

## Daniel 24 – Nebuchadnezzar: The Saved Man

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Daniel 4:34-37

### Salvation Changes You: “Come Let Us Reason Together...” <sup>vs. 11-16</sup>

Before Salvation



Unreasonable – Animalistic

After Salvation



Reasonable – Man

### Similarities to Job: Another Gentile Saved by Adversity

Job

- Wealthy potentate, well known
- Religious; priest over his family
- Reduced to poverty and lived as an animal on trash; retained mind
- His ordeal lasted extended period
- God restored: “Clothe yourself ...as a man...answer Me”
- Job gave humbled confession
- God doubled Job’s position

Nebuchadnezzar

- Potentate over great civilization
- Religious; the priest of his society
- Reduced to animalistic mind and forced into nature
- His ordeal lasted seven years
- God restored: “...my reason returned...I blessed {God}...”
- King gave humbled confession
- God magnified his Majesty

Job lived before, during or after Abraham and was saved out of adversity with visible restoration that dramatically illustrated his changed nature: i.e., Salvation

## Difference in Nebuchadnezzar's Natures

### Sin Nature (Job 2:22)

- Self Pride self taking responsibility for others' accomplishments
- Attributing accomplishments of God to his gods (Covetousness)
- What was known of God was perverted to self and Nature
- Asebeia nature could not be undone by his efforts (Works) (Job 13:23)
- Rejected God's mercy and grace remaining in sin (Job 21:4-8; 1:8-28; 9:4-14; 17)

### New Heart (Job 1:10)

- Humbled self looking **up** to God rather than down at self
- Attributing accomplishments to God: In Heaven and on Earth
- What was known of God was shown to him by God (Job 1:21; 1:14-16)
- Eusebeia nature not obtained by logic or miracles (Job 5:27-32; 11:6-12)
- Humbled by God's majesty and grace who saved him (Job 19:23)

## Cross Cultural Exchange: Only Nebuchadnezzar Benefited

### Kabbalah

- Jews called out of idolatry (Job 34:1-5)
- Jews embraced idolatry over Law (Job 32:1-6)
- Jews perverted Law to idolatry via Moses' grandson (Lev 18:27-31)
- Northern Kingdom embraced idolatry; outlawing Law (Job 12:25-32)
- Southern Kingdom sent into Captivity due to worse idolatry; Kabbalah & Talmud developed (Job 8:22; Job 21-32)

### Truth

- Nimrod unified king-priest (Job 41:1-6)
- After Babel men spread idolatry (Job 10:8-20)
- What was known of God was replaced by man & Nature (Job 10:8-26)
- Babylonia's idolatry was height of Mesopotamian culture (Job 4:30)
- Nebuchadnezzar's salvation may have broken hold of Marduk; but subsequent rulers not saved (Job 31:4)

## Nebuchadnezzar's Psalm to God: Consistent with Jewish Psalms

- Nebuchadnezzar does not launch into a logical apologetic of **why** he has changed; lost nature would not understand; instead, he gives a hymn that the saved nature would understand demonstrating a true change (Job 11)
  - God's dominion, stone cut without hands; vision, is everlasting; both before this Creation and after this Creation - Nebuchadnezzar's kingship a puff of air
  - God is infinite; all persons who ever and will ever exist are nothing because he is complete in Himself, the Potter who makes this existence (Job 21:25-34; Job 18:1-17; Job 9:19-25)
  - God has authority over Heaven (angels) and earth (people) because He is their maker according to His will (Job 1:3-12)
  - There is none who can hold God accountable for none is above God; this is the mind of the sinner, the mind of Job who could not answer God even about the least of God's physical creation let alone forces behind the visible (Job 38:4; Job 11:2)

## Nebuchadnezzar's Kingship Restored: His Majesty Increased with His Humility

- This is the third time in this chapter Nebuchadnezzar exalts the Lord showing he has completely embraced Daniel's God as very God (vs 37:15-25)
  - With the removal of his demonic possession, Nebuchadnezzar's prideful advisors return to him (This would include Daniel and his three companions)
  - He is restored to the throne as ruler as God promised with greater influence as a wise king; increased in wisdom (vs 14:28; 20:28; 22:4; 21:2-3)
  - Nebuchadnezzar bows before God's glory knowing only the Lord can humble the proud flesh; in this life (salvation) or at the Judgment (vs 20:7-15; 40:5-10)
  - Nebuchadnezzar may have kept the outward societal trappings to prevent disintegration of his culture and to also not demand everyone accept a false outward morality just as Naaman was allowed in his official duties (vs 3:15-18; 1Co 9:1-12)
  - Probably weakened future kings' adherence to Marduk worship and ceremonies: Cyrus attributed Babylon's defeat to irreverence of Marduk (Nabonidus-Sin god)

