

Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd Dream

Daniel 4:1-18

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Daniel 3:19-30 Summary: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego are delivered from the fiery furnace. King Nebuchadnezzar praises God and declares protection for the Hebrew people,

What applications can be made to the here and now?

- God is sovereign whether the results are tragic or triumphant
- God never promised us the Christian life would be without tribulation; the abundant life is knowing we are eternally saved – come what may!
- Courage is the result of knowing God and His promises
- Deliverance is impressive whether seen by “godly” or by “ungodly” men
- God uses Christians as sermons to reflect His Glory.

Nebuchadnezzar selects Daniel – Daniel 4:1-9

Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. ²I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me. ³How great are His signs, And how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And His dominion is from generation to generation. ⁴I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in my house, and flourishing in my palace. ⁵I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts on my bed and the visions of my head troubled me. ⁶Therefore I issued a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. ⁷Then the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers came in, and I told them the dream; but they did not make known to me its interpretation. ⁸But at last Daniel came before me (his name is Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god; in him is the Spirit of the Holy God), and I told the dream before him, saying: ⁹“Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the Spirit of the Holy God is in you, and no secret troubles you, explain to me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and its interpretation.

Who wrote Daniel chapter 4?

- This is an autobiography written by King Nebuchadnezzar himself (notice the “I” throughout Chapter 4)

- This is an after the fact account of his experience... Nebuchadnezzar wrote these words about eight years after he initially experienced the humbling in his life and had reacquired his kingdom
- It is believed that Daniel took King Nebuchadnezzar's autobiography from the official archives incorporating it into this Scripture.

What is the difference between this testimony of Nebuchadnezzar and the declaration he made about the God of the Jews following the fiery furnace in Daniel 3:29?

He made a profession about God based on what happened but he had not applied that profession to his life. In this case, he was genuinely converted into a true believer in the Creator-God.

What did Nebuchadnezzar want people to know?

He sends a message of peace to all peoples, nations, and languages of his kingdom.

What kind of peace does Nebuchadnezzar speak of?

Not peace from war, he already had that; this is peace in the heart which comes when one knows he has been accepted by God.

What makes Nebuchadnezzar's testimony personal?

He recognized that God is not just the God of only the Jews. He testifies of God's signs, His wonders, and His dominion acknowledging that God is in control and His kingdom is above his own worldly one.

Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar didn't recognize the Creator-God following the fiery furnace?

- He had not made a commitment of his life to Him; his pride and self-esteem had overshadowed any serious consideration of a relationship with the true God.
- He was still the mighty King of the Babylonian Empire and totally steeped in the Babylonian god worship

Why did God give this Gentile king another opportunity to be in His kingdom?

Grace, God does not give up on anyone giving us multiple opportunities to know Him.

v5 – Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar was troubled by this dream?

There must have been something about the dream that terrified him and let him know it was significant like his previous dream and he probably knows that it pertains to him.

Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar didn't make his wise men tell him the dream as well as interpret it as he did before?

- Maybe he got less demanding in his old age (this was approximately his eighteenth year of reign when this experience began).
- More likely, his older age brought more wisdom and he knew the correct interpretation would resonate as being true and that he'd recognize it.

Why didn't the wise men just make up an interpretation?

- It is likely that his wise men were wise enough to know the king would recognize the truth and thus knew better than to just make something up.
- The dream was fairly easy to interpret; the wise men probably lacked the courage more than insight (it says they did not make it known, not that they could not make it known)

v9 – How did Nebuchadnezzar know the Spirit of God was in Daniel?

Certainly, by Daniel knowing and interpreting the previous dream that disturbed him. And no-doubt there were other indications as well. It is said of Napoleon that he liked surrounding himself with staff who were "lucky" in battle because he knew there was something more than just luck at work. There is nothing like success to demonstrate that God was with him.

Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd Dream – Daniel 4:10-18

¹⁰ "These were the visions of my head while on my bed: I was looking, and behold, A tree in the midst of the earth, And its height was great. ¹¹ The tree grew and became strong; Its height reached to the heavens, And it could be seen to the ends of all the earth. ¹² Its leaves were lovely, Its fruit abundant, And in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, The birds of the heavens dwelt in its branches, And all flesh was fed from it. ¹³ "I saw in the visions of my head while on my bed, and there was a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven. ¹⁴ He cried aloud and said thus: 'Chop down the tree and cut off its branches, Strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts get out from under it, And the birds from its branches. ¹⁵ Nevertheless leave the stump and roots in the earth, Bound with a band of iron and bronze,

In the tender grass of the field. Let it be wet with the dew of heaven, And let him graze with the beasts On the grass of the earth. ¹⁶ Let his heart be changed from that of a man, Let him be given the heart of a beast, And let seven times pass over him. ¹⁷ 'This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.' ¹⁸ "This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, declare its interpretation, since all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation; but you are able, for the Spirit of the Holy God is in you."

v10-12 – What did Nebuchadnezzar see in his dream?

A great tree on the earth that could be seen from everywhere on earth. It had lovely leaves, abundant fruit, and provided food for all people. The beasts of the earth found shade under it and the birds dwelt on its branches.

v13 – Who the watchers in Nebuchadnezzar's dream?

They were also called a holy ones and they came down from heaven so they had to be angels.

What happened to the tree in Nebuchadnezzar's dream?

An angel commanded the tree to be chopped down and mulched with the stump and roots left intact. Then the tree became a beast of the field for 7 years.

How is verse 17 the key to this chapter?

God is in control and puts on the thrones of this world whom he will; even the "lowest of men." In other words, God gives us the kind of rulers we deserve.

Romans 13:1 – Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Did Nebuchadnezzar consider himself to be among the lowest of men to be given a kingdom of men?

Probably not when he had the dream but he needed to be humbled as his testimony indicated.

Why did Nebuchadnezzar select Daniel to interpret his dream?

Daniel had proven himself to have the spirit of the true Creator-God in him.

What applications do we see from this passage?

- God blesses those who recognize and honor Him.
- God is in control and raises up and puts down kings.