



1

Daniel 4:1-3
The King Acknowledges God
Nebuchadnezzar the king to all the peoples, nations, and men of every language that live in all the earth:
"May your peace abound!"
It has seemed good to me to declare the signs and wonders which the Most High God has done for me.
How great are His signs and how mighty are His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and His dominion is from generation to generation.

2

Daniel 4:4-6
The Vision Of A Great Tree
"I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and flourishing in my palace.
I saw a dream and it made me fearful; and these fantasies as I lay on my bed and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.
So I gave orders to bring into my presence all the wise men of Babylon, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream.

3

Daniel 4:7-9

Then the magicians, the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners came in and I related the dream to them, but they could not make its interpretation known to me.

But finally Daniel came in before me, and whose name is Belteshazzar according to the name of my god, and in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and I related the dream to him, saying,

'O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, since I know that a spirit of the holy gods is in you and no mystery baffles you, tell me the visions of my dream which I have seen, along with its interpretation.

ראש הקוסמים Rab Khatorm Chief Of The Magicians

4

Daniel 4:10-12

Now these were the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed: I was looking and behold, there was a tree in the midst of the earth and its height was great.

The tree grew large and became strong and its height reached to the sky, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth.

Its foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches, and all living creatures fed themselves from it.

5

Daniel 4:13-15

I was looking in the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, descended from heaven.

He shouted out and spoke as follows: "Chop down the tree and cut off its branches, strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit; let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches.

Yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze around it in the new grass of the field; and let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him share with the beasts in the grass of the earth.

6

Daniel 4:16-18

Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let a beast's mind be given to him, and let seven periods of time pass over him.

The sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers and the decision is a command of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes and sets over it the lowliest of men.

(The Point Of The Dream)

This is the dream which I, King Nebuchadnezzar have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, tell me its interpretation, inasmuch as none of the wise men of my kingdom is able to make known to me the interpretation; but you are able, for a spirit of the holy gods is in you.'

7

Daniel 4:19

Daniel Interprets The Vision

Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was appalled for a while as his thoughts alarmed him. The king responded and said, 'Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation alarm you.' Belteshazzar replied, 'My lord, if only the dream applied to those who hate you and its interpretation to your adversaries!

8

Daniel 4:20-22

The tree that you saw, which became large and grew strong, whose height reached to the sky and was visible to all the earth

And whose foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt and in whose branches the birds of the sky lodged —

it is you, O king; for you have become great and grown strong, and your majesty has become great and reached to the sky and your dominion to the end of the earth.

9

Daniel 4:23-24

In that the king saw an angelic watcher, a holy one, descending from heaven and saying, "Chop down the tree and destroy it; yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze around it in the new grass of the field, and let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him share with the beasts of the field until seven periods of time pass over him"

This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king:

10

Daniel 4:25-27

That you be driven away from mankind and your dwelling place be with the beasts of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.

And in that it was commanded to leave the stump with the roots of the tree, your kingdom will be assured to you after you recognize that it is Heaven that rules.

Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you: break away now from your sins by doing righteousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.'

11

Daniel 4:28-30

The Vision Fulfilled

All this happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king.

Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon.

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?'

12



13

Babylonian Inscription

British Museum

"I, Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon,
 I am the son of Nabopolassar, King of Babylon,
 I who erected the Etemenanki Temple,
 I who built Procession Street,
 The street of the Forgiven Son,
 The Street of Nebu,
 And paved it with shimmering stones,
 Nebu, you the divine minister,
 Grant me immortality"

14

"Pride Goeth Before Destruction"

God Hates it

Proverbs 6: 16-19

16 There are six things the Lord hates,
 seven that are detestable to him:
 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands
 that shed innocent blood,
 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes,
 feet that are quick to rush into evil,
 19 a false witness who pours out lies and
 a person who stirs up conflict in the
 community.

15

Daniel 4:31-33

While the word was in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you,

And you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.'

Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled: and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nail like birds' claws.

16

Lycanthropy

- Greek: *lycos*, "wolf, anthropoid, "man"
- Mental disorder where the patient believes he or she is a world or some other animal
- Roman: *versipellis* ("turnskin")
- Navajo Indians: *Skinwalkers*
- Boanthropy: a cow

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Through History

- **268 BC:** Abydenus, the Greek historian, wrote about Nebuchadnezzars' insanity, being on the roof, etc.
- Mental disorder where the patient believes he or she is a world or some other animal
- Roman: *versipellis* ("turnskin")
- Navajo Indians: *Skinwalkers*
- Boanthropy: a cow

18

Daniel 4:34-35

"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.

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?"

19

Daniel 4:36

At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me.

During his disease, his care was provided for by Daniel

- Babylonian Talmud

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Daniel 4:37

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride."

- This is a public record he issued in 562 BC, the year he recovered from his insanity
- He would live about 1 more year
- His son Evil-Merodach took over his king

21

“The words of the prayer that (Nabonidus?), the king of A(ssyria and Ba)bylon, the (great) king, prayed (when he was smitten) with a malignant disease by the decree of the (Most High God) in (the city of) Tema. I was smitten for seven years and from (men) I was put away. But when I confessed my sins and my faults, He (God) allowed me (to have) a soothsayer. This was a Jewish (man of the exiles in Babylon. He) explained (it) and wrote (me) to render honor and g(reat glory) to the name of the (Most High God)..”

Prayer Of Nabonidus?

Caves of Qum'ran

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The Testimony Of The King

Daniel 4

- **Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd Dream**
 - Huge tree, cut down for 7 years
- **Daniel interprets the dream**
 - 1 year later he suffers mental disease for 7 years
 - (Daniel is his personal nurse)
- **Nebuchadnezzar recovers and publishes the entire testimony throughout the world**

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Application

Daniel 4

- **Historical: Nebuchadnezzar** - Huge tree, cut down for 7 years
- **Prophetic?**
 - A growing, unified "church" that the world comes together on
 - 7 years of insanity & confusion?
 - The conversion that doesn't take place until AFTER the madness
 - The tree didn't grow again until after it had been cut down

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The Throne of Nebuchadnezzar

- **Amel-marduk**
 - King for 2 years
 - "Evil-marduk" *2 Kings 25:27; Jeremiah 52:3*
- **Neriglissar**
 - Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law
 - "Nergal-sherezar" *Jeremiah 39:13*
- **Nabonidus**
 - Named king, but didn't really want the throne
 - Named his son Belshazzar as co-king while he traveled

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Bible Bootcamp

Taking Your Bible Seriously!

Next Week:

- Read **Daniel 5:** *The Fall Of Babylon*
- **BONUS!** Read about The Doom of Babylon:
 - Isaiah 13, 14
 - Jeremiah 50,51 *Read these 6 chapters in one sitting*
 - Revelation 17,18

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