

## Daniel--Daniel 4

### Nebuchadnezzar's Pride

#### I. Additional Scriptures...

1. What is Pride? Consider these synonyms...
  - 1) **Presumptuousness** (Deut 1:43; Num 20:11-12; Mk 10:35-40).
  - 2) **Rashness** (Eccl 5:2; Mt 7:1-5; 17:4--not knowing what he said; Jn 18:10).
  - 3) **Insolence** (Amos 7:10-17--Amaziah toward Amos; Acts 5:1-11; Heb 10:29).
  - 4) **Disrespectfulness** (1 Sam 17:36, 45; Js 2:1-9--toward the poor).
  - 5) **Egotism** (Acts 12:21-23; 3 Jn 9-10).
2. Mark 7:21-23.
3. 2 Corinthians 3:5; James 4:10.
4. Cutting down of a tree as symbol of judgment (Mt 3:10; Lk 13:7).

#### II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Babylonian Captivity.**

#### III. Summary.

It seems as if this chapter begins with the conclusion instead of the introduction. Here Nebuchadnezzar makes a confession which he came to understand after the events that are described in this chapter had taken place.

In verse 4 Nebuchadnezzar begins to relate a dream which he had in his palace. He first called for the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers to tell him the meaning. Likely, they saw that it was bad news and had no desire to make up an interpretation because it would surely upset the king. Finally, Daniel comes before the king and is told the dream. The dream was about a great tree that was very magnificent, but a watcher from heaven came down and ordered that the tree be cut down. All of the leaves and branches would be removed and the stump would be bound with iron and brass. The tree was then personified and changed from the heart of a man to that of a beast. Seven years would pass. The purpose of this dream was that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men. Nebuchadnezzar now appeals to Daniel to interpret the dream.

Daniel was at first afraid to declare the meaning of the dream. However, after urging from the king, he does tell the king that the tree is Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar that he shall be driven away from men and shall live with the beasts of the field to eat grass as oxen until seven times (years). After such time, he will know and acknowledge that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men. Daniel appealed to the king to be righteous and show mercy to the poor that his tranquility might be lengthened.

Twelve months later he is walking in the palace and bragging about how great he is and how great his kingdom is. A voice from heaven told the king that the kingdom was taken from him and the things about which he dreamed began to happen in the same hour.

At the end of the days Nebuchadnezzar's understanding returned to him and he blessed the Most High and praised and honored him.

**IV. Outline.**

1. Nebuchadnezzar makes an amazing pronouncement regarding the high God (1-3).
2. Nebuchadnezzar has another dream and calls for the wise men to interpret (4-6).
3. Daniel came and the king relates the dream to him (7-18).
4. Daniel interprets the king's dream, stating his personal desire that it might be about Nebuchadnezzar's enemies rather than himself and finally gives his advice to the king (19-27).
5. One year later, the dream comes true in the same hour that the king is making a prideful speech (28-33).
6. At the end of those days, Nebuchadnezzar has been changed and recognizes and praises the Most High God (34-37).

**V. Questions.****True or False**

01. \_\_\_\_\_ The first three verses and the last verse of this chapter are very similar.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel was troubled by the king's dream.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ It was a year before Nebuchadnezzar's dream was fulfilled.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Nebuchadnezzar ate grass.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ The dream revealed that the kingdom was forever taken from Nebuchadnezzar.

**Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)**

06. \_\_\_\_\_ Nebuchadnezzar declared that the Most High's kingdom is: (a) less than my own; (b) an everlasting kingdom; (c) under his power.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel offered what to the king: (a) condolences; (b) adoration; (c) counsel.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ Nebuchadnezzar said great Babylon was built by: (a) by the might of my power; (b) to the glory of God; (c) for my own pleasure.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel's advice was intended for what regarding Nebuchadnezzar: (a) his defeat; (b) the lengthening of his tranquillity; (c) the betterment of his kingdom.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ When was the dream fulfilled: (a) one year from the time dreamed; (b) the same hour of his prideful speech; (c) a & b; (d) none of these.

**Fill in the Blanks**

11. "... till thou know that the most High \_\_\_\_\_ in the kingdom of men, ..."
12. Deut 1:43 "So I spake unto you; and ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD, and went \_\_\_\_\_ up into the hill."
13. Eccl \_\_\_\_:2 "Be not \_\_\_\_\_ with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few."
14. That the stump remained meant that the kingdom was \_\_\_\_\_ to Nebuchadnezzar.
15. 2 Cor 3:\_\_\_\_ "Not that we are \_\_\_\_\_ of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God."

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

Answers will be given on next week's handout

**ANSWERS to Lesson 01-16...** [01--magicians of Babylon, 11; 02--Nebuchadnezzar, 46; 03--Daniel, 49; 04--Arioch, 14; 05--God, 28, 47; 06--c, 13; 07--b, 16; 08--a, 28; 09--b, 31; 10--c, 48; 11--fine gold, 32; 12--these, kings, kingdom, 44; 13--show, matter, 10; 14--1, darkness, kingdom; 15--Hebrews, kingdom, moved.]

