

Danial 4 – Nebuchadnezzar’s Testimony

By Holly Effiom

VV1-3

To whom is Nebuchadnezzar addressing his message – only the people of Babylon?

What give him the right to speak to the whole earth? Dan 2:37-38

What is it that Nebuchadnezzar wishes to share with the whole earth?

At the end of Daniel 2 was Nebuchadnezzar a worshipper of God?

VV4-7

What is meant by the king, that he was at rest? Is it similar to 2 Sam 7:1, the rest God gave to David?

What does Nebuchadnezzar mean by saying he was flourishing?

What happened that upset the king?

What did the king do to try and resolve the issue?

Does this sound like Dan 2:2, when all the wise men were summoned before? Should the wise men feel good about being summoned?

If the king summons wise men whenever he needs an interpretation of a dream or vision, would you say that divination was a practice of the culture?

Would you say that if all magicians, astrologers, soothsayers, etc. are scammers? They would’ve have been killed off a long time ago – considering Dan 2.

LESSON: Chapter 4 of Daniel is such an interesting piece of scripture. Firstly, it is not written by a Jew; secondly, it is not written by one who is necessarily a “believer” (as has been shown in Dan 2 and 3); thirdly, it is similar to chapter 2, in that Nebuchadnezzar has a dream that he doesn’t understand – though this time he remembers it – and all the wise men are called in to interpret. Why would God allow a heathen to have a part in the holy scriptures? Could it be the word of his testimony?

How is it possible that God could allow non-Jews to have a part in salvation?

VV8-12

Why was Daniel brought in before the king?

Who is Belteshazzar?

Why does the king tell Daniel his dream? What makes him have confidence in Daniel?

What does the king see in his dream?

How is his vision related to the decree in Dan 2:37-38?

So, when the beasts of the field and fowls of the heaven, and all flesh are placed in subjection, what does this mean in practical terms?

Does V12 present an image of all the beasts, fowls, and flesh serving the tree; or, is the tree the one doing service? How do you know?

What does this teach us about “dominion” from God’s perspective?

LESSON: ***SPIRITUAL CONCEPT ***

Those who are great in God’s kingdom are NOT the ones being served; they are those DOING service. Luke 22:26

VV13-18

Is Nebuchadnezzar dreaming or is he awake and having a vision?

Who did he see in this vision?

Is the watcher the same as a holy one? How do you know?

What is a watcher? Are the watchers angels? How do you know?

What is the message from the angel?

What happens to the beasts and fowls when the tree is punished? (See Page 2, Spiritual Concept)

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Is the tree destroyed forever? What happens to it?

Who is making this judgment upon the tree?

To what purpose is the judgment being made?

Was this vision a warning or a prophecy?

VV19-26

What could happen to Daniel if the king was displeased with his interpretation?

Was there a supreme court or local congressman or senator to whom he could appeal?

What did the king say to put him at ease, so that he will get the true interpretation?

What does Daniel say? How does he describe the dream? Would this be a dream that a friend would have for you?

What does the tree represent?

What did it mean that the tree’s height “reached unto heaven” and that it “filled the earth”?

What did it mean for the tree’s leaves to be “...fair, and the fruit thereof much...”?

What does it mean that a watcher and holy one came from heaven with a decree?

What was the decree from heaven?

What did it mean that the stump and roots were to remain?

V27

What was Daniel’s advice to the king?

Does it sound as if Daniel knew whether or not this vision was a warning or a prophecy?

What is the goal of Daniel’s advice?

Why would it be to Daniel’s advantage that the king’s tranquility be lengthened? How is this related to the Page 2, Spiritual Concept?

Would you say that Daniel likes this king? Do you think he likes serving this king?

What does Daniel teach us about serving through his behavior? His:

- Attitude toward the leader?
- Attitude toward his craft?
- Attitude toward his own power and position?
- Attitude toward his own purpose?

LESSON: Daniel is a role model as a human being in doing his job without bitterness, even though he had plenty about which to be bitter. He is a role model as a worker – serving faithfully, doing his job to the best of his ability, and trying to be a blessing to others in the process. He is a role model for the faith – living in the midst of idolatry without becoming defiled by it himself.

When I grow up, I hope to be like Daniel.

VV28-33

What happened to Nebuchadnezzar?

How long after the dream was given to him did the events come to pass?

Does this mean the king heeded Daniel’s advice?

Was the dream a warning or a prophecy?

What was it that triggered the decree? Why?

What does this tell you about Nebuchadnezzar’s heart? How is this related to Matt 15:18?

So, what was it that God saw that made Him give Nebuchadnezzar a dream in the first place?

What does this tell you about God? Does He begrudge man power and glory? How do you know?

Would you say that the angels, as well as God, are watching what we do, and what we say at any moment?

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Would it be reasonable to say then that the angels or sons of God were an audience to the discussion that took place between God and satan in Job 1 and 2?

How soon after he blasphemed did Nebuchadnezzar’s dream become a prophecy?

What happened to Nebuchadnezzar?

VV34-37

What happened to Nebuchadnezzar after the 7 years had passed?

Was he angry with God afterward?

Did he have to go to war to get his kingdom back? Why or why not?

Did God choose to continue to punish Nebuchadnezzar?

What did Nebuchadnezzar learn about God?

What did Nebuchadnezzar learn about himself?

What is Nebuchadnezzar’s testimony then?

Was Nebuchadnezzar a believer by the end of Chapters 2 or 3?

Would you say Nebuchadnezzar is a believer at the end of Chapter 4?

LESSON: Nebuchadnezzar’s testimony by the end of Daniel 4 is a wonderful song of “Amazing Grace”. I don’t think he was a believer in anyone but himself until Daniel 4, where he bows his knee to the King of heaven.

Notice that Nebuchadnezzar’s humility and his willingness to share his story with others has earned him, a non-Jew, a permanent place in the Holy Scriptures. What an honor!