

Daniel 4:

“Nebuchadnezzar My Servant”

May the God of heaven and earth bless us with understanding just as He gave to king Nebuchadnezzar. May the chasing of the Lord be upon all of us as it was with king Nebuchadnezzar. We surely have a loving God in heaven that will truly go after His own. We have a wonderful lesson standing in our midst this day in the Book of Daniel chapter 4. So let us begin with the book of Jeremiah as a refresher to enlighten us about who king Nebuchadnezzar is so to better understand Daniel chapter 4.

Jeremiah 27:6-11, “And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him. And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him. And it shall come to pass, [that] the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand. Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish. But the nations that bring their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him, those will I let remain still in their own land, saith the LORD; and they shall till it, and dwell therein.”

Prophet Jeremiah was the voice of God in his time. He was the sword by which the Lord used to rebuke a zealous nation of Idolatry and all sorts of other sinful practices that were exposed in those verses found in the book of Jeremiah the prophet. Nebuchadnezzar was a servant to the Most High King of the universe. Nebuchadnezzar was an instrument of God's judgments upon Israel. God used Nebuchadnezzar to bring His people into captivity. Those Israelites who learned the way of the heathens lived under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar. They all had a chance to see what their God could accomplish with those who were obedient to Him where we find that this was accomplished in Daniel and His three friends. They also saw what Elohim could do to the king who ruled the world and conquered everyone that was in his way. The life of Nebuchadnezzar is a life sermon to those who think God cannot change your daughters, your sons, your wives, your husbands or your neighbors...so do not doubt for another moment what God can and cannot do for those who may not show signs of loyalty right now. Just pray, be at peace and be a life sermon to those around you that speak for God.

Now, let's learn about the life of Nebuchadnezzar the servant of the Most High God who was a Babylonian by birth. He was an idolater by birth and by training. He never had a sense of justice and right while living in a corrupt kingdom as we know is the case for all, or most that do not

grow up under a house that is after the Lord's heart. Nevertheless, our Lord who was working with Daniel and his three friends was able to work with Nebuchadnezzar and use him as a mighty instrument. He was able to accomplish the Lord's purpose. Nebuchadnezzar throughout all his victories in conquering nations throughout his lifetime was so lifted up in pride, and the Lord had to deal with it faithfully. God loved this king. God's mercy truly does endure. Dream after dream, God tried talking to the king and give him warning and God knew that Nebuchadnezzar would not be able to understand because of his lifestyle, so the King of kings sent Daniel and his three friends to his side to serve His purpose and help Nebuchadnezzar. So the story goes like this...

Daniel 4:1-5, “Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I thought it good to show the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me. How great [are] his signs! and how mighty [are] his wonders! his kingdom [is] an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion [is] from generation to generation. I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace: I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.”

When we look into the characteristic of this speech, the demeanor that is in this saying of Nebuchadnezzar, I hear the fruits of a child speaking. I hear the Holy Spirit pressing upon the king's heart and a change taking place, but of course, there is still much work to do with this king that Jesus loved so much. So after the king was troubled, what happened next? It is the same thing that has always happened before.

Daniel 4:6-7, “Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise [men] of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream. Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof.”

Here, we can see how things need to be repeated. The same steps: first, there was a dream that the king saw. Then he needed to call everyone in. They could not interpret, so Daniel would come and do it through the power of God. This is still a process that Nebuchadnezzar still needs to go through in order for his faith to increase. We all have been through it before. As time goes by, we tend to forget what the Great God of the Universe has done for us. So, once again, Daniel came before the king after the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers could not once again interpret the dream. But, if you will notice something here, which I would like to point out is this: as we all know, when we are journeying down the straight and narrow path to the city of God, where we are all being changed into the character and image of God, do you realize what the king did not do this time to the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers for not being able to interpret the dream? He did not command anyone to harm them. He is learning to love his fellow man, his neighbor. Nebuchadnezzar has tasted of the heavenly gift and it has penetrated the walls of his heart. He is learning the depths of Elohim.

