

1. Apparently a number of years transpired between the experience of Daniel's three friends in chapter 3 and Nebuchadnezzar's dream and period of insanity in chapter 4.
2. This fourth and final incident from the life of Nebuchadnezzar belongs to the period when his great building projects had been completed. (4:30)
3. Nebuchadnezzar reigned for 43 years. His condition lasted seven years and he returned to the throne for a short time afterward before he died.
4. His last years did not take place until he had time to conclude his extensive building operations.
5. So - this incident may have taken place about the 35th year of Nebuchadnezzar's rule. This would be some 30 years after the experience of the three men in the fiery furnace - about the 50th year of Daniel's life.
6. Chapter 4 is the climax of Nebuchadnezzar's spiritual biography, which began with his encounter with Daniel and Daniel's three companions. (Ezekiel 28:3)
7. However - the events contained in chapter 4 do not confirm Nebuchadnezzar's conversion.
8. A major lesson can be learned from the contest between God and Nebuchadnezzar - Gentile nations in their pride and failure to recognize the God of all creation will come under His judgment.
9. The theme of the chapter is found in verse 25.
10. Daniel recorded an official proclamation made by Nebuchadnezzar - which was circulated throughout his realm. (4:1-3)
11. The expression "Most High God" is another evidence that Nebuchadnezzar regards the God of Israel as exalted - but still is not proof of his conversion.
12. It expresses the greatness of this God without necessarily stressing that He is greater than all other gods.
13. Nebuchadnezzar was experiencing peace and prosperity on every hand throughout the kingdom. His opposition had been subdued, and there was no serious threat to his authority.
14. At the time of the next dream he was in bed in his palace. (4:4-7)
15. Coming in late - Daniel is immediately addressed by Nebuchadnezzar in an attempt to have his dream interpreted. (4:8-18)
14. The purpose of this illness is made plain: it is to humble one who has forgotten his human dependence on the Most High - the One who decides who is to receive the right to rule.
15. No doubt, Daniel was not only troubled by the content of the dream but also by the need to tell Nebuchadnezzar the interpretation in an appropriate way. (4:19-27)

16. The fact that the stump was not to be uprooted (v15) indicates that the king would be restored to the throne.
17. However, that restoration would not take place till Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged God's sovereign right to rule.
18. Although the fulfillment of the dream was not immediate - the decree sums it up concisely. (4: 28-33)
19. Nebuchadnezzar's pride had reached a new peak.
20. The building of Babylon was one of Nebuchadnezzar's principal occupations. Inscriptions for about 50 building projects have been found - usually made of brick and sometimes stone.
21. The restoration of Nebuchadnezzar comes in the closing of chapter 4. (4:34-37)
22. Nebuchadnezzar's immediate reaction was to offer praise to Daniel's God.
23. What effect this had on his belief in other deities is not stated - but it at least opens the door to the possibility Came to the point to recognize the God of Israel as the one true and living God.
24. Even in pagan Babylon there was a witness—spiritual light—to the power and reality of God.
25. In the latter part of verse 37 - the moral lesson of the story is presented, "And those who walk in pride he is able to humble." It also connects back to verse 25.