



# Man Proposes; God Disposes

*Daniel 4:28-37*



God is the One who sets up kings and removes them. Any ruler ought to recognize that his position, power, and possessions are due to the good pleasure of God, and he must never claim glory for himself. God rules and overrules in the nations of this world. The greatest of men are but subordinates to the “only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords” (*1 Tim. 6:15*).

God’s divine demolition squad has brought to nought more than one haughty earthly ruler. Nebuchadnezzar had claimed that the great kingdom of Babylon was established by his own power and majesty (*Dan. 4:30*). Immediately God humbled him and taught him the most important lesson of his life, that He owed everything to the Most High God!

Lehman Strauss, in his excellent commentary on Daniel, shared concerning the pivotal battle of Waterloo. On the morning of the battle, Napoleon stood gazing upon the field of battle as he described to his commanding officer his strategy for that day’s campaign. He concluded, “At the end of the day England will be at the feet of France and Wellington will be prisoner of Napoleon.”

After a pause, his officer said, “But we must not forget that **man proposes but God disposes.**” With arrogant pride Napoleon replied, “I want you to understand, sir, that Napoleon proposes and Napoleon disposes.” From that moment Waterloo was lost, for God sent rain and hail so that the troops of Napoleon could not maneuver as he had planned; and on the night of battle, it was Napoleon who was prisoner of Wellington, and France was at the feet of England.

**What a lesson for each of us!** “God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble” (*James 4:6*). “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time” (*1 Pet. 5:6*).

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)



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