Amen. Moving on... So as the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers could not interpret the dream, Daniel once again stepped forward.

Daniel 4:8-9, “But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name [was] Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom [is] the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, [saying], O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods [is] in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof.”

So Daniel said...

Daniel 4:10-18, “Thus [were] the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof [was] great. The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth: The leaves thereof [were] fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it [was] meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it. I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven; He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches: Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and [let] his portion [be] with the beasts in the grass of the earth: Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him: and let seven times pass over him. This matter [is] by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men. This dream I king Nebuchadnezzar have seen. Now thou, O Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation thereof, forasmuch as all the wise [men] of my kingdom are not able to make known unto me the interpretation: but thou [art] able; for the spirit of the holy gods [is] in thee.”

So, we see how Daniel revealed the dream to the king. And then....

Daniel 4:19, “Then Daniel, whose name [was] Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream [be] to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.”

Here, we can see the love Daniel has for king Nebuchadnezzar because the dream troubled him. We can also see that it had troubled the king to see Daniel his friend troubled. Daniel knew what it was about, and Nebuchadnezzar had a feeling that it was trouble and it was for him to understand. Brothers and Sisters, you're about to see the chastening of the Lord like never before fall upon a man/king. Our ways are not the ways of God of heaven and earth. His chastening is effective. When you don't know why things are happening in your life and why things may be so

rough, study the life of Job and this dream which came to pass for Nebuchadnezzar. It will increase your faith. These things happen for us as ensamples. These ensamples are a blessing to learn from. So now, Daniel has had an hour to think and pray and talk to the king. Daniel goes on to say...

Daniel 4:20-23, “The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth; Whose leaves [were] fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it [was] meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation: It [is] thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth. And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and [let] his portion [be] with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him;”

And now Daniel will give the interpretation of the dream...

Daniel 4:24-26, “This [is] the interpretation, O king, and this [is] the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule.”

So here, we can see the visible evidence that God searches the hearts of men. He has found something in this king that he can work with. He has found something that needs to be changed in His servant in order to bring Nebuchadnezzar into the everlasting kingdom that will never pass away. God is working for Nebuchadnezzar in changing his heart and making it upright.

Psalms 7:9-10, "Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins. My defence [is] of God, which saveth the upright in heart."

Now, we see that Daniel goes on to say in...

Daniel 4:27, “Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.”

Daniel understands what the Lord is saying to Nebuchadnezzar and tells him what he should do. And so...

Daniel 4:28, “All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.”

Daniel 4:29, “At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.”

During this time, we can see how Satan made his move on the king. For a time period, the dream made an impression on the king; it gave him warning. The council coming from Daniel was strong upon Nebuchadnezzar, but the king's heart was not transformed by the grace of God. He had not allowed the Holy Spirit to impress his heart. As so many of us loved to do in our very own lives, self-indulgence and ambition had not yet been removed from the king's fleshy heart. Notwithstanding the instructions given, and the past experience, the king was not yet truly humbled and again allowed the spirit of jealousy to control him. The king was hardening his heart; he used his God-given talents for glorifying self and not the Creator. And so, for months the judgment of God lingered. But of course, instead of being led to repentance, the king indulged once again in his pride until he lost sight of the interpretation of the dream. One year had come from the time he had received the dream, Nebuchadnezzar was walking in his palace and thinking with a prideful spirit power in how he was the ruler of Babylon and of his success as a builder of it, spoke: "is not this great Babylon...

Daniel 4:30, “The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?”

So now, we can see that after time has gone by, Satan has been conversing with the king of Babylon. Just like Satan beguiled Eve in the garden by bringing presumption upon her, so he does with the king and tries to uplift his pride once again. What proceeds from the lips of men comes from the heart.

Matthew 15:18, "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

And so next we read...

Daniel 4:31-32, “While the word [was] in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, [saying], O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling [shall be] with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.”

That was recorded by the angel of God. The Lord tried and tested Nebuchadnezzar and he fell. He opened his mouth, lifted up his pride, doubted God, and showed unbelief, blasphemed God in this manner and so God fulfilled His Words.

