



RESOLVED

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL



Book of Daniel

Written approx. 535 BC,
recording events that
occurred from 605-535 BC.



But Daniel **made up his mind** **[resolved]** that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself. Daniel 1:8

Daniel 1:8

וַיִּשֶׁם דָּנִיֵּאל עַל-לִבּוֹ

way·yā·śem dā·nî·yêl 'al- lib·bōw

Daniel resolved in his heart

Daniel made up his mind

Daniel purposed in his heart

Daniel determined





Turkey

Iraq

Syria

Tigris River

Euphrates River

Israel

Jordan

Babylon

Iran

Mediterranean Sea

Jerusalem

Egypt

Persian Gulf

The Babylonian Empire

606-536 BC



Daniel 4

This incident may have taken place about the 35th year of Nebuchadnezzar's rule, or about 570 AD. He would rule for a total of 43 years. This chapter would be some 30 years after the experience of the three men in the fiery furnace and about the 50th year of Daniel's life.



Nebuchadnezzar the king to all the peoples, nations, and men of every language that live in all the earth [king's testimony in an official proclamation]: "May your peace abound! It has seemed good to me to declare the signs and wonders which the Most High God has done for me. How great are His signs and how mighty are His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and His dominion is from generation to generation." Daniel 4:1-3



[looking back in time...]

“I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and flourishing in my palace. I saw a dream and it made me fearful; and these fantasies as I lay on my bed and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.”

Daniel 4:4-5



“So I gave orders to bring into my presence all the wise men of Babylon, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. Then the magicians, the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners came in and I related the dream to them, but they could not make its interpretation known to me.” Daniel 4:6-7



“But finally Daniel came in before me, whose [Babylonian] name is Belteshazzar according to the name of my god, and in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and I related the dream to him, saying, ‘O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, since I know that a spirit of the holy gods is in you and no mystery baffles you, tell me the visions of my dream which I have seen, along with its interpretation.’” Daniel 4:8-9



Daniel's character is our example

Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world Philippians 2:14-15



“ ‘Now these were the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed: I was looking, and behold, there was a tree in the midst of the earth and its height was great. The tree grew large and became strong and its height reached to the sky, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth [global empire]. Its foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches, and all living creatures fed themselves from it.’ ” Daniel 4:10-12



‘I was looking in the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed, and behold, an angelic watcher, a holy one, descended from heaven. He shouted out and spoke as follows: “Chop down the tree and cut off its branches, strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit; let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches.” ’ Daniel 4:13-14

*Previously Nebuchadnezzar had traveled to Lebanon to watch the felling of the great cedars to provide timber for his construction projects in Babylon. So he had witnessed the felling of mighty trees.



‘ ”Yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground [not uprooted], but with a band of iron and bronze around it [captive] in the new grass of the field; and let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him share with the beasts in the grass of the earth.” ’

Daniel 4:15



‘Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let a beast’s mind be given to him, and let seven periods [years?] of time pass over him. This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers [spiritual] and the decision is a command of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes and sets over it the lowliest of men.’ Daniel 4:16-17



Has the king not learned a lesson?

- The king answered Daniel and said, “Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery.” Daniel 2:47
- Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God.” Daniel 3:28



‘This is the dream which I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar [Daniel], tell me its interpretation, inasmuch as none of the wise men of my kingdom is able to make known to me the interpretation; but you are able, for a spirit of the holy gods is in you.’

Daniel 4:18



“Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was appalled for a while as his thoughts alarmed him. The king responded and said, ‘Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation alarm you.’ Belteshazzar replied, ‘My lord, if only the dream applied to those who hate you and its interpretation to your adversaries!’” Daniel 4:19



“The tree that you saw, which became large and grew strong, whose height reached to the sky and was visible to all the earth and whose foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt and in whose branches the birds of the sky lodged—” Daniel 4:20-21



‘it is you, O king; for you have become great and grown strong, and your majesty has become great and reached to the sky and your dominion to the end of the earth. In that the king saw an angelic watcher, a holy one, descending from heaven and saying, “Chop down the tree and destroy it; yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze around it in the new grass of the field, and let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him share with the beasts of the field until seven periods of time pass over him,” Daniel 4:22-23



‘this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: that you be driven away from mankind [palace] and your dwelling place be with the beasts of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods [years] of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.’ Daniel 4:24-25



‘And in that it was commanded to leave the stump with the roots of the tree, your kingdom will be assured to you after you recognize that it is Heaven that rules. Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you: break away now from your sins [repent] by doing righteousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor [acts which honor God], in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.’ Daniel 4:26-27



“All this happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king. Twelve months later [notice the patience of God as the king refused to repent] he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon.” Daniel 4:28-29

“Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked,” declares the Lord God, “rather than that he should turn from his ways and live? Ezekiel 18:23



God patiently waits for our repentance

- He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion. Proverbs 28:13
- Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord Acts 3:19
- He [Jonah] prayed to the Lord and said, “Please Lord, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity. Jonah 4:2



[King says to himself in self-exaltation...]

“ ‘Is this not Babylon the great,
which I myself have built as a royal
residence by the might of my
power and for the glory of my
majesty?’ ” Daniel 4:30

- “Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; assuredly, he will not be unpunished.”
Proverbs 16:5
- “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.” Galatians 6:7



Nebuchadnezzar built the Hanging Gardens, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, to remind his Median wife Amytis of her homeland.

Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Babylon during Nebuchadnezzar's reign undoubtedly was the most magnificent (and probably the largest) city on earth. Babylon was a rectangularly shaped city surrounded by a water-filled moat and double walls. The first double-wall system encompassed the main city. Its inner wall was 21 feet thick and reinforced with defense towers at 60-foot intervals while the outer wall was 11 feet in width and also had watchtowers. Nebuchadnezzar added another defensive double-wall system (an outer wall 25 feet thick and an inner wall 23 feet thick) east of the Euphrates that ran the incredible distance of 17 miles and was wide enough at the top for chariots to pass. Eight gates provided access to the city. Ishtar Gate on the north side was a massive double tower rising to a height of 40 feet and decorated with dragons of Marduk and bulls of Hadad. A bridge (400 feet long) spanned the Euphrates River and connected the east and west parts of the city. Fifty-three temples are said to have been present within Babylon.

-New American Commentary

Nebuchadnezzar had at least three palaces at Babylon, the principal residence being located in the southern citadel and covering about 350 by 200 yards. This palace included a beautifully decorated throne room. Babylon also boasted the famous “hanging gardens,” which the ancient Greeks considered one of the seven wonders of the world. According to the Babylonian historian Berosus, Nebuchadnezzar constructed these for his wife (Amytis) who had left the mountains of her native Media for the alluvial plains of Babylonia. Her husband, in effect, built a mountain in the city to remind his wife of her homeland. “These were elevated gardens, high enough to be seen beyond the city walls. They boasted many different kinds of plants and palm trees. Ingenious hoists had been contrived by which to raise water to the high terraces from the Euphrates River.” -New American Commentary

Hanging Gardens of Babylon

They were described as a remarkable feat of engineering with an ascending series of tiered gardens containing a wide variety of trees, shrubs, and vines, resembling a large green mountain constructed of mud bricks. It was said to have been built in the ancient city of Babylon, near present-day Hillah, Babil province, in Iraq. The name is derived from the Greek word κρεμαστός (*kremastós*, lit. 'overhanging'), which has a broader meaning than the modern English word "hanging" and refers to trees being planted on a raised structure such as a terrace. According to one legend, the Hanging Gardens were built alongside a grand palace known as *The Marvel of Mankind*, by the Neo-Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar II (who ruled between 605 and 562 BC), for his Median wife Queen Amytis, because she missed the green hills and valleys of her homeland. - Wikipedia





“While the word was in the king’s mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time [years] will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.’”

Daniel 4:31-32



“Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws.” Daniel 4:33



- In the disease of **zoanthropy** (an illness observed in modern times) a person thinks of himself as an animal and acts like one.
- In the mental disorder of **lycanthropy**, the patient believes that he is a wolf or some other nonhuman animal.
- In the disease of **boanthropy**, the sufferer believes he or she is a cow or ox.
- Perhaps, because of his royal position, Nebuchadnezzar was hidden in a secluded park so his true condition could be hidden from the populace. Also in the king's absence Daniel may have played a major role in preserving the kingdom and possibly in preventing anyone from killing the king. – Bible Knowledge Commentary



Daniel later says about Nebuchadnezzar...

“But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and his glory was taken away from him. He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like that of beasts, and his dwelling place was with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and that He sets over it whomever He wishes.” Daniel 5:20-21



[King's official proclamation continues...]

“But at the end of that period [7 years?], I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven [prayer] and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; for His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation.” Daniel 4:34



Our God is a Merciful God

- With the kind You show Yourself kind; with the blameless You show Yourself blameless; with the pure You show Yourself pure, and with the crooked You show Yourself astute. For You save an afflicted people, but haughty eyes You abase. Psalm 18:25-27
- “You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.” Exodus 20:5-6 (part of 10 Commandments)
- But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children’s children, to those who keep His covenant and remember His precepts to do them. Psalm 103:17-18



[King's official proclamation continues...]

“All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He [the God of Israel] does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’” Daniel 4:35



“At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me.” Daniel 4:36



[King's official proclamation continues...]

“Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.”

Daniel 4:37



We must be humble before God

- You turn things around! Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay, that what is made would say to its maker, “He did not make me”; or what is formed say to him who formed it, “He has no understanding”? Isaiah 29:16
- “Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker— an earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’ or the thing you are making say, ‘He has no hands’?” Isaiah 45:9
- You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?” On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, “Why did you make me like this,” will it? Romans 9:19-20



Lessons from Daniel 4

1. Every person is tempted to revel in their own strengths or accomplishments.
2. God deserves our humility and desires our humility.
3. Pride in self will be punished spiritually.
“Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; assuredly, he will not be unpunished.”
Proverbs 16:5
4. God is a righteous Judge who also offers the opportunity for repentance and restoration.
5. God the Creator is sovereign over all of His creation.
6. God gives wisdom to His faithful followers.



Why did Nebuchadnezzar waiver?

- Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:16
 - Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- *We must be a new creation in God,
not be informed about God



Was Nebuchadnezzar a true believer?

Since Nebuchadnezzar said that these attitudes characterized his life, many have concluded that he experienced regeneration, becoming a child of God. Nebuchadnezzar did confess that what God had done in dealing with him was right and just. This is certainly not acknowledged by one who continues in rebellion against God. The king also admitted that he had walked in pride (cf. 5:20) but had been humbled by his experience. This too would testify to a transformation in Nebuchadnezzar's character through a newfound knowledge of God.



Am I a true believer?

if you confess with your mouth
Jesus as Lord, and believe in your
heart that God raised Him from
the dead, you will be saved

Romans 10:9