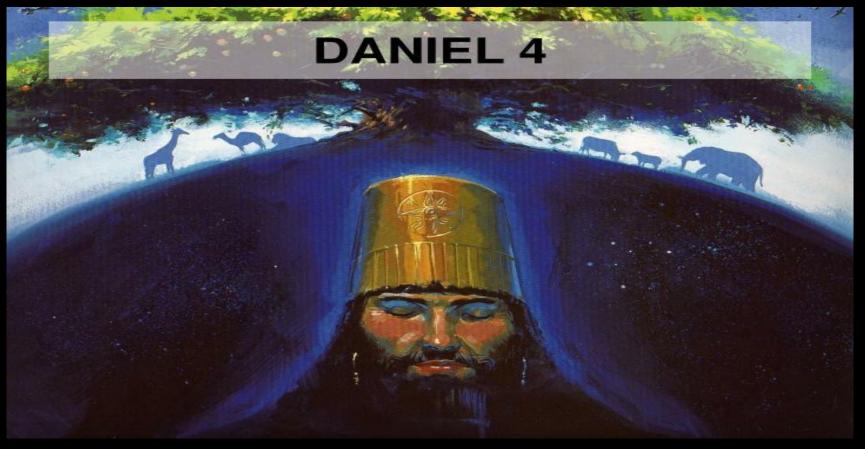
# Daniel Chapter 4 – Part 2 Humble and Grateful



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# Get into the Ark Sanctuary





And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Exodus 25:8

**Psalms 77:13** 



#### Health Snippet - Hydrotherapy for Joint pain

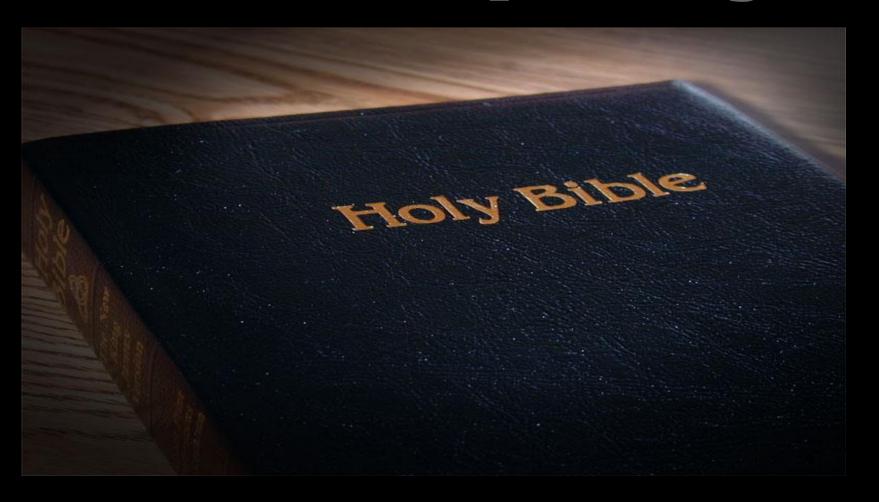
Fight Joint Pain and Stiffness (Seek Medical Advice)
Soaking in warm water, with or without minerals, is one of the oldest forms of medicine, which stood the test of time. Research has shown it works wonders for all kinds of musculoskeletal complaints, viz: fibromyalgia, arthritis and low back pain.

Submersion aids sore joints three ways:

- 1. It reduces the force of gravity that's compressing the joint.
- 2. Offers 360-degree support for sore limbs like a Ace bandage
- 3. Can increase circulation and decrease inflammation.
- \* A study from Istanbul University in Turkey published in Rheumatology International, 30 men and women with osteoarthritis of the knee were able to take longer, faster strides after soaking in warm water for 20 minutes a day for two weeks. Other studies have shown that participants may be able to reduce their pain medication after establishing a habit of regular soaks.
- **Go warm, not hot**: between 92 degrees and 96 degrees.
- It stresses the heart if you go hotter.
- **Don't just sit there**: Stimulate blood flow to stiff muscles and frozen joints by gentle stretching.
- Add some salts: soak in a bath spiked with three cups of Epsom salts for about 12 minutes, two to three times a week.



# Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



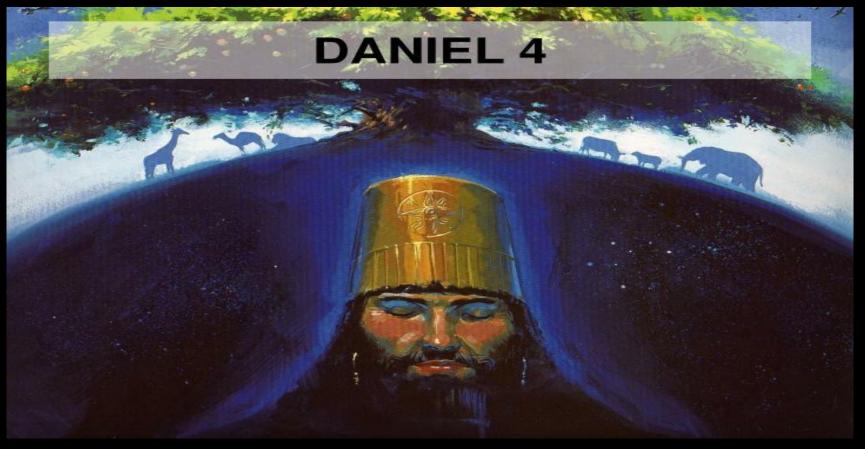


# Yes we Can!

But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. - Amos 5:24 (KJV) -



# Daniel Chapter 4 – Part 2 Humble and Grateful



**Past > Present > Future** 



#### Introduction

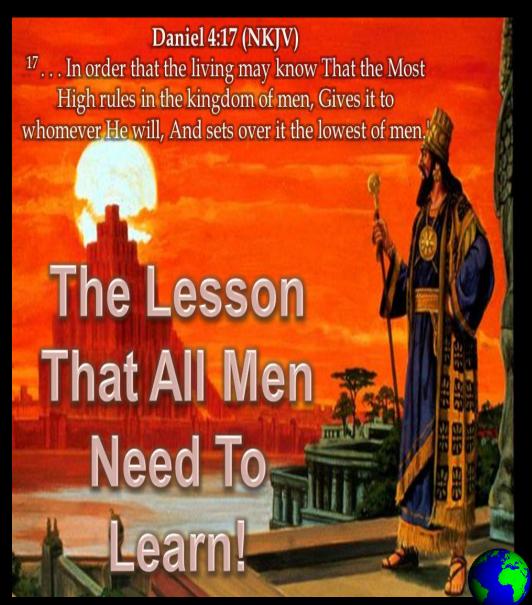
The dream of the tree reminds us of the dominion which was originally given to man at creation over the birds of the air, the beasts of the field and all the earth (see Genesis 1:26, 28).

The original dominion was to be loving, kind, just and merciful. It was to bring life and peace to all the inhabitants of the earth.

But when Adam sinned human rulers became despotic and tyrannical and abused their dominion. Rulers were always to remember that they were vice-regents of God to bless their subjects but soon they forgot this and they exploited those whom they were supposed to protect and benefit.

Nebuchadnezzar thought he was king because of his superior wisdom and ability. In his own words:

"Is not this great Babylon that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" (Daniel 4:30)



#### Why was Nebuchadnezzar really the king?

The central theme of the book of Daniel is found in chapter 2 and verse 21.
Three ideas come to view in this verse:

- 1) God is in control of the times.
- 2) God sets up kings and removes kings.
- 3) God gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those that know understanding.

These three ideas can clearly be discerned in Daniel 4.

First of all, God changed Nebuchadnezzar's times by making seven times pass over him.
While he was planning for a brilliant future God

changed his itinerary.

Secondly, God placed him on the throne, removed him from the throne and then restored him to it.

Third, God also took away his wisdom and understanding in the wink of an eye. This shows that God is in control of historical events, even when human beings refuse to cooperate.





