

# Daniel 21 – Black Swan of Imbalance

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Daniel 4:10-18

## What is a Black Swan?

- "The **Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable** is a 2007 book by author and former **options trader Nassim Nicholas Taleb**. The book focuses on the extreme impact of rare and unpredictable **outlier** events — and the human tendency to find simplistic explanations for these events, retrospectively"
- Nebuchadnezzar's was warned of an impending Black Swan event just as he perceived balance in his Kingdom



## Conflicting Realities

God's Reality



Nebuchadnezzar's Reality





## Elements of His Vision from God

- Nebuchadnezzar is reporting events as he perceives them; they do not correlate with his Marduk religiosity which is why neither he nor his advisors can interpret the vision; it is outside their frame of reference
  - He begins with a tree, just as Man's and Woman's sin began with a tree and our salvation begins with a tree (Taurus) (Dt 21:22-23, Gg 3:11-14)
  - The tree also correlates with his belief in the prosperity of his kingdom which was a green branch rich in fruit metaphor ( (1K): ra'dhan) (Dt 4:4)
  - Tree is composed of roots, trunk and branches which produce the fruit and man thinks he is the entire tree; however, for a saved person Christ is the root and trunk which means that for a lost person sin has corrupted (rotted) the root and trunk making it unfit for anything except destruction (Dt 32:31, 33:22, 34:12-14, 35:11-12)
  - Motif of the Tree of Life runs throughout Scripture (Dt 22:9, 34:22-2)



## Tree of Life to All on the Earth

- Tree in Nebuchadnezzar's vision was a great tree of life to all on the earth even unto the heavens
  - Tree was strong and visible to everyone; a beacon of hope to all who came to it
  - Its leaves and fruit were abundant, giving sustenance to all
  - Notice that animals figure prominently in his vision; people are not identified except in the phrase, "of flesh"
- This correlated with Nebuchadnezzar's view of how he had guided his kingdom with balance resulting in security and prosperity
  - By his standards he was successful; however, he was about to receive God's view of his success; the Black Swan was about to land
  - This was a warning of what was to come; shows that prophecies do not change behavior because one's nature does not change by signs alone



## What Babylon Contributed to the World – Death

- Babylonian culture was the apex of Mesopotamian culture and laid the framework for all succeeding cultures identified in his vision of the image that would be replaced by God's Kingdom, the Rock (Dt 32)
  - Babylon's paganistic religiosity would become the basis for the Mystery Religions with angeologies, secretive levels of special understanding; necromancies; astrologies and much that morphed into the following religions
  - Talmudic Judaism which Christ would label as their customs and traditions and would eventually spawn into Kabbalah mysticism; a type of Gnosticism
  - Gnosticism flourishes today across many belief systems in the form of Post Modernism; LG&QTA+; and Transhumanism which come together to remake the world according to their belief; i.e., replace Christ's Gospel with their lie (Dt 32:21-22)
  - All faiths, apart from the Gospel, will culminate in Antichrist worship via the False Prophet; transition studied in Nebuchadnezzar's vision of the image (Dt 32:44-45)

## Who Are the Watchers?

- Daniel, like Job, gives one a unique view behind the curtain of this physical reality; a glimpse of the spiritual realm
  - Babylon, and thus Talmudic/Kabbalistic Judaism, had a highly developed, though erroneous, view of spiritual forces at work in the world
  - Paganistic Babylon's view probably morphed into the Gnostic Aeon; spiritual beings who could be good and bad
  - Kabbalistic Judaism developed many names and traditions not found in Scripture giving rise to a mystic, though erroneous view, of angels (Metatron)
  - The Watchers is problematic as the Aramaic word is found only here; it appears closely akin to the Hebrew word meaning watchful and thus, it was assumed angels never sleep, is often translated as Watchers
  - Septuagint translates the word as ἀγγελος which means messenger and may refer to angels depending on context; phrase holy ones does suggest angels