## Latter Days Eschatology: Presages *First Fruits* {Gentile} Salvation

- God performed this dramatic salvation as a metaphor presaging *First Fruits Dispensation* (Church Age) (vs 4:25-30; 9:1-11; 12)
  - In Jewish Talmudic writings Nebuchadnezzar vilified for destroying Temple even though God miraculously saved him while they developed their customs
  - Persian Jews relied on their own trickery and sexual manipulation rather than on prayer and faith in God; celebrated pass works by false feast, Purim (vs 6:1-6)
  - Returning Jews codified their new traditions (Talmud, Midrash, etc.); remained prideful and killed Messiah when He came in humility (vs 1:1; vs 12:34-37; 26:3-6)
  - Christ gave Jews sign of Jonah, not simply because of three days in the fish; but also because Jonah sent to save Gentiles whom he hated (Booth) (vs 1:1-3; 2:1-12; 3:3-10; 4:3-11; Mt 12:40-46; 12:28-42)
  - Prodigal Son parable focused on elder son of works (Jews) who hated his father (God) for His humility and forgiveness of the young son who repented (vs 12:11-32)

## Issue is Not Defending God's Holiness: Issue is Rejoicing in God's Salvation

- All false religions are works-based seeking to prove their rightness often by violence showing that they are not of God but of Satan, bringing death out of life (Physical) (vs 6:4)
  - An entire retinue in Heaven continually defends and worships His holiness (vs 6)
  - There is more rejoicing in Heaven over the salvation of sinners as it reflects the humility and death of the Son bringing life out of death (Spiritual) (vs 10:3-7; 1Th 1:10; Mt 2)
  - Lost Jews and Gentiles, seek to enslave the world, the masses, to themselves (elves) because this is the goal of their Father, Satan (vs 14:12-17; vs 28:15-18)
  - Christ came not just for Jews, who were hardened in their sinful pride; He also came for Gentiles who had no hope or expectation of salvation (vs 10:17; 14:147-15)
  - Prideful do not seek salvation; God saves those who hate Him just as He came to Nebuchadnezzar, Paul, you, me, etc. (vs 2:15-17; 14:17-22; 16:19-21)

## Abram and Sari: Metaphors of Life from Death

- Lives of Abram and Sari are metaphors of God's salvation of life for those who walk in death except for God's grace (He 12:1-13)
  - Abram walked in idolatry with no hope of life until God came and called him to Himself; Talmudic imaginations picture something much different occurring
  - Abram was saved by faith before receiving sign of circumcision separating Jews out of the World to be His witnesses in the World (He 4:1-13)
  - Sari's womb was dead, barren, incapable of life until God quickened it so life came from death in Isaac; works-based efforts produced a slave child who tormented the child of Promise (He 1:13-15; Ga 4:21-31)
  - After the Dispensation of First Fruits, True Jews will be called out of death into life spreading the Gospel during the Great Tribulation (La 30:4-5; E 37:1-14; 2e 12:10; Re 7:1-8)

## Nebuchadnezzar's Tree Exchanged for Tree of Life

- Nebuchadnezzar's vision began with the picture of himself as the tree of life for the animals of the earth; and such was Mesopotamian culture
  - Idolatry spread throughout the earth from Nimrod by Mesopotamian culture and is extant today as Luciferianism with branches of Gnosticism, Post Humanism, Pantheism and all beliefs which reject Christ as Savior (1a: 220-23; 4:1-3)
  - God snipped this tree because it is not a tree of life but of death fit only for those who remain entrenched in their animalistic sin
- Tree of Life embraces the Bible, Gospel; once man sinned, they no longer ate from Tree of Life lest they remain trapped in their sinful flesh, unable to leave this body which is only designed for this creation (1a: 25; 1b: 332-34; 1c: 15-40-45)
- All saved will have access to Tree of Life for eternity in New Jerusalem (He 12:1-13)

## Each Life a Sapling of Death: Salvation Changes into Sapling of Life

- Like Nebuchadnezzar, every life is a tree of death spreading **bad** fruit
  - Trees with no or bad fruit **cursed** by Christ; represents those who remain in their sin; i.e., not saved (1a: 21; 1b: 17; 1c: 23-30-42; Re 20:11-13)
  - Trees cannot become **good** trees unless grafted in by Christ; i.e., new nature of true salvation (He 10:1-16; 20:2; 3:17)
  - Each person sins after salvation; difference? Our new nature conscience convicts us of sin, and we repent; those still lost resist their conscience until it is seared; without guilt (1b: 43-2; 1c: 18-19)
  - Holy Spirit convicts the world, and all who sin, of sin, righteousness and judgment (1a: 16:2-18)
  - Every person is a missionary; either of death or life; Nebuchadnezzar was changed from death to life as was his message
  - What is the message people read in your life? (1a: 32)