#### Message of Daniel Chapters 1-4

Daniel Chapters 1-4: reveal a God who is in absolute control of history:

#### **Chapter 1**:

The Hebrews were taken captive to Babylon because 'God gave them' into the king's hand (Daniel 1:1-2). God also gave them wisdom and understanding.

#### **Chapter 2**:

Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon because God placed him there (Daniel 2:37-38). It is God who determines how history will flow and it is He who will establish a kingdom which shall never be destroyed. Only a God who is able to reveal the future history of the world can mold events so that they reach the climax which He has established (see Isaiah 46:9-10).

Another lesson we can learn from the experience of the king is that even though God gives dominion to human rulers, He is still the absolute arbiter and guide of human history.



Review of Daniel 1–4

- Daniel 1: A Tale of Two Diets.
- Daniel 2: God's Wisdom, Sovereignty, and a Stay of Execution (The dream of the statue)
- Daniel 3: Faith Under Fire in the Furnace
- Daniel 4: A Nightmare on Babylon Street (The king loses his sanity)

#### Message of Daniel Chapters 1-4 (cont'd)

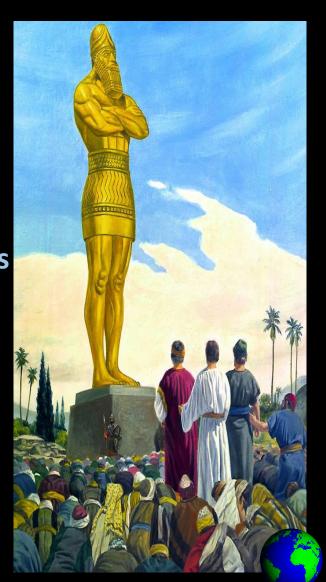
**Chapter 3**:

When the king flexed his muscles and attempted to change God's perspective of history (God's times) and kill everyone who did not agree, God showed him that his power is limited—there were three young men who would not bow to the king's authority. When the king threw them into the furnace God overturned their death sentence by personally delivering them from the fire.

**Chapter 4**:

This chapter reveals, in multiple ways, that God is in control of history (Daniel 4:17, 24-26, 32, 34, 35 & 37). God took away the king's throne, preserved it while he was insane and then restored it to him at the end of the seven times. Notice carefully some of the expressions used in this chapter: "they shall" (verses 25 & 32), "was driven" (verse 33) "was established", "was added" (verse 36). These passive verbs indicate that someone besides the king is doing these things. And who is doing it? The answer is in verse 17: the Watchers from heaven.

Why do nations rise and fall? Daniel's counsel to Nebuchadnezzar gives the answer to this question (see Daniel 4:27). Notice also the following verses on why nations fall (Proverbs 14:34; 16:12; 20:28; Psalm 33:12).



#### Daniel 4:18-19 - When all else fails

Daniel 4:18 This dream I king Nebuchadnezzar have seen. Now thou, O Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation thereof, forasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known unto me the interpretation: but thou art able; for the spirit of the holy gods is in thee. 19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonied for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.

Daniel was stunned because he understood the dream. Even though Nebuchadnezzar had taken him and his friends captive, Daniel took no pleasure in telling Nebuchadnezzar the just punishment foretold by his dream. Daniel didn't say, "It serves you right" because he knew he needed love and spiritual diplomacy to help Nebuchadnezzar. Like Christ, Daniel loved Nebuchadnezzar as a person and cared for his soul.



#### Examining the verses...

Belteshazzar declare the interpretation - The king wished for Daniel to give him the interpretation of it.

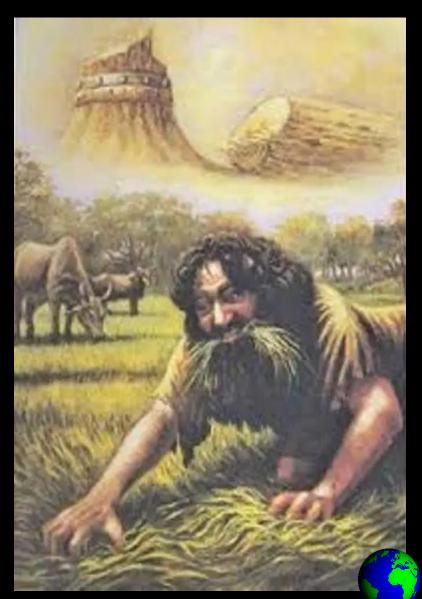
Forasmuch as all the wise men - He acknowledges that all his wise men in the realm are unable to give him the meaning, even after giving them the dream.

But thou art able - Nebuchadnezzar shows his confidence in Daniel to give the meaning because he knows that the true God is in Daniel.

Astonished for one hour - Daniel was taken back by the dream and was troubled. This was not because he could not give the interpretation but that the interpretation was not good news.

Let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee - The king wished to know the answer regardless of good or bad news.

The dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation... - The reason for the delay was that the news was not good for Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel's reply is one of telling the king that it would be better for this to come upon his enemies than upon himself.



#### Daniel 4:20-22 - Daniel reveals the dream

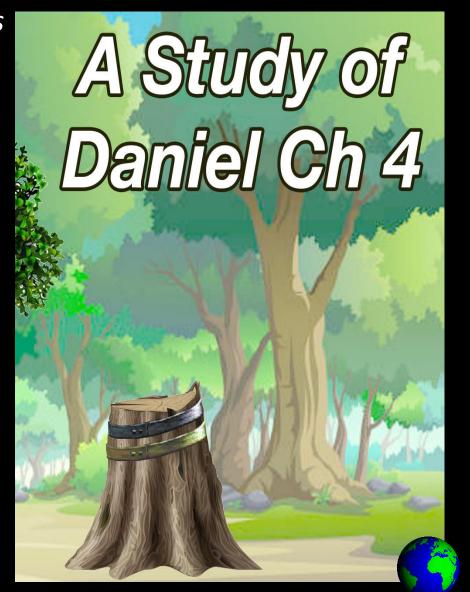
Daniel 4:20 The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth;

21 Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation:

22 It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.

The tree that thou sawest...it is thou - This tree that the king had seen in his dream was a description of himself.

Grown and become strong - It was Babylon, under Nebuchadnezzar, that had grown and become strong. It was regarded as the centre of the world and ruled over the world at this present time. It was abounding in wealth and beauty, with almost an endless supply of food. She offered protection to all within her gates and was strong against all opponents at this time. Nebuchadnezzar ruled the kingdom in such a way to afford the fullest protection, support, and prosperity to all its subjects.



#### Daniel 4:23-27 - The Holy Watcher

Daniel 4:23 And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him; 24 This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:
25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

26 And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. 27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.



#### Examining the verses...

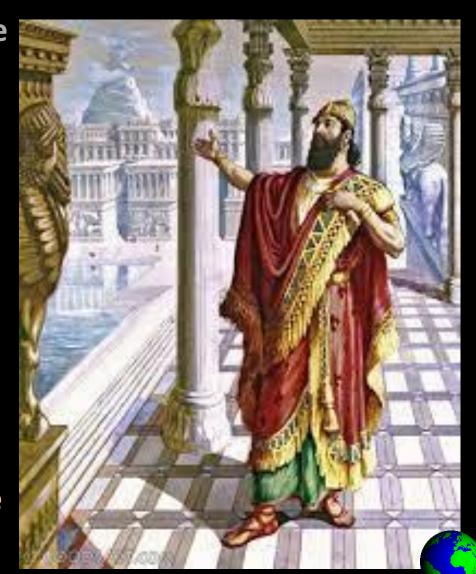
Decree of the Most High - The decree came from the God of heaven to hew down the tree. This decree came to Nebuchadnezzar through the watcher or the recording angel, and was upon the king himself.

<u>Drive thee from men</u> - Just as the tree was to be cut down and have his portion with the beasts, so to was Nebuchadnezzar to be cut down and driven from the presence of men, and dwell in the fields with the oxen and eat the grass as an ox.

Wet thee with the dew - As the tree was to be wet with the dew of heaven, so the king was to have dew fall upon from heaven.

