



Life More Abundant Bible Study

Bible Prophecy: Daniel Chapter 4

Daniel Chapter 4 is a personal memoir of a once ruthless, once pagan King who had undergone a conversion to love and worship the true God, the God of Creation and Redemption. Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar chronicles his rise, fall, and ultimate conversion in a letter addressed to all inhabitants of the world (Daniel 4:1). The peace and blessings Nebuchadnezzar pronounces upon all the inhabitants of the world is reflective of the loving blessing once given in the Garden of Eden in the hearing of Adam and Eve, the promise restated to Abraham and His descendants and that which was fulfilled and also conveyed in the person of Jesus Christ. The diligent reader should look for additional parallels to Jesus Christ in the life experience of this converted king.

Notice Nebuchadnezzar's praises to God in verse 3, as given by one having a personal experience with God.

1. Consider that God gave King Nebuchadnezzar a vision that applied to him alone (v2). What does this say about God's love for this once wicked, once pagan king?
2. Notice what Nebuchadnezzar said about the eternal Kingdom of God (v3). How does this compare to his erecting a statue of pure gold on the plain of Dura?
3. Consider what is said in verse 17 about God's dominion over heaven, earth and the affairs of the earth; that He raises up kings and brings them down (see also 1 Samuel 8:7, 22, 9:16). What does this say in light of political elections held here in the United States over the past decades?
4. Notice Daniel's response when asked to provide the interpretation of the dream to the king. See verse 19. Why Daniel's hesitation? What do you suppose were Daniel's feelings towards King Nebuchadnezzar and the plight of his people as a result of the dream?
5. Describe the prophecy given to Nebuchadnezzar in your own words.

6. Consider that the description of a great and mighty tree where there is food and shelter enough for all to gather and find peace (v10-v12) is a fitting description of Jesus Christ. Read the following verses and discuss the parallels:
 - a. Ezekiel 17:22-24
 - b. Matthew 13:31, 32; Mark 4:31, 32
 - c. John 14:2, 3

7. Who do you suppose are the watcher and holy one described in verses 13 and 23? From the context, what are their works? Consider the following verses when giving your answer:
 - a. Matthew 18:10
 - b. Matthew 25:31
 - c. Malachi 3:16
 - d. Ezekiel 9:1-5
 - e. Daniel 12:1
 - f. Proverbs 5:21; 15:3

8. Consider the parallels found in the pronounced fate of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, Daniel's response to the prediction against Nebuchadnezzar (v14, 19), and compare them both to a later *spiritual kingdom*, also called *Babylon* in the Revelation, and its fate. Read Revelation 18:2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 16-19

9. Despite Daniel's respect and possible fondness for Nebuchadnezzar, notice that he in no way sugar-coated the message God had revealed for him to convey. What principle of a prophet and prophecy has Daniel upheld in revealing the interpretation? (Consult the study [The Purpose of Bible Prophecy](#) for more details)

10. What ultimately is the message that God is trying to get across to King Nebuchadnezzar. See verse 25.

11. Consider the period of time God prophetically **determines** upon Nebuchadnezzar, "seven times". What is the interpretation of this statement?

Understand that the statement “*seven times*” is used extensively in the bible to denote both a period or sequence of punishment, judgment, and affliction (time of scattering) as well as a period or sequence of restoration, purification, and blessings (time of gathering). Review the following verses to affirm this truth:

Seven Times (time of scattering):

- Leviticus 26:18-46
- Joshua 6:1-4
- Proverbs 24:16
- Daniel 3:19

Seven Times (time of gathering):

- Leviticus 4:13-17, 20; 14:7; 16:17-19
- 1 Kings 18:41-46
- 2 Kings 4:32-35
- 2 King 5:1-14
- Psalm 12:6

12. Given the context of the story of Nebuchadnezzar, how is the term *seven times* being used? To gather, to scatter, or both?

13. What is meant when God commands to "cut-down the tree but leave the stump"? How might this statement give hope? See verse 26. Compare God's statement to Nebuchadnezzar to a prophetic warning given to the Nation of Israel in Matthew 3:10. How do they differ?

14. Notice the counsel that Daniel gives to King Nebuchadnezzar in verse 27. Notice that he says perhaps the king's prosperity will be lengthened or *prolonged*, however, Daniel in no ways states that the prophecy will not come to pass. Why is that? Consider Isaiah 46:9, 10; 55:10, 11.

15. How well does Nebuchadnezzar heed Daniel's counsel? See verses 28-30. Would you say that Nebuchadnezzar had short term memory?

16. Of what sin committed by Nebuchadnezzar and the people of Israel does God particularly detest and give them warning? Compare Daniel 4:30, Leviticus 26:19, Proverbs 6:16-19

17. What was Nebuchadnezzar's response after being humbled and learning his lesson? See verses 1, 2, 34-37.

We should look forward to seeing Nebuchadnezzar in heaven and asking him what it was like to eat grass for seven years. ☺

SUMMARY:

The story of Nebuchadnezzar's pride and abasement is an allegory for the Nation of Israel who in its pride and arrogance, forsook the commandments of God and were scattered among the nations (the beasts of the field) for seven times. The allegory of Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation most closely portrays the fate of the Southern Kingdom, Judah, which after a period of scattering was the beneficiary of God's grace in being gathered and restored as a nation. Similarly, the story is an allegory for Spiritual Israel, that God is the One who scatters and gathers, He causes the abased to abound and is mighty to save.

God is Creator and Ruler over heaven and earth and is no respecter of person (Acts 10:34). God loves all people, and has sent His Son to die for all (John 3:16). No person or their sins are beyond God's mercy (2 Corinthians 12:9). God will do whatever is necessary (even humbling a person to eat grass) so that one day he or she may look-up, acknowledge God as Sovereign, and ask Him to turn his or her life around. God may not cause us to eat grass today, but He no less wants our attention. Let us humble ourselves today and give our hearts to the only One God who has dominion over heaven and earth.

For a better understanding of prophetic imagery, terms, and symbols used in this bible study, refer to the study, [Interpreting Bible Prophecy](#), also located on the Life More Abundant Bible Study website.