

1 Daniel 4 Part 1

Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd Dream

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2 Nebuchadnezzar's Pride Leads to Humbling

- ◇ In Daniel 1 – 3, we've seen an increased appreciation by Nebuchadnezzar of Yahweh.
- ◇ Nebuchadnezzar has much more to learn due to his inherent pride
- ◇ He needs to learn that God and God alone is sovereign over the affairs of humanity, including kings

3 Nebuchadnezzar's Pride Leads to Humbling

- ◇ Daniel 4 sets forth several lessons for Nebuchadnezzar (and us)
 - ◇ Nebuchadnezzar was THE sovereign of his day over all Gentile kingdoms (including Jewish Israel)
 - ◇ But God proves He is sovereign over even that
 - ◇ Ultimately, Nebuchadnezzar's humbling paints a picture of the humbling that will visit this world at the physical return of our Lord
 - ◇ Then He will destroy all human governments!

4 Nebuchadnezzar's Pride Leads to Humbling

- ◇ "The contest between God and Nebuchadnezzar is a broad illustration of God's dealings with the entire human race and especially the Gentile world in its creaturely pride and failure to recognize the sovereignty of God." (Walvoord)
- ◇ Daniel 5 proves this, when we see Babylon's fall, by Darius the Mede
- ◇ "Daniel 4 provides one of the Bible's greatest lessons about pride, particularly for those who look at their own accomplishments and give themselves all the credit." (Tanner)
- ◇
- ◇

5 Nebuchadnezzar's Pride Leads to Humbling

- ◇ Nebuchadnezzar's "benediction" to the entire world proves he was *the* human ruler of that day
- ◇ He extolled the greatness of the Jews' God, Yahweh
- ◇ Calling Yahweh the "most High" means Yahweh is higher than any other known god to Nebuchadnezzar
- ◇ Though Nebuchadnezzar had great respect for Yahweh, as we noted, it does not mean he became a monotheist in practice
- ◇ The king's praise of Yahweh opens and closes this chapter
- ◇
- ◇

6 Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd Dream

- ◇ This dream likely came during the later years of Nebuchadnezzar's reign
- ◇ Historians note there were 7 years when he did not engage in any military campaigns
- ◇ This may have been the seven years when he was in the wilderness

- ◇ It is also possible that it was during this time that the king had the hanging gardens built and other beautifications to Babylon done

- ◇

- ◇

7 **Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd Dream**

- ◇ While the king "flourished" and "rested" (v 4), he had a dream

- ◇ The dream made him afraid and troubled him greatly

- ◇ He called all the wise men and demanded they provide the interpretation

- ◇ This time, the king TELLS them the dream and simply wants an interpretation

- ◇ They couldn't do it

- ◇ Daniel came in and the king tells him his dream (vv 10 – 17)

- ◇

- ◇

8 **Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd Dream**

- ◇ The dream:

- ◇ A great, tall tree

- ◇ It grew to great heights and became strong

- ◇ It could be seen from anywhere on earth

- ◇ Everything about the tree was beautiful

- ◇ It was food for everything, including birds, beasts and humans

- ◇ God was providing a picture of Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom

- ◇

- ◇

9 **Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd Dream**

- ◇ The dream:

- ◇ The king sees a "watcher" – probably the way a polytheist would describe an angelic messenger

- ◇ Earthly kings used watchmen to keep their ears and eyes open throughout their kingdoms

- ◇ Nebuchadnezzar simply believed this to be an agent of the gods doing the same thing

- ◇ The watcher says to cut down the tree and remove branches

- ◇ Leaving the stump means it would grow again to some degree

- ◇

- ◇

10 **Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd Dream**

- ◇ The dream:

- ◇ The tree cut down represented the king out of his mind

- ◇ It would last for seven periods of time

- ◇ This means "years" in Daniel 7:25 and could mean that here

- ◇ Daniel 4:17 reveals purpose for this judgment:

- ◇ To teach all people that the Most High God (cf. 3:26) is sovereign over all the affairs of

humankind (v. 17; cf. vv. 25, 32; 2:21; 1 Sam. 2:7-8; Job 5:11)



11 **Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd Dream**

◇ The dream:

◇ God tried to teach His complete sovereignty to Nebuchadnezzar (chs. 2, 3), but the king had not learned his lesson.

◇ Verse 17 states God's supremacy over all Creation - the theme of the entire book of Daniel.

◇ The king asks Daniel to interpret the meaning of the dream.

◇ The soothsayers were unable to offer any type of explanation/interpretation. Nothing at all.



12 **Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd Dream**

◇ Next time we will deal with the interpretation of this second dream of King Nebuchadnezzar from Daniel 4:19 ff