Seven times - Seven years was to pass with Nebuchadnezzar in this position of being a beast of the field.

Till thou know - This was to be his condition until he could acknowledge that it was God that ruled in the kingdom of men and gave it to whom He will.



#### Examining the verses (cont'd)...

Leave the stump of the tree - We see God's mercy mingled in with His judgment. The king's rulership and kingdom would be preserved unto him until he acknowledged that the God of heaven rules. As the band of iron and brass was placed around the tree stump to preserve it and stop it from splitting, the kingdom would be preserved for Nebuchadnezzar to rule once again.

Let my council be acceptable - Daniel now wishes to give the king some council and asks him to accept it.

Break off thy sins by righteousness - Daniel does not ask the king to turn from his sinful ways but tells him to. He reproves the king for his course and calls him to repentance. So to should we be allowing the word of God to cut deep into the heart and call those who are wondering from God to repentance.

If it may be a lengthening... - If he turned from his evil ways, the judgments of God could be averted.

The conditions of this agreement was the condition

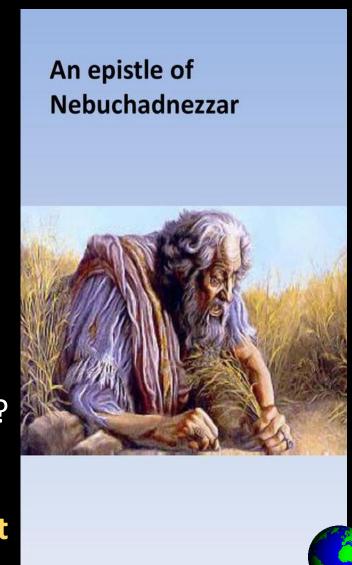
of obedience.



#### Understanding the scenario...

Daniel goes beyond a simple interpretation of the dream. What does he add? Does the king accept this additional information? Would you agree that pride is the biggest problem the king has? But didn't he deserve to feel pride for building such a magnificent and beautiful city, Babylon the Great? Where did the money come from to pay for materials needed for this structure? Were the people in poverty who did much of the work properly rewarded for their labours? Is there a lesson here for you and me?

Do well-meaning people like us ever forget who is in charge? Of course we don't build beautiful cities, but are there other ways we are tempted to feel pride for our accomplishments? Nebuchadnezzar had so much earthly power, how could he learn the lesson of humility before God? What did God send him to do instead? There is a medical term for the mental illness that came upon Nebuchadnezzar: species dysphoria, a desire to be an animal. Have you ever had symptoms of that disease? Of course not, you reply, but do feelings of pride ever tempt you? What is the solution?



#### From Man to Beast

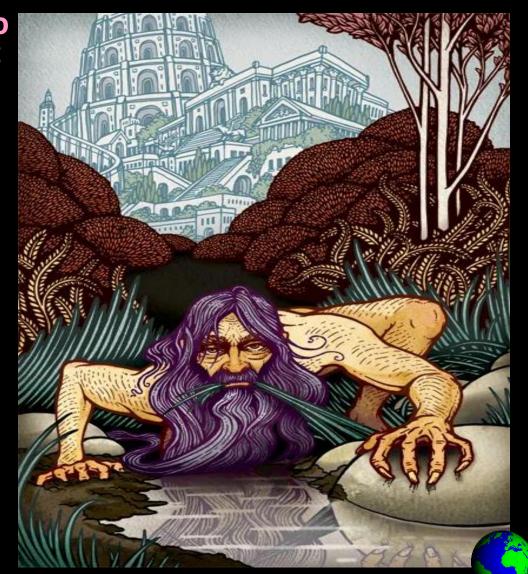
From supreme monarch, Nebuchadnezzar was to be reduced to the society of dumb beasts, to eat as they eat, and to lodge with them under the open sky. His brilliant intellect was to be reduced to the instinctive processes of their extremely limited minds.Could pride take a greater tumble?

Insanity descends upon the brilliant mind of the

king, obliterating everything. Reason departs; the mental faculties fail.

The light of intelligence fades from his eyes, and in its place there remains nought but the blank, glassy stare that marks the dumb brute, and with it an elemental desire for a few blades of grass to eat and a pile of straw on which to spend the night. No longer does Nebuchadnezzar envision himself as the builder

of Babylon and the ruler of a vast empire whose borders touch the ends of the earth. He is an ox!

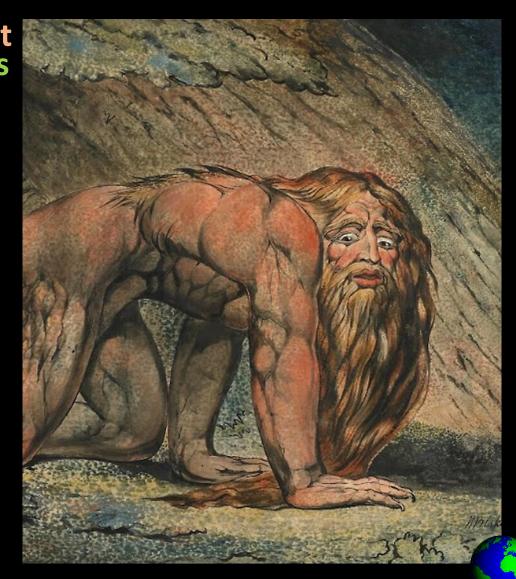


#### King to a beast for 7 years

Nebuchadnezzar is the "tree" that God would cut down and remove from power. Just as a stump is left, God showed Nebuchadnezzar that his kingdom will not be removed from him forever. "Till seven times pass over him" refers to seven years during which Nebuchadnezzar would be insane (vs. 23). Verse 25 gives the purpose for God's discipline: "till thou know that the most High ruleth." In spite of this punishment, a special promise is given: "thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shall have known that the heavens do rule." (vs. 26)

Key Point: God, through Daniel, encouraged and warned Nebuchadnezzar to "change his ways." This shows that God's warnings of judgment are conditional. He warns the wicked to turn from the evil, and if they repent, God will not send evil on them.

• The book of Jonah illustrates this same truth.



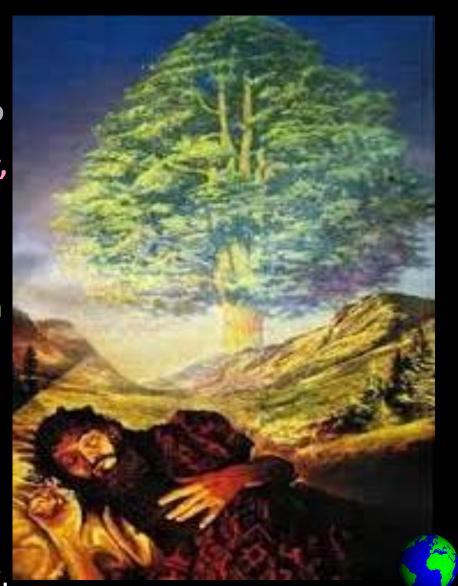
#### Understanding what is happening

vs. 20–22 Nebuchadnezzar and his empire are the golden head of chapter 2. He is also the tree of chapter 4.

• He provides protection and support for the nations.

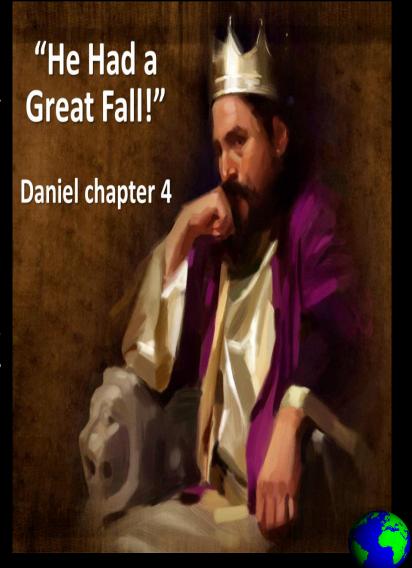
vs. 23–26 The verdict will be executed. There is a Lord who surpasses the ruler of the Babylonian world empire. Nebuchadnezzar is accountable to this Lord. Consequently, he may be cast out of human society for seven years. But the judgment has a goal. Nebuchadnezzar is supposed to learn that God is the true Lord. His kingdom is to return to him. The judgment is mingled with grace.

