


 <h2>Daniel 20 – Signs of True Balance</h2> <p>Dr. Leon L. Sanders Daniel 4:4-9</p>	
 <h2>Prologue – Signs from God: Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Pharaoh (Egypt) a sign that unbelievers seek to enslave or destroy God's elect: Great Tribulation (Jo 1:13-24)■ Nebuchadnezzar (Gentiles) a sign that God will bring salvation to Gentiles when Jews reject him: First Fruits Dispensation<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ John the Baptist – Warned Jews to prepare to face God's wrath or bear fruits showing true repentance (Lu 9:13, 14:27-31)■ Christ – Proclaimed His Messiahship at Nazareth but was rejected; He informed them that salvation had come to Gentiles when Jews rejected Him (Lk 4:16-30)<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Elijah sent only to a Gentile woman saving her during God's three year famine■ Elisha healed only a Gentile of leprosy instead of Jews who had leprosy■ God saved Nebuchadnezzar instead of Jews because of their rejection of Him	
 <h2>Perceived Balance</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ People often read these opening passages quickly on their way to the miracle; however, understanding the imagery is essential to grasping the significance of the miracle, why God did what He did; thus the king, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ase (נִרְוָה; Seia) in his palace, he felt safe, secure<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ According to Nebuchadnezzar's faith this meant that he was maintaining order or balance with Marduk; controlling chaos■ It was the role of humans, through their leaders, to assist Marduk in controlling the forces of chaos in return for his freeing them from the burdens of life laid on them by defeating Kingu, leader of Tiamat's army (Tiamat: Feminine snake [Salt Sea] killing the lesser gods before being killed by Marduk)■ Nebuchadnezzar was asebeia, he could only discern from what he knew; he did not understand God whom he supposedly acknowledged earlier (Da 2:46-47, 2:28-29, 4:1:18-20)	



Perceived Prosperity

- Nebuchadnezzar coupled perceived balance with prosperity; when society does not perceive safety and prosperity, rioting and chaos quickly follows; this is from Nebuchadnezzar's point of view
 - Aramaic word translated as prosperous (ܒܝܝܪ; ra'dhan) carries the imagery of a green fruitful branch
 - Nebuchadnezzar perceived no internal or external conflicts, the harvest was, or will be, plentiful nor did he perceive any personal threats; i.e., life was good
 - This was an illusion because Nebuchadnezzar did not understand his precarious relationship with God; he was in danger of eternal Death (see 12:14-20, 1Co 10:11-12)
 - Satan had lulled Nebuchadnezzar into a false sense of security based solely on the evidence from his perception; this is the foolishness of the lost as they do not perceive their true spiritual condition; enmity with God (see 12-13)



Perceived Chaos {Unbalance}: Fear

- Fear is the perception of uncontrollable danger or chaos; in this instance it was the blessing of God to reveal to Nebuchadnezzar his true spiritual condition: enmity with God or eternal chaos in Lake of Fire
 - Nebuchadnezzar received a vision of God that made him afraid though he did not specifically understand the dream; his soul was no longer at ease, felt safe
 - His imagination and unbridled perceptions would not allow him inner peace or further sleep
 - This was a crisis of state as it foreshadowed the intrusion of chaos which could manifest in several forms such as failed harvests, war or even personal enemies
 - Nebuchadnezzar calls for his retinue of advisors to interpret his dream, vision; notice that he does not threaten them and he tells them the dream; they do not try to gin up an interpretation because, Daniel has probably been forcing them to be accountable with consequences



Daniel, Belteshazzar, Appears

- The reader is reminded that Daniel is named after Nebuchadnezzar's god; indeed, the King's words also demonstrate his ignorance of Daniel's god
 - Daniel is praised for having the spirit of the holy gods, twice reinforcing the idolatry of the King despite the two previous miracles
 - Nebuchadnezzar is basically giving Daniel's idols praise for Daniel's gift of interpretation; making Daniel chief over the wise men was the King's way of maintaining balance among all the gods
 - Nebuchadnezzar is looking to Daniel to give him the interpretation so he can restore balance: prevent chaos
- It is essential the modern reader to understand this primacy of balance that is still used today by people, weak to powerful, as justification for their political philosophies and actions

Job: Lesson in Misperceived Balance

- Job's frequent sacrifices for the perceived sins of his adult children was his attempt to maintain balance with God (Job 1-2)
 - He was attempting to mitigate the consequences of their lifestyle choices via frequent Ascending Sacrifices
 - They never took responsibility for their own standing with God and suffered the consequences when God called for their souls (Job 12:14-27)
 - Job believed **he** failed to maintain balance; thus, he did not blame God or his children; he just needed to try **harder**
 - When Satan accused God of buying Job's allegiance, it was really him who had been allowed to place Job in the place of failure through wealth, deceiving him
 - God brought Job to a place of **true** understanding of Him which brought Job to salvation prefiguring Nebuchadnezzar's, and our, journey (Job 41:14)

Modern Man's Euphemisms of Balance

- Modern man claims to be free of the ignorance of ancient peoples yet man is man and there is **nothing** new under the sun; Modern man judges success and failure of self and leaders via plumb line of balance; though we use different terms to hide the Bible's truth from our minds (Job 19:11)
 - Fairness** - "marked by impartiality and **honesty**; free from self-interest, prejudice, or favoritism" (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fairness>)
 - Equality** - "the **right** of different **groups** of **people** to have a **similar social position** and **receive** the same **treatment**" (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/equality>)
 - Prosperity** - "the **state** of being **successful**" often evidenced by national security and opportunity to obtain wealth in some measure (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prosperity>)
 - Human Rights** - "Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world" (<https://www.unhcr.org/refugees/article/486942306/human-rights-declaration-of-1948.html>)

But They Were All of Them Deceived: No Balance Without God

- Just as Satan deceived Nebuchadnezzar and Job, so also is Modern man deceived by rhetoric
 - Though the United Nations (UN) Declaration of Human Rights promises to uphold rights of all people's, maintain balance, Article 29 (3) reads: "These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations."
 - This negates the entire Declaration as its own statements do not prevent it from realizing its own self-declared goals; the UN is above the Law, like Satan
 - There is no peace with Satan since he is a liar and murderer (Job 8:34, 21:44)
 - Peace with God means one does **not** have peace with the world (John 4:12-14)
 - The only balance that is true and will last for eternity is balance in Christ via repentance and salvation based **only** on His sacrifice despised by the world (John 1:29-30; Heb 12:1-18)