The Book Of Daniel
BIBLE STUDY

Chapter 4:

5/26/2022 NKJV

Put Away Your Pride

Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream

Prologue 4:1-3

Daniel 4:1-9

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. **2** I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me. **3** How great are His signs, And how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And His dominion is from generation to generation.
4 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in my house, and flourishing in my palace.
5 I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts on my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

The text does not indicate when King Nebuchadnezzar had his dream (**v. 5**)
Nor does it matter for the interpretation of the passage, but it was likely some 10 years before the end of his 43 year reign.

So it seems that the king maybe on the right track but is still holding on to his other gods as well,
by calling God the most high god.

6 Therefore 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. **7** Then 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.

8 But 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:

Reference verse
Daniel 4:8

Chapter 3:26

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of **the Most High God,** come out, and come here. ” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. '

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.'

Sounds like the King knows that only Daniel can tell him of his dream, So he pleads with him, Knowing that God leads Daniel and then he tells him of his 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.

The king’s dream was of a tree whose top reached **to the heavens.** A similar expression was used for the tower of the city of Babylon

Reference verse
Genesis 11:4

4 And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole 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.

The **watcher**, a **holy one**, was an angel

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.

The fact that **the stump and roots** would remain **in the earth** indicated the continuation of life. The **band** pointed to the protection of the stump.

The tree plainly represents a man (the king) because the angel declared that **his heart** would be **changed from that of a man** for seven years.

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.”'

Once again the king lets it be know to Belteshazzar (Daniel) that none of his wise men in the kingdom can help him interoperate this dream, So it is all up to Daniel to explain his dream, so he does and its probably not what the king wanted to hear but there you have it.

Daniel 4:19-27

19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for a time, and his thoughts troubled him. So the king spoke, and said, “Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation trouble you.” Belteshazzar answered and said, “My lord, (**RV)** may the dream concern those who hate you, and its interpretation concern your enemies!

As a loyal servant of the king, Daniel was alarmed about the dreadful discipline that would befall the king. He wished it were about someone else.

Reference verse
19(RV)
Daniel 20:7

Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.'

20 “The tree that you saw, which grew and became strong, whose height reached to the heavens and which could be seen by all the earth, **21** whose leaves were lovely and its fruit abundant, in which was food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and in whose branches the birds of the heaven had their home— **22** it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong; for your greatness has grown and reaches to the heavens, and your dominion to the end of the earth. **23** “And inasmuch as the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave its 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 of the field, till seven times pass over him’; **24** this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: **25** They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, **and they shall make you eat grass like oxen**.

Reference verse
Daniel 4:25

Psalms 106:20
‘Thus they changed their glory Into the image of **an ox that eats grass.'**

They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses. **26** “And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump and roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after you come to know that Heaven rules.

This is the only place in the Old Testament where **Heaven** is used as a Euphemism for God. This usage became commonplace in intertestamental literature, the NT, and rabbinic literature.

Meanings:

intertestamental :
The intertestamental period or deuterocanonical period is the period of time between the events of the protocanonical books and the New Testament. Traditionally, it is considered to cover roughly four hundred years, spanning the ministry of Malachi to the appearance of John the Baptist in the early 1st century AD. It is roughly contiguous with the Second Temple period and encompasses the age of Hellenistic Judaism.

27 Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity.”'

In verse **27** we see Daniel advise the king to repent of his sins with hope that this might Prevent God’s discipline, unfortunately for the king, this didn’t work (really he chose not to repent)

Nebuchadnezzar’s Humiliation

Daniel 4:28-33

28 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. **29** At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. **30** The king spoke, saying, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?”

Nebuchadnezzar had no less than three palaces in the city of Babylon. He was walking in of one of them when he was overcome with the glory of the city and was consumed with pride.in his exclamation, Nebuchadnezzar emphasized himself as the source of majesty. He failed to give God the credit and glory as the ultimate Giver of all good gifts.
Many years later, the apostle Paul scolded the Corinthians fir their pride by asking, “What do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

Reference verse

I Corinthians 4:7
'For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?'

31 While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you!

Having delayed the execution of his sentence against Nebuchadnezzar for a year (V29) God Disciplined him the instant he became fully consumed with his **pride**

32 And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses." **33** That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.'

Nebuchadnezzar may have suffered from boanthropy, a rare mental illness in which people believe they are actually cattle. One modern case of boanthropy resulted in the patient growing long matted hair and thickened fingernails, much like Nebuchadnezzar.

Although Critics contend that secular history has no record of the king's mental illness.

Nebuchadnezzar's Praises God

Daniel 4:36-37

34 'And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding 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 is from generation to generation.

35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, “What have You done?”

Boantyhropy does not render its victims entirely unable to reason or understand what has happened to them, so it was possible for the king to realize that his own pride had caused his insanity. Realizing the cause of his state, Nebuchadnezzar repented of his pride and acknowledged the Most High God.

His sanity returned to him instantly, a signal that God had lifted his sentence. As an epilogue to the narrative, Nebuchadnezzar glorified God, using words that describe his realization that God’s dominion is an everlasting dominion and also aptly summarize the theme of the book of Daniel.

36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. **37** Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.'

The very last sentence of the chapter summarizes the message of the story That God is able to humble those who walk in pride.

Some disbelieve that the pagan King Nebuchadnezzar Actually came to a saving knowledge of the true God, but Possibly he did.

The Sin Of Pride

Here are a few examples of this Sin

Isaiah 14:12-14

12 “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! **13** For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; **14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.''

All These things we should always remember

Pride Comes Before A Fall

'When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.'

Proverbs 11:2

'Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.'

Proverbs 16:18

'A haughty look, a proud heart, And the plowing of the wicked are sin.'

Proverbs 21:4

'He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, But he who trusts in the Lord will be prospered.'

Proverbs 28:25

'But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”'

James 4:6

'There they cry out, but He does not answer, Because of the pride of evil men.'

Job 35:12

'thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.” And He said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, '

Mark 7:20-23

Every Knee Will Bow

'that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; '

Philippians 2:10

'For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, And every tongue shall confess to God. '

Romans 14:11

'I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. '

Isaiah 45:23

In closing the verse I think is Key is Below, did the king convert? Sounds like it to me.

'Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.'

Daniel 4:37