- v. 27 Daniel turns to the king with a call. What do we learn from this action?
- 1. The disaster can be prevented, if the king commits his life to God.
- 2. The judgment is linked to conditions and does not happen automatically. See Jonah and the judgment of Nineveh; see the principle in Jeremiah 18:6–10.
- 3. Daniel can now address the king in a clearer way than ever before and call him to repentance.
  4. In addition to the call the text also contains a promise.
- 5. Therefore, the dream should be understood as a warning.



#### Daniel 4:28-33 - Pride Took Over Again

Daniel 4:28 All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. 29 At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. 30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? 31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchádnezzár, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. 32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. 33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.



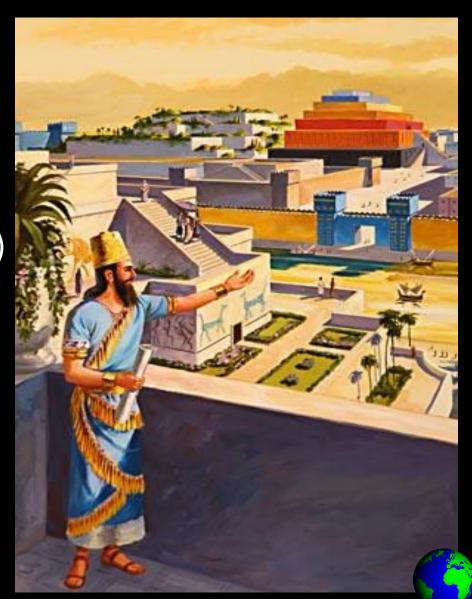
#### Examining the verses...

End of twelve months - It took 12 months before his pride overran him whilst walking through the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

The king spake - The king had nothing but exaltation of himself in the words that he spoke. He gave all the glory to himself instead of God, Who had shown him that it was He Who set up kings and kingdoms. This same attitude we find in Satan. (Isaiah 14:12-14)

While the word - While he spoke the judgment of God was pronounce upon him. He who exalts himself shall be abased (Matthew 23:12, Obadiah 4) but if he had humbled himself, God could have exalted him.

The same hour - The judgment was carried out immediately. The condition of Nebuchadnezzar was like that of a beast of the field just as it was prophesied. This condition was to be for seven years, which at that time, he would acknowledge the God of heaven as the supreme ruler over all.

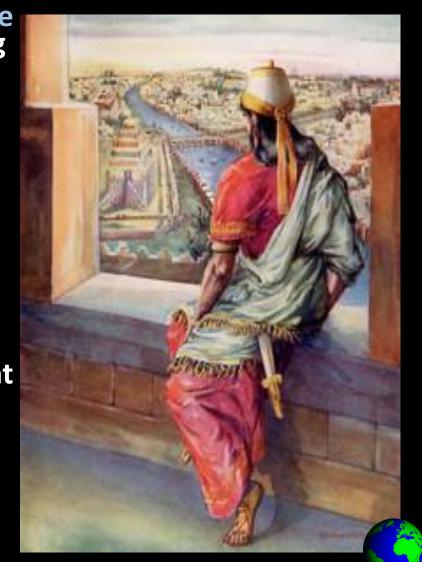


#### God given probation of 12 months

Daniel warned Nebuchadnezzar to repent, and then God gave him 12 months to change his life by seeking Him. Yet the king refused to heed God's warning and acknowledge that God was in control. Instead, Nebuchadnezzar spoke as if he were the god of his own life and took the credit for what he has done, supposedly by his own power and majesty. (vs. 30)

Despite his being told to repent and seek God's forgiveness, Nebuchadnezzar's unrelenting pride causes the heavenly decree to be executed (Daniel 4:28-33). While the king is walking in his palace and praising himself for what he has accomplished, he is afflicted with a mental condition that forces his expulsion from the royal palace. He may have experienced a pathological mental condition called clinical lycanthropy or zoanthropy. Such a condition leads the patient to act like an animal. In modern times this disease has been called "species dysphoria", the feeling that one's body is of the wrong species and, hence, the desire to be an animal.

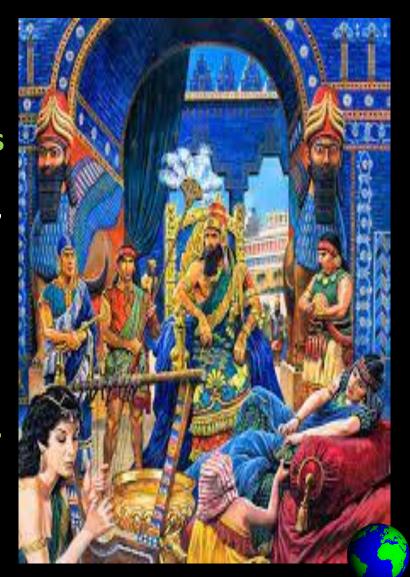
Read 2 Kings 20:2-5; Jonah 3:10; and Jeremiah 18:7-8. What do these texts tell us about the king's chance to have averted the punishment?



#### The king learns the Hard Way

Unfortunately, Nebuchadnezzar has to learn the hard way. When invested with royal power, Nebuchadnezzar has no ability to reflect on his relationship with God. Thus, by depriving the king of royal authority and sending him to live with the beasts of the field, God gives the king an opportunity to acknowledge his total dependence on Him. In fact, the ultimate lesson God wants to teach to the arrogant king is that "Heaven rules" (Daniel 4:26). Indeed, the judgment upon the king has an even larger purpose in God's design, as so clearly expressed in the decree of the heavenly beings: "In order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men" (Daniel 4:17).

In other words, the discipline applied to Nebuchadnezzar should be a lesson for all of us as well. Because we belong to the group of "the living", we should pay better attention to the main lesson we are supposed to learn that "the Most High rules in the kingdom of men".

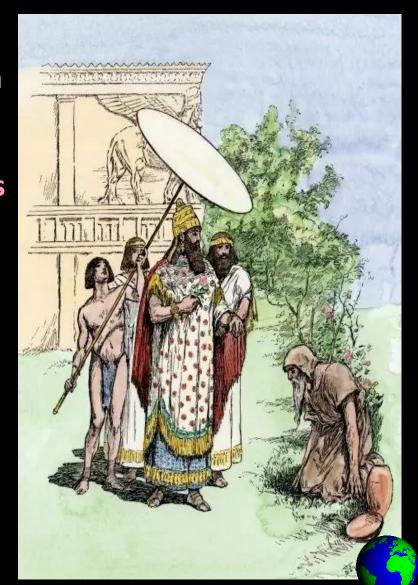


#### Never Forget, The Most High Rules!

[Nebuchadnezzar] saw his prosperity, and because of it he was lifted up. Notwithstanding the warnings that God had given him, he did the very things which the Lord had told him not to do. He looked upon his kingdom with pride and exclaimed: "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?" Daniel 4:30. The instant that the words were uttered, the sentence of judgment was pronounced. The king's reason was taken away. The judgment that he had thought so perfect, the wisdom that he had prided himself on possessing, were removed. The jewel of the mind, that which elevates man above the beasts, he no longer retained.

The sceptre is no longer held in the hand of a proud and powerful monarch. The mighty ruler is a maniac. He now herds with the cattle to eat as they eat. He is a companion of the beasts of the field. The brow that once wore a coronet is disfigured by the absence of reason and intellect. The mandate has gone forth: "Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit." Verse 14.

