

DANIEL FOUR



There are several special things about this chapter

- The entire chapter is about Nebuchadnezzar
- It was a proclamation that was to be read and shared throughout the kingdom
- It reveals yet another divine dream of the king

A. **The chapter begins and ends with praise to God** (2, 37)

- there is reason to believe that the king “converted” and became a believer

1. In this dream, the king tells the wise men what he saw. There is no death threat failing to interpret it (as in chapter 2).

- the wise men could not interpret it
- Daniel, once again is called and does

2. It is believed that this takes place near the end of Nebuchadnezzar’s life.

- He had time to build Babylon into a mighty empire and city.
- One of the seven wonders of the world were the gardens of Babylon
- Several times Nebuchadnezzar refers to God as “Most High” (2, 17, 24,25, 32,34)

The Dream:

- A mighty tree that is full of health and fruit reaches to the Heavens
- An angel announces that the tree will be cut down, but the roots preserved
- A mind will be lost and one will live like a beast of the field for a period of time

The Meaning:

- Daniel seems bothered by this dream (He may have grown to like Nebuchadnezzar) He takes no pleasure in this.
- The tree is Nebuchadnezzar. He will lose his mind and then once a lesson has been learned he will be restored
- Daniel this time adds a personal word of advice to help the king (27)

B. A year passes (29)

1. The King boasts about what He feels are His accomplishments
2. “A voice from Heaven” removes his sovereignty by making him mentally ill



- the king ate grass, his hair grew, his nails became like claws
- Nebuchadnezzar’s pride is repeated in 5:20 (Isa 14:13-14,22)

- Beasts are governed by instinct
- Beasts do not reason
- Beasts do not think about consequences

C. The King learned his lesson

1. He praises God (34)
2. Acknowledges the enduring nature of God’s kingdom (34)
3. God doesn’t give up on King Nebuchadnezzar
God is more patient with him than Pharaoh, Herod (Acts 12:21-23), or Caesar

Seven Periods of Time **(16, 23, 25, 32)**

- Not so much years, months, seasons, weeks—but when God has completed His purpose (4:17)
- Seven is the complete number in the Bible

God dislikes Pride

- Prov 6:16-17 one of the things God hates
- Prov 16:18

Part of Nebuchadnezzar’s humility is sharing this story throughout the providence. It makes him look bad. It shows his mistakes.