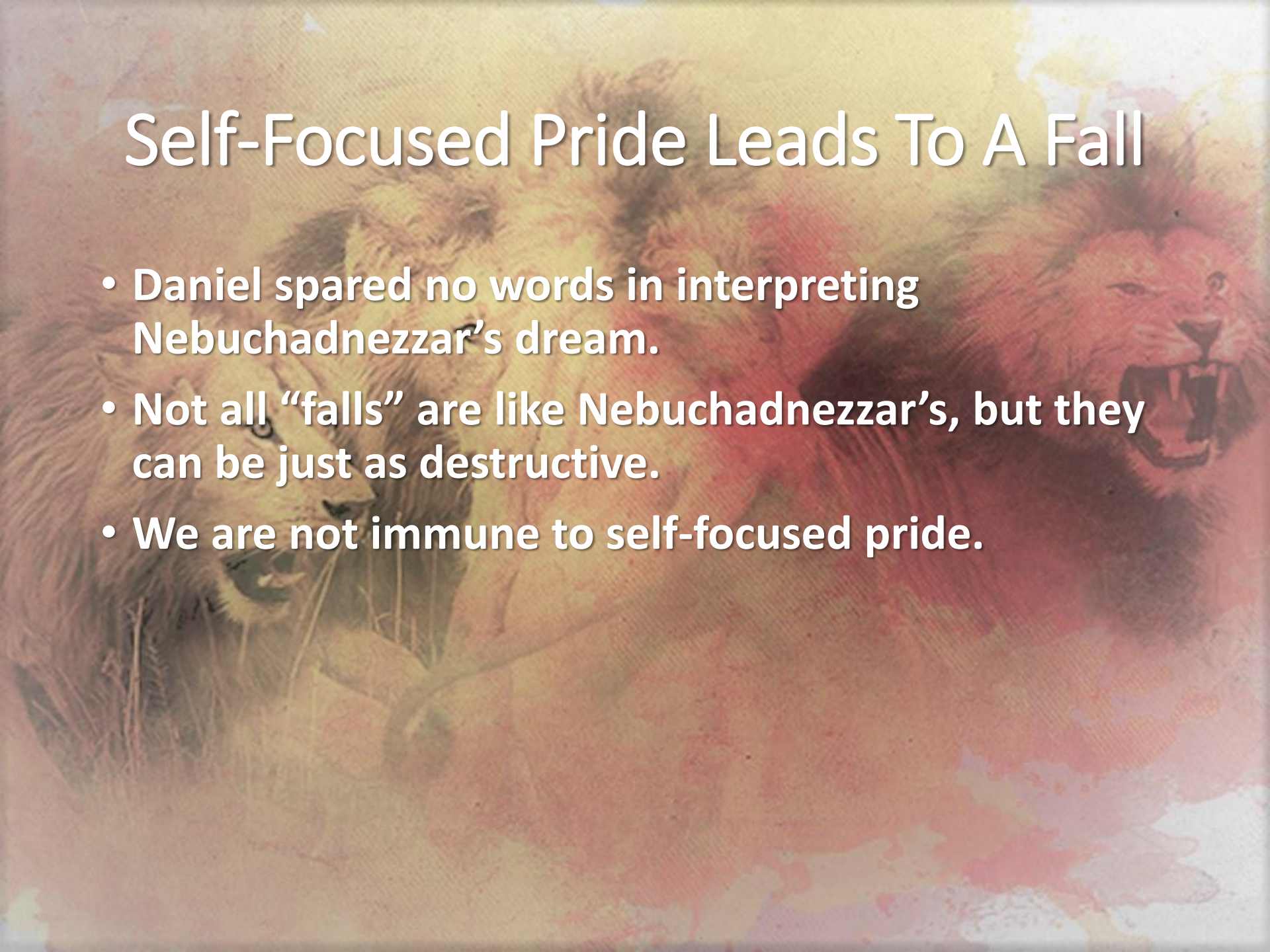
Daniel 4:1-37, Deuteronomy 8:17-18, 1 Peter 1:5-6, 1 Corinthians 4:7

Self-Focused Pride Leads To Anxiety

- Not all dreams have a meaning.
- Nebuchadnezzar's dream was the nightmare of a person with self-focused pride.
- Self-focused pride takes credit for everything that has been achieved.
- The worst fear for proud people is that they might fall apart under pressure.

Self-Focused Pride Leads To A Fall

- Daniel spared no words in interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
- Not all "falls" are like Nebuchadnezzar's, but they can be just as destructive.
- We are not immune to self-focused pride.



Self-Focused Pride Can Be Redeemed Through God-Focused Humility

- Daniel offered Nebuchadnezzar a choice of humbling himself or be forcibly humbled by God.
- We can humble ourselves, or we can be humbled by human frailty, personal failure, or circumstances beyond our control.
- God is gracious, even to someone He forcibly humbles.
- Even when our humility is forced, God is ready to graciously lift us up.

How Do We Humble Ourselves



- Recognize God as sovereign.
 - When we recognize that God is sovereign and in control, we can depend on Him to work things out.
- Give God credit for abilities and opportunities.
 - Your educational and career opportunities were not of your own doing; God gave them to you.
- Direct God's gifts to the good of others.
 - Humility recognizes that the gifts God gives are not only for us, but for others, too.
- If we humble ourselves before God, He will not bring us down in shame, but will lift us up.

Conclusion

- God gives grace to the humble—even Nebuchadnezzar, whom He forcibly humbled.
- How much more will God give grace to those who repent of their self-focused pride.
- We must:
 - Exalt God in worship.
 - Give God the credit for our abilities and achievements.
 - Serve others as stewards of God's gifts to us.