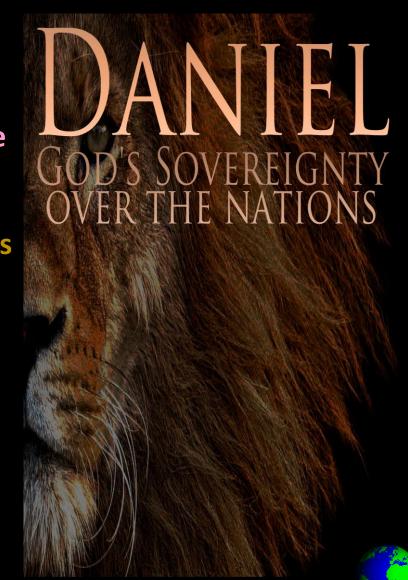
So the Lord magnifies Himself as the true and living God.— Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, pp. 126, 127.



#### Do not fall to the wiles of Satan

When Satan declared to Christ, The kingdom and glory of the world are delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it, he stated what was true only in part, and he declared it to serve his own purpose of deception. Satan's dominion was that wrested from Adam, but Adam was the vicegerent of the Creator. His was not an independent rule. The earth is God's, and He has committed all things to His Son. Adam was to reign subject to Christ. When Adam betrayed his sovereignty into Satan's hands, Christ still remained the rightful King. Thus the Lord had said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will." Daniel 4:17. Satan can exercise his usurped authority only as God permits.—The Desire of Ages, p. 129.

Let men become lifted up in pride, and the Lord will not sustain them and keep them from falling. Let a church become proud and boastful, not depending on God, not exalting His power, and that church will surely be left by the Lord, to be brought down to the ground. Let a people glory in wealth, intellect, knowledge, or in anything but Christ, and they will soon be brought to confusion.—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, p. 127.



### The Dream is Being Fulfilled

vs. 28-30 In spite of the warning, judgment finally comes upon the king. What are the mistakes that Nebuchadnezzar made?

- Pride and arrogance
- Self-glorification (see the stress on "I" and "my"; see, however, Daniel 2:20–23 as contrast)
- The desire to be independent of God
- Bad stewardship

vs. 31–33 The verdict is executed right away, and the prediction is fulfilled (compare with Acts 12:21–23). God does not always react immediately. In any case, whatever Nebuchadnezzar was unwilling to learn in good times he has to learn under difficult circumstances until he is willing to accept that God is the Lord. Nebuchadnezzar's insanity may be indirectly referred to in historical sources.

At the end of twelve months, God can delay judgment no longer; the prophecy was fulfilled. Nebuchadnezzar becomes like a wild animal and was driven from his court as a mad man. There comes a time when God's warnings become reality!



#### Daniel 4:34-37 - Finally Extols God

34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

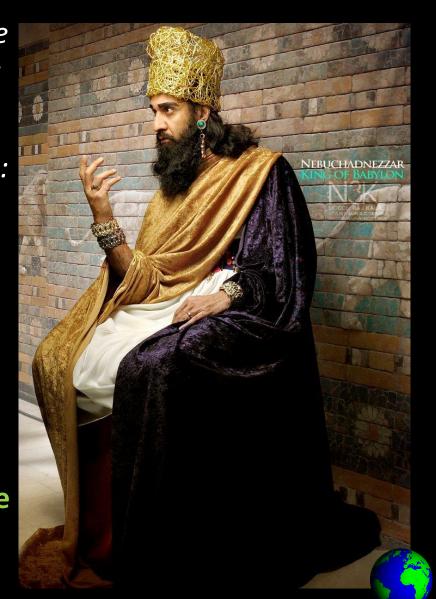
35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty

was added unto me.

37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

I believe Nebuchadnezzar died a converted man as this is the last record of his life. God wishes for each of us to come to Him so that He can exalt us in due season. Do not despair with the trials, turn to God the source of power and life.



#### Examining the verses...

At the end of the days - At the end of the seven years.

<u>Understanding returned</u> - As his understanding returned at the end of the seven years, Nebuchadnezzar blessed, praised, and honoured the God of heaven that liveth forever.

 He acknowledges that it is God's kingdom and dominion that is everlasting.

Reputed as nothing...what doest thou - We are but dust, or nothing compared to God. He does according to His will and who are we to bring all the glory upon ourselves and tell God what to do. (Romans 9:20, Job 38-39)

At the same time - Nebuchadnezzar was fully restored to his position with all his counsellors and so forth. God could restore him to this position because the king had been humbled. (1 Peter 5:6)

Whose works are truth - All of God's works are truth and righteousness. (Deuteronomy 32:3-4 Psalms 98:2) We also see the lengths that God will go to, to bring about the conversion of a soul. He knew what it would take to bring Nebuchadnezzar to the point of following Him, and humbling him so as to separate the pride from his life that was impeding his relationship with God.





# God mercifully Restores the King

God allows Nebuchadnezzar to be stricken by a strange disease, but eventually He readily restores him to a sound mental state. Interestingly, everything changes when, at the end of the seven years predicted by the prophet, the ailing king lifts up his eyes to heaven (Daniel 4:34).

"For seven years Nebuchadnezzar was an astonishment to all his subjects; for seven years he was humbled before all the world. Then his reason was restored and, looking up in humility to the God of heaven, he recognized the divine hand in his chastisement. In a public proclamation he acknowledged his guilt and the great mercy of God in his restoration". — Prophets and Kings, p. 520.

What are ways that you have been humbled by God? What did you learn from the experience? What changes might you need to make in order to avoid having to get taught the lesson again?



#### God gives a Long Rope

No question, great changes can happen when we lift our eyes to heaven. As soon as his understanding comes back, the king gives evidence that he has learned this lesson.

But this story is not as much about Nebuchadnezzar as it is about the mercy of God. The king has missed three previous opportunities to accept the God of Israel as the Lord of his life. Such occasions are available to him when he recognizes the exceptional wisdom of the four young Judean captives (Daniel 1), when Daniel interprets his dream (Daniel chapter 2), and when the three Hebrew men are rescued from the fiery furnace (Daniel chapter 3). After all, if that rescue doesn't humble him, what will? In spite of the ruler's stubbornness, God gives him a fourth chance, finally wins the king's heart, and restores him to his royal office (Daniel chapter 4). As the case of Nebuchadnezzar illustrates, God gives one chance after another in order to restore us to a right relationship with Him. As Paul writes many centuries later, the Lord "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). We see in this story a powerful example of that truth.





### The king knows God's in Control

For seven years Nebuchadnezzar was an astonishment to all his subjects; for seven years he was humbled before all the world. Then his reason was restored and, looking up in humility to the God of heaven, he recognized the divine hand in his chastisement. In a public proclamation he acknowledged his guilt and the great mercy of God in his restoration. "At the end of the days," he said, "I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honoured Him that liveth forever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation: and all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest Thou?

"At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honor and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me."—Prophets and Kings, pp. 520, 521.



#### Nebuchadnezzar's Conversion

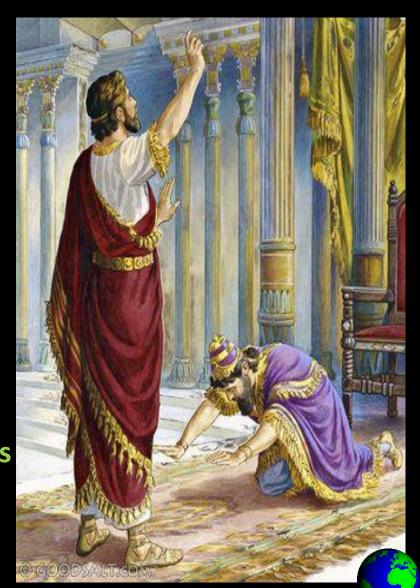
vs. 31–34 What does Nebuchadnezzar express with these verses?

- He does not blame God for his sickness.
- He praises God and prays to Him.
- He acknowledges God as the only sovereign Lord. We are dust, while God is eternal and omnipotent. God does all things right (see Romans 8:28). God loves humility.
   Nebuchadnezzar is converted to God.

When the king looked up to God and entered into a relationship with Him, he was healed. In addition, he got back his kingly office. Let us "fix our eye on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2), not on humans.

Nevertheless, people who love the Lord can be of great help on our journey to God. It is conceivable that without Daniel Nebuchadnezzar may not have found God.