**VI. Lessons & Applications.**

1. How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! (Daniel 4:2). How unusual it is to hear any world-class emperor give such praise to someone other than himself. This is what Nebuchadnezzar learned through a 7-year period of soul-searching brought on by the Most High God. How easy it is for man to be lifted up with pride and forget Who it is that controls all things. What a mistake it is for any man to leave God out of the picture and out of his planning. James talks about this in James chapter 4.
2. I saw a dream which made me afraid... (Daniel 4:5). To get the attention of many it is necessary for them to be made afraid. It is certainly a frightening dream that the king had. When it was told to Daniel, he was ASTONIED (v. 19), or he became quiet for a while, and was TROUBLED by it. He expressed his true feelings when he indicated to the king that he hoped the dream would be applied to the king's enemies. If we will make a detailed study of what the Bible reveals about God, we likewise will be afraid if we are not conforming our lives with the will of Almighty God. There is such a thing as the wrath of God (Heb 10:31; 1 Th 1:10; Rev 14:10,19; 19:15; Rev 16:19; 15:7; Rom 9:22, et.al.). It ought to be obvious to us from a study of the Scriptures that whenever man exalts himself and indicates a spirit of INDEPENDENCE rather than dependence upon God are the times when man subjects himself to the wrath of God. Nebuchadnezzar learned this lesson well in Daniel 4.
3. It is thou, O king...break off thy sins by righteousness (Daniel 4:22, 27). Daniel's courage is seen here in being willing to deliver a message that will not be good news to the powerful king. Another great prophet delivered a similar "bad news" message to a king and paid for it by having his head chopped off (Mt 14:1-11). Rather than change the message from God, the faithful prophet presents the dreadful interpretation faithfully. Preachers today are charged not to change the message just because it will be offensive to some (2 Tim 4:1-5).
4. At the end of twelve months ... The same hour was the thing fulfilled (Daniel 4:28, 33). God's timetable is not always the same as man's. Perhaps Nebuchadnezzar had even forgotten about his dream and Daniel's interpretation of it, however, the judgment **did** come to pass, just as God had warned it would. It is interesting about the timing of the judgment. In the very same hour that Nebuchadnezzar is proudly boasting about how very important he is and what great things he had been able to accomplish he is humbled by the Lord. Sometimes time slips by and people think they have gotten away with sin--nothing bad has happened, but we must keep in mind that God's time is different than ours (2 Pet 3:8). Sin can only be dealt with properly in the way God outlines that it must be dealt with in the written Word. The text that ought always to ring in the ears of Christians is Paul's warning of 1 Corinthians 10:12.
5. ... those who walk in pride he is able to abase (Daniel 4:37). What a great lesson for anyone to learn. It is debated by Bible scholars as to whether or not Nebuchadnezzar truly became converted to the one God, Jehovah. It surely seems so to me. However, whether or not he was fully converted he learned a great lesson and we need to appreciate that same one. Please study carefully the passages that are listed under the Additional Scriptures (I.1.) concerning PRIDE. There are five synonyms given for pride that help to define and help us better to understand how damning PRIDE really is. Jesus lists it alongside other very terrible sins as things which **do defile a man** (Mk 7:21-23). Pride is the root sin of a whole host of other sins. Let us avoid it like the plague!!!

## VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

P L I K M U J F M Y H N T G B R F S V E  
 D C W S G R E A T N E S S X Q A E Z Q A  
 H O L Y Z X S I W E D C V F R V T G B R  
 N H Y U J M F R U I T M J U A I K L O U  
 P O T L I K M J U Y H N T E G B R W F L  
 V F B R A N C H E S R E L D C W S A X E  
 Q H A Z O Z A Q W S X C D E R F V T B G  
 T A Y H N U M J U D I K T L O P P C O L  
 K B I S U J B M N H O Y T R G B V H R F  
 V I R E F V E L D C W M S X E Q A E X S  
 W T E V D C V F E R T G I B N E H R Y U  
 J A J E S U J M K D I O L N P O L K I U  
 J T M N Y T Y H N T G B R F I V E D C W  
 S I X Q A O R Z X H E A V E N O S W E D  
 C O V F R R T O G B N H Y U J M N K S I  
 U N J T M N H Y N R F V E D B E A S T S  
 C V S B N M K I U G J M Y H N B A G G T  
 T E R F V B G T Y H N M U J M R W S X C  
 D D E R F V S T U M P V F R G T G B N H  
 Y T G B J C O U N S E L U J M N H Y T G

[The words below are from the paragraph in which Daniel gives the interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of Daniel 4. You can find them above also.]

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|---------------|----------------|
| 01. troubled  | 02. tree       |
| 03. strong    | 04. heaven     |
| 05. leaves    | 06. fair       |
| 07. fruit     | 08. beasts     |
| 09. branches  | 10. habitation |
| 11. greatness | 12. dominion   |
| 13. watcher   | 14. holy       |
| 15. destroy   | 16. stump      |
| 17. seven     | 18. grass      |
| 19. rule      | 20. counsel    |