## What Do These Angels Do?

- There is scant information in the Bible concerning angels which has led Christians, like Jews, to fill in the gaps with their imaginations; this is eisegesis which leads to errors and to be avoided
  - All angels are ministering **spirits** supporting those who are God's people (Heb 1:14)
  - Satan, and his demons (fallen angels) accuse His people seeking to prevent their salvation or blunting the reality of their full understanding of the Gospel (Luk 1:12)
  - Daniel gives us a view that each kingdom (nation) has corresponding demons and angels assigned to maintain God's ordain balance until the time (Dan 10:13, 20, 21)
  - Apparently, those angels assigned over nations carry out God's decrees and I believe this is what is meant in this passage
  - I believe Satan accused Nebuchadnezzar before God, as he did Job, and God allowed Satan to prune him within limits God allows; God still pulls good out of Satan's adversity; Life; being made in Christ's image (Balance) (Heb 4:15, 16)

## Angel's {Messenger's} Decree

- Nebuchadnezzar receives what Job did not, a warning in the form of this vision delivered by an angel
  - The tree was to be chopped down, branches lopped off, and leaves and fruit scattered
  - Animals would flee from the tree since it no longer succored them
  - The roots and stump would be spared though the stump would be bound with bands of iron and bronze (Judgment)
  - It would persist with the tender grass of the field and the dew of heaven
  - Nebuchadnezzar would live with and behave as one of the beasts of the field, cattle is implied, for seven years
  - This is to teach him that God reigns on high, the angels are administering His judgment which does not negate any action Satan may be allowed

## Purpose of Being Like an Animal

- Scripture frequently pictures sinners as being less than people illustrating the degradation of sin
  - Satan first pictured as an animal, Dragon, and continues as such until his judgment in the Lake of fire (Rev 9:17-19; 12:1, 11)
  - This includes not only the angels who rebelled with him but also applies to all who are born in sin and remain in sin (John 2:12-14; John 1:10)
  - All who sheltered under Babylon's culture, civil and religious, were depicted as animals denoting their lost state
  - Nebuchadnezzar will literally live as a brute beast (sinner) until God gives him salvation and he receives true human nature in Christ: Salvation
  - Believers who doubt, who become confused in their understanding are also imaged as cattle; but God brings them back to their senses as people (Ps 17:22-24)
  - Such is the true fall of Man and Woman: from people to animals: Evolution

## Insult to Injury {Idiom}

- The angel decrees what is determined for Nebuchadnezzar until the king realizes that God sets over the Kingdoms whom He wills
  - While Nebuchadnezzar considered himself the wisest of rulers; in God's eyes he was one of the lowest of men
  - This is also God's view of Cyrus whose kingdom will succeed his (Isaiah 45:1)
  - All rulers who persist in their own understanding rage against God and He laughs at them in their delusion (Ps 2:1-9)
  - All the rulers who refuse God's wisdom of the Gospel as being foolish, beneath them, will learn of His wisdom to their sorrow (1Co 1:18-25)
  - Metals of bronze and iron around the trunk denote not only judgment but also limitation as the degradation and time will go no further than God permits until Nebuchadnezzar, and us, learn that salvation turns sinners into people as God intended especially when united with our new bodies (1Co 15:42-51)

## Nebuchadnezzar's True Delusion: Is it Your Delusion Also?

- Nebuchadnezzar's true delusion was thinking that he was in control, that he had been instrumental in achieving balance evidenced by security and prosperity; God was awakening him to his awful reality to save him
  - When David sinned, he returned to behaving as an animal copulating with Bathsheba and murdering Uriah, a faithful husband, soldier and believer; God rebuked David bringing him back to humanity (2Sa 11:12-14)
  - World waxes worse and worse today because God has let sinners increasingly realize the full extent of their degradation which only results in greater degradation and violence in the name of love and peace (Ps 118:22)
  - Unfortunately, churches who should be safeguarding believers against their animalistic sins, embrace the degrading philosophies of the world just as Judah embraced her own harlotry to become the Mystery Whore of Babylon (Isa 23:11-40)
  - Let us not be as the Psalmist believer who nearly returned to being an animal, swayed by the world lest we discover our own Black Swan reality (Ps 73:26; 218:32)