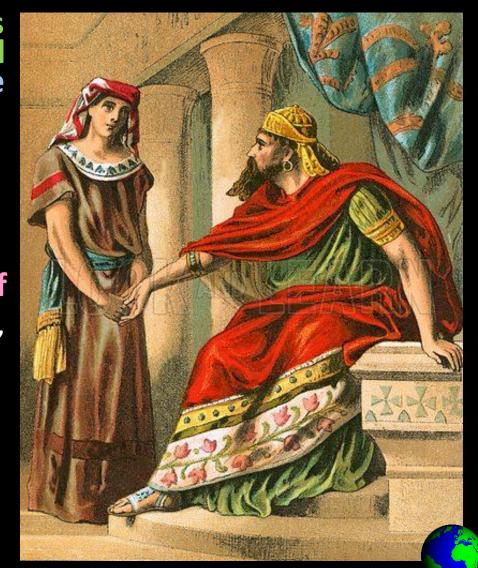
After 35 years of Daniel's witness, several revelations of God's power, and finally a judgment of insanity, Nebuchadnezzar was finally converted. Once he accepted the Lordship of God, God restored Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom and majesty, even adding to his glory. God was able to do this because the king was repentant and now gives God the glory for everything.



## The king's heartfelt testimony of God

**Nebuchadnezzar Thoroughly Converted—In Daniel's** life, the desire to glorify God was the most powerful of all motives. He realized that when standing in the presence of men of influence, a failure to acknowledge God as the source of his wisdom would have made him an unfaithful steward. And his constant recognition of the God of heaven before kings, princes, and statesmen, detracted not one iota from his influence. King Nebuchadnezzar, before whom Daniel so often honoured the name of God, was finally thoroughly converted, and learned to "praise and extol and honour the King of heaven" (The Review and Herald, January 11, 1906).

A Warm and Eloquent Testimony—The king upon the Babylonian throne became a witness for God, giving his testimony, warm and eloquent, from a grateful heart that was partaking of the mercy and grace, the righteousness and peace, of the divine nature (The Youth's Instructor, December 13, 1904).



#### Humble and Grateful

How do we know that Nebuchadnezzar indeed genuinely accepts the true God? We find a major piece of evidence in the fact that Nebuchadnezzar himself is the author of the letter inserted by Daniel in chapter 4. Indeed, most of this chapter seem's to be a transcription of a letter that the king distributes to his vast kingdom. In this letter, the king tells about his pride and insanity, and humbly recognizes God's intervention in his life. Ancient monarchs would rarely write anything derogatory about themselves. Virtually all ancient royal documents that we know of glorify the king. A document such as this, therefore, in which the king admits his pride and his beastly behaviour, points to a genuine conversion. In addition, by writing a letter recounting his experience and humbly confessing God's sovereignty, the king is acting as a missionary. He can no longer keep to himself what he has experienced and learned from the true God. What we have seen here, then, in the king's prayer and praise (Daniel 4:34-37), reveals the reality of his experience.



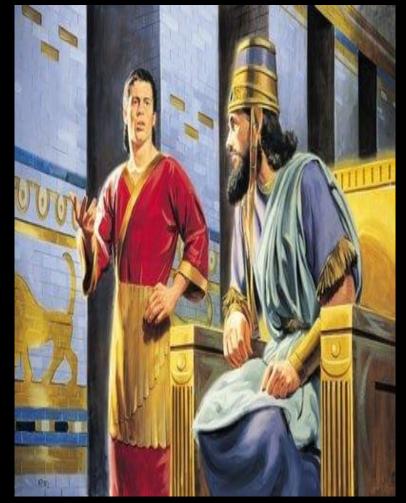
## Humble and Grateful (cont'd)

The king now has a different set of values and can recognize the limitations of human power. In a profound prayer of thanksgiving, the king extols the power of Daniel's God and admits that "All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing" (Daniel 4:35). That is to say, humans have nothing of themselves of which to be boastful. Thus, this last glimpse of Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel shows a king humble and grateful, singing the praises of God and warning us against pride.

Of course, God continues to change lives today. No matter how proud or sinful people may be, in God there is mercy and power to turn rebellious sinners into children of the God of Heaven.

#### **Key Point**:

In Verse 34: "The End of the Days" Notice how the seven years of verse 23 are referred to as "days." This gives us a hint of the "day for a year" principle in prophetic interpretation. For the use of the day/year principle, look at Ezekiel 4:4-6, and Numbers 14:33-34.





## Lucifer chose Independent will

Lucifer in heaven had sinned in the light of God's glory. To him as to no other created being was given a revelation of God's love. Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final. There was no more that God could do to save him. But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan's sophistry. The height and depth of the love of God he did not know. For him there was hope in a knowledge of God's love. By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God.

Through Jesus, God's mercy was manifested to men; but mercy does not set aside justice. The law reveals the attributes of God's character, and not a jot or tittle of it could be changed to meet man in his fallen condition. God did not change His law, but He sacrificed Himself, in Christ, for man's redemption. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19.—The Desire of Ages, p. 762.



#### Connections to the New Testament

- 1. The great tree with animals living in and under it is used by Jesus in a parable to describe the kingdom of God which surpasses Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom by far (Matthew 13:32).
- 2. The fall of Nebuchadnezzar resulting from his pride (Daniel 4:30, 31) points to the fall of symbolic, end-time Babylon (Revelation 14:8; also chapters 17 and 18). The term "Babylon the Great" is found in both books.
- 3. Compare Daniel 4:34 with Revelation 4:9. We should honor God "who lives forever."



Another parable put he forth unto them, saying,
The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed,
which a man took, and sowed in his field:
Which indeed is the least of all seeds:
but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs,
and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come
and lodge in the branches thereof.

Matthew 13:31,32 (KJV)



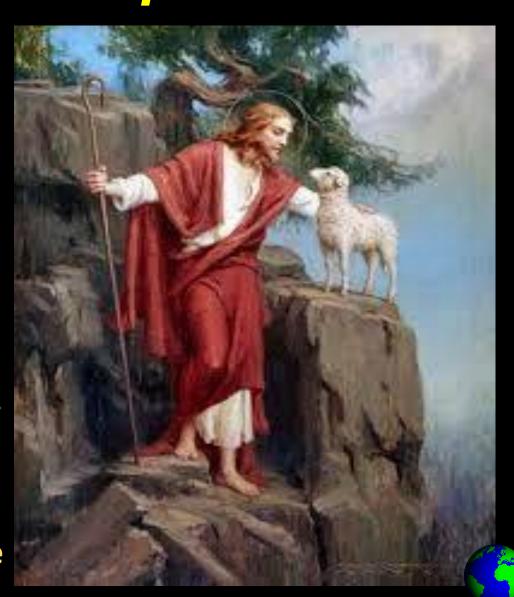
## Promises for God's People

Of His people God says, "They shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon His land. For how great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty!" Zechariah 9:16, 17.

The exaltation of the redeemed will be an eternal testimony to God's mercy....

Through Christ's redeeming work the government of God stands justified. The Omnipotent One is made known as the God of love. Satan's charges are refuted, and his character unveiled. Rebellion can never again arise. Sin can never again enter the universe. Through eternal ages all are secure from apostasy. By love's self-sacrifice, the inhabitants of earth and heaven are bound to their Creator in bonds of indissoluble union.—The Desire of Ages, p. 26.

I believe by praying in the last days the way Jesus and Daniel prayed in their days, we will see some pretty amazing conversions in our day.



#### The Greatest Lesson of All

The greatest lesson from Daniel 4 was expressed by Jesus over six hundred years later:

"He who exalts himself will be humbled and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Matthew 23:12).

Notice in this verse that the proud person exalts himself and therefore someone else humbles him. On the other hand the lowly person humbles himself and someone else exalts him. That is, if we don't take care of the humbling, God will!!

The mystery of iniquity is characterized by a desire to ascend:

At the very beginning of human history Eve desired to exalt herself to the level of God but she and her husband ended up in the dust (see Genesis 3:1-6, 19). In this context it is interesting that the word 'humility' comes from humus which means 'dust' or 'dirt'.

