

## DANIEL – CHAPTER 4

Time for the king to act upon his experiences...

### Verses 1-3

Nebuchadnezzar had another experience which he wanted his realm to know that he had.

His declaration concerning the God of Israel does not necessarily testify of his salvation but as stated at the end of this chapter, it sure appears probable!

Multiple gods with a corresponding acknowledgement of all of them was not uncommon, Ezra 6:1-10 (Darius desired all the gods to bless his family, vs 10).

Further, the king sought understanding from the gods of Babylon before he sought Daniel's God. Dan 4:6-8

Taken as a whole, considering the chapter as a whole, I conclude that this decree represents his salvation testimony.

### Verses 4-7

Vs 4 Nebuchadnezzar's early reign had been taken up in military conquest. Having made his vast kingdom secure, he is now making the city of Babylon one of the greatest cities of the ancient world.

Vs 5 He had a dream and then upon awakening from the dream, his thoughts about it terrified him.

Vs 6-7 Calling for his wise men who are supposed to be able to interpret the dream, they cannot explain it. In this case, the king tells them of the dream and it is so difficult to explain that they don't even attempt to.

Verses 8-18 Daniel explains the dream.

Beltshazzar is Daniel's Babylonian name, taken from the god Bel. He is recognized by the king as the greatest revealer of mysteries.

Ezk 28:3

The king, then, tells Daniel of his dream.

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- Vs 11        The tree grew until it was visible all over the earth.
- Vs 12        Under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar, man and beast have been provided for.
- Vs 13        As the king contemplated the tree, an angel descends out of heaven.
- Vs 14        This angel shouts to unknown persons and orders the tree to be taken down.
- Vs 15        The stump is to be left intact (for the tree will grow once again) and banded with iron and bronze (?).  
The tree image is now changed to a man being dealt with.  
The man of verse 1 is to become a beast eating grass.
- Vs 16        This change is to last for 7 years.
- Vs 17        The purpose for God's dealing with Nebuchadnezzar this way is stated: God has involved his angelic creation in the decision to carry out this sentence.
- Vs 18        The king asks Daniel to tell him what all this means.

Verses 19-27 Daniel interprets the dream.

- Verse 19     Daniel wishes the king well, yet he understands the meaning of the dream immediately.  
It takes him a period of time before he is able to respond.

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Verses 20-26 The meaning of the interpretation needs no commentary. The king needs to understand that God rules man – man is not free to do as he pleases. In fact, man's actions and decisions are nothing more than the outworking of a sovereign God.

Vs 27 Daniel, a Hebrew transplant, gives Nebuchadnezzar, the greatest Gentile king to ever rule, an invitation to "repent" with postponement of temporal judgment being the outcome if he does. Jonah 3:4-10; 4:5-11

Verses 28-30 As is so often the case, the king did not take Daniel's invitation to heart.

Verses 31-33 The dream is fulfilled.

Verses 34-39 The loss of sanity (Boanthropy) supernaturally imposed by God, was supernaturally removed by God after the seven periods of time.

It may well be that we have recorded in these verses the salvation (testimony) of the king.

Chapter four states that the information contained in it is a declaration of the signs and wonders which the God of Israel has done for the king, vs 1-2. That means that Daniel has included in the inspired text a proclamation of the king and would appear to be his salvation testimony.

Verses 3 and 37 give strength to this understanding.

Nebuchadnezzar, the greatest Gentile king to ever live, ended up becoming a child of God!