When we realize that we are but dust, then God can do something great for us and through us.





#### The Greatest Lesson of All (cont'd)

#### **Ezekiel 28 explains that Lucifer manifested the four sins of pride:**

- 1) He became proud of his wisdom and corrupted it (Ezekiel 28:12)

- 2) He was filled with pride because of his beauty (Ezekiel 28:12-17)
  3) He exalted himself because of his riches (Ezekiel 28:4-5),
  4) He aspired to a position of power (Ezekiel 28:2, 3, 6; Isaiah 14:12-14).

Because he exalted himself, he will be cast down to the pit (Ezekiel 28:8, 17, 18). It is worth remembering that without the jewel of reason that God gives us we would have none of these four qualities. In order to be wise you must have a brain and the brain must be able to reason!

- Isaiah 14 depicts Lucifer's desire to ascend to the very heights of God's throne and for this reason he was cast down and shall be cast down (Ezekiel 14:12, 14, 15).
- Absalom aspired to take David's throne and ended up buried in the pit (2 Samuel 18:17-18).
- The man of lawlessness wants to make himself God but will end up thrown into the fiery abyss (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).





### The Greatest Lesson of All (cont'd)

The Mystery of Godliness, on the other hand, is characterized by a desire to descend:

1 Timothy 3:16 begins with God coming down and taking human flesh and it ends up with him going up and being received in glory.

Psalm 22:1-21 describes the suffering and humiliation of Jesus even to the point of being placed in the dust. But Psalm 22-30 describe the glorious exaltation of Jesus in the heavenly courts.

Philippians 2:6-11 tells us that because Jesus humbled Himself, he was highly exalted and given a name that is above every name.

Jesus has eternally subordinated Himself to the Father. Even before sin came into this world the Son executed the Father's plans and was subject to His authority. And yet the Father and the Son are equals but they have different functions. Voluntary subordination according to God's plan does not mean inferiority. While Jesus was on earth He was also subordinate to His Father even to the point of saying: "the Father is greater than I." Now, the Father is still the head of Christ (I Corinthians 11:3). Finally, when sin is eradicated from the universe, Jesus will subject Himself eternally to His Father (I Corinthians 15:24-28).





### The Greatest Lesson of All (cont'd)

The declaration of Jesus, "He who humbles himself will be exalted and he who exalts himself will be humbled" is used in three different contexts in the gospels.

- 1) Matthew 23:12 where Jesus spoke about the pride of the Pharisees.
- 2) Luke 14:11 where Jesus spoke about those who always wish to occupy the first seats.
- 3) Luke 18:14 where Jesus contrasts the Pharisee and the Publican. Jesus also expressed the same concept when He stated that the first shall be last and the last shall be first (see Matthew 20:16; Mark 9:35; 10:31). Jesus also illustrated the principle in action when he instituted the ordinance of humility (see John 13).

See also James 4:6, 10; I Peter 5:5, 6.

The law of life is the law of service. The law of death is the law of self-service. The secret of life is to give of yourself to others.

- The Sea of Galilee receives to give and it is full of life.
  The Dead Sea receives and does not give and it has no life.

When Nebuchadnezzar looked up to God, he came to his senses again (Daniel 4:34).



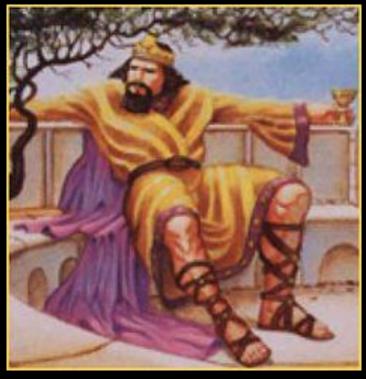




### Summary

"The once proud monarch had become a humble child of God; the tyrannical, overbearing ruler, a wise and compassionate king. He who had defied and blasphemed the God of heaven, now acknowledged the power of the Most High and earnestly sought to promote the fear of Jehovah and the happiness of his subjects. Under the rebuke of Him who is King of kings and Lord of lords. Nebuchadnezzar had learned at last the lesson which all rulers need to learn — that true greatness consists in true goodness. He acknowledged Jehovah as the living God, saying, 'I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and His ways judgment: and those that walk in pride He is able to abase'.

"God's purpose that the greatest kingdom in the world should show forth His praise was now fulfilled. This public proclamation, in which Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the mercy and goodness and authority of God, was the last act of his life recorded in sacred history". —Prophets and Kings, p. 521.





## Application for us today...

- God is the true and highest Lord. He is the Lord over politics. He is also Lord over dictators who plague humanity. He carries out His plans behind the scenes. Soon He will establish His eternal kingdom from which everything negative will be banned.
- As God revealed Himself to Nebuchadnezzar, so He reveals Himself to us. He does this through answered prayers, experiences, and fellow humans—but especially through His Word, the Holy Scriptures. In some sense we are better off today than people were in the past: we have the full Word of God available to us.
- Just as God drew Nebuchadnezzar to Himself, God does not give up on us in His persevering love. Even when we go through bitter situations and experiences, God's goal for us is our salvation.
- As Nebuchadnezzar made a decision for God, we too need to decide if God is our Lord.
- We must share our experience with others as Nebuchadnezzar did. Everyone should have the chance to experience the joy of belonging to God, our Saviour and Lord.





## Steps for Conversion & Salvation

Just as Nebuchadnezzar experienced conversion and salvation, and we can too! Let's look at this in four simple steps.

Simple Step 1: Acknowledge Our Need

Psalms 32:5 - We need to recognize our need to be saved. The person that doesn't see his/her need, will not seek God's help.

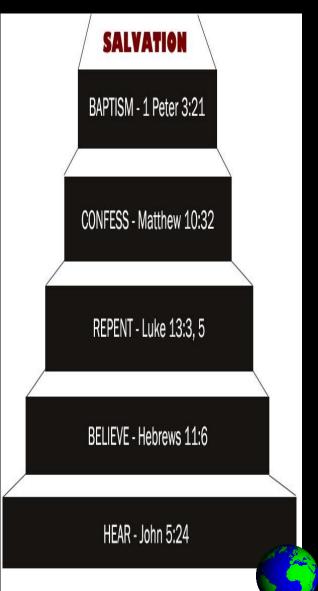
**Simple Step 2**: Confess Our Sins

We need to confess our sins to God and those we have injured. Jesus tells us in 1 John 1:9.

**Simple Step 3**: Born Again of Water and the Spirit

John 3:3-5 - Jesus tells us that we need to be "born again" by water and the Spirit. What Does It Mean to be born again? See John 8:21-24.

Jesus tells us the problem: we are born with the sinful nature of the world. Christ tells us we need to be born again to enter into His kingdom, born from Above! In other word's we need a New Nature! We need to be born of the water through baptism, symbolizing the death of our old man of sin and raised up out of the water into a newly resurrected life in Jesus. (Romans 6:3-6)



#### Steps for Conversion & Salvation (cont'd)

As the Holy Dove rested upon Christ at His baptism, so we also will be born of the spirit, the Holy Spirit. We will stand perfect in Christ, clothed only in His precious blood-bought righteousness. Then our daily prayer will be, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me" - Psalms 51:10.

Simple Step 4: Walking in the Light and abiding in Christ Read Matthew 7:21-23 Jesus declares that preachers that prophesied, faith healers that healed, and people doing many wonderful works will be included in the group that He professes to them, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Therefore, Jesus is calling us to, not just be religious, but spiritual. As baby Christians, we will grow up into the stature of Christ. Because of His power and love, we will do the will of the Father and not the works of iniquity because the Holy Spirit will guide us into ALL TRUTH. As we cooperate with the Holy Spirit, as we allow Him to make us willing to walk in the LIGHT, His perfect will is fulfilled in us. As He works "In us both to will and to do of His good pleasure," He enables us to be obedient to all that He asks in His Word (see Philippians 2:13, John 3:18-19, Acts 5:32, Romans. 8:4).



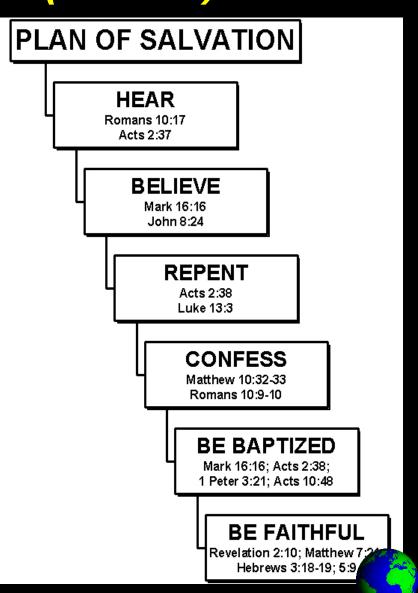
#### Steps for Conversion & Salvation (cont'd)

The only way to surrender and stay surrendered daily is to walk in the light, by being obedient to the truths of God's Word. John tells us "If we walk in the light, as he (Jesus) is in the Light." See 1 John 1:6-7

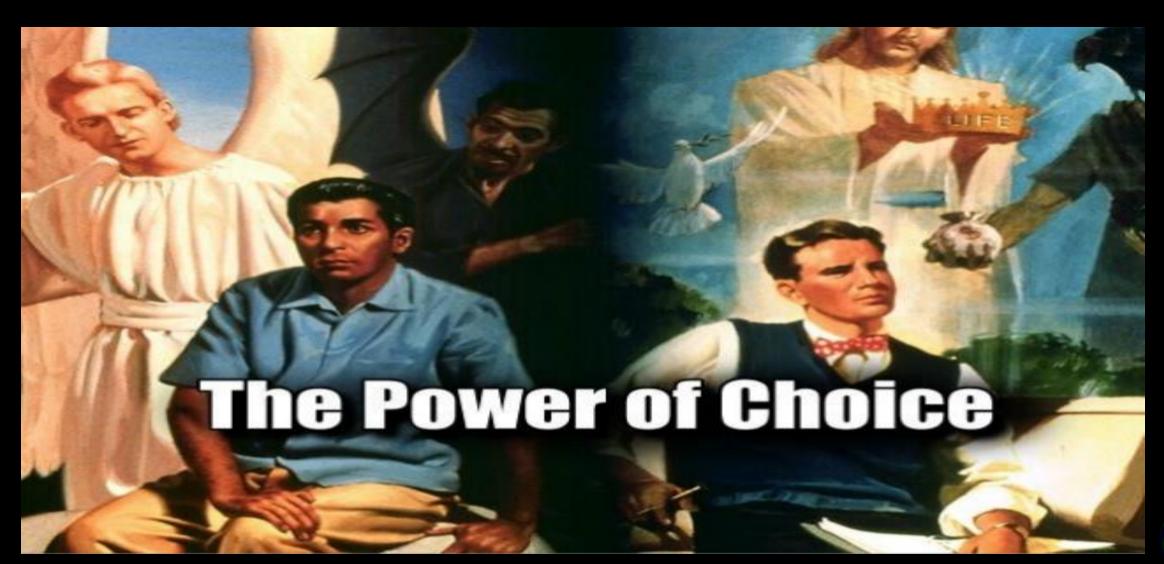
Key Point: The key is to invite Jesus into your heart, and surrendering your whole heart to Him. Let Him live out His life within you and keep that living connection alive every day by abiding in Christ and letting Him abide in you. For Jesus tells us... See John 15:4-7

It is that living connection with Jesus that helps us to grow more and more like Him each day. The Holy Spirit will fill our lives as we study, helping us to understand and do the will of the Father. Jesus loves us so much that He was willing to lay down His life for each and every one of us. See John 15:13

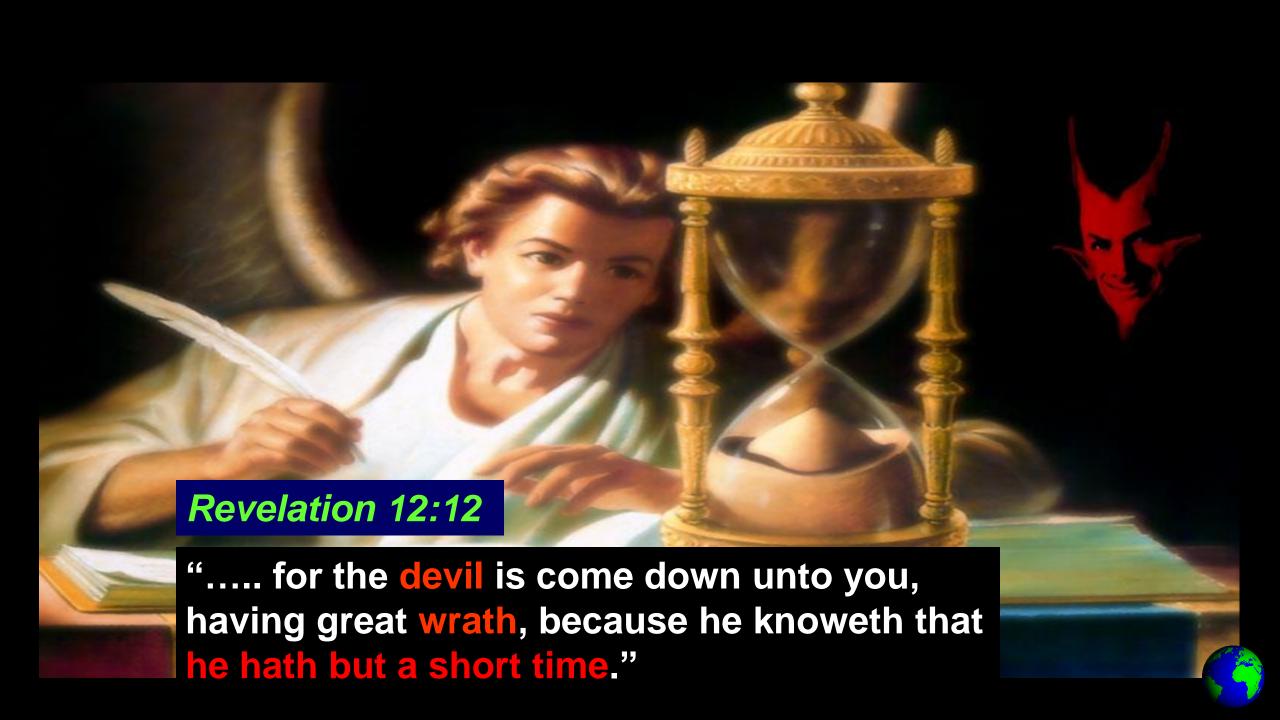
Today, He is calling you, just like He did Nebuchadnezzar, to love Him enough to follow Him and walk in His LIGHT. Will you make a decision to surrender to Him today?



# God has given all:







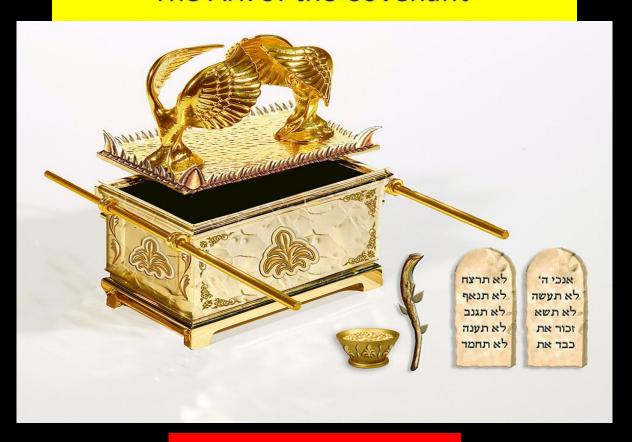
#### Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

- John 10:16



#### The Ark of the Covenant



**Psalms 77:13** 

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. -Revelation 3:20