Galatians 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." And so, what Nebuchadnezzar is about to do is reap what his lips had sowed. And then in that....

Daniel 4:33, “The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' [feathers], and his nails like birds' [claws].”

And the Words of our Lord shall not come back void. What the God of Heaven and Earth says, HE MEANS IT!

Isaiah 55:11-12, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper [in the thing] whereto I sent it. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap [their] hands."

And so, king Nebuchadnezzar said,

Daniel 4:34-35, “And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom [is] from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth [are] reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and [among] the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”

Here, we see the Words of the prophet of Isaiah once again came to pass in the life of Nebuchadnezzar. The Words of God were fulfilled that very hour. What the Lord says will happen. What He wills will be accomplished. It will not come back void. The king Nebuchadnezzar was converted to the Most High God. He has gone through the fire and came out refined, and the prophesied statements of the Lord came to pass...oh how true it is that the king of Babylon was, is and will remain a servant in eternity. Nebuchadnezzar spoke like a true servant of God. Praise be to the God of Heaven and Earth for chastening after the king of Babylon. What a testimony that we can find in chapter 4 of Daniel. This is such a blessing to read. May we all receive this chastening of the Lord. So be it. And after He went through his trials and came out fastened after the liking of the Lord.

Daniel 4:36, “At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.”

Praise God, praise the Lord, praise their name...what a blessing to see how the Lord had worked with this king. And to find out how he was re-established in his kingdom was so beautiful. Just think how all of Babylon heard his testimony and saw the change in their king. Who knows how many Babylonians became the children of the Most High God? I cannot wait to see how many people were converted by all this that are going to be found in heaven. I pray and hope to see all their crowns on their heads. And so those who were not converted by all that had happened in the years of king Nebuchadnezzar, what a shame. It will stand against them all. God did so much for

all of them in that time period. They are all without excuse and we will see that in the “Day of Judgment”. Let us all wake up to the chastening of the Lord as king Nebuchadnezzar did.

And the king goes on to say and speak as a humbled man of God...

Daniel 4:37, “Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works [are] truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.”

The Lord brought out His pride and destroyed Satan in the midst of his own kingdom. Jesus, the Son of the living God, sacked the king of Babylon and all that were converted. Satan was crushed by the God of heaven and earth: hock, liner, and sinker. Checkmate. During this time period, we can see how the disobedient Israel was led into captivity for their idolatry when they were called to be depositories for the Lord's truths. Seeing that they would not fulfill their role, God would work it out some other way as He so masterfully does.

Daniel 2:21-22, "And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what [is] in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him."

The once proud king had become a humble child of the Most High God that we serve today; this tyrannical, overbearing king whose face would change in his anger became a wise and compassionate servant for the Lord and a ruler in Babylon. He who had defiled himself with the pleasures of the world and had defied and blasphemed the God of heaven and earth, now acknowledged the power of the King of the Universe whose footstool is the earth and earnestly sought to promote the fear of Jehovah and the happiness of his subjects. Under the reproves of our Lord and Saviour who is the King of kings and Lord of lords, Nebuchadnezzar had learned at last the lesson which all rulers need to learn--that true greatness consists in true goodness and will have no part with evil. The life of Nebuchadnezzar brought him to acknowledge Jehovah as the living God, saying, "I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and His ways judgment: and those that walk in pride He is able to abase."

God's purpose that the greatest kingdom in the world should show forth His praise was now fulfilled, and Satan was defeated. Satan went after the Israelites and brought them under idolatry bondage, so God went after Babylon and brought them under His love, grace and mercy. What a wonderful and powerful God we have. It is just amazing how He works. And this public proclamation that the king made, in which he acknowledged the mercy and goodness and authority of God, was the last act of his life recorded in sacred history of Jehovah. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Blessed be His name.

Psalms 100:1-5, “A Psalm of praise. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he [is] God: [it is] he [that] hath made us, and not we ourselves; [we are] his people, and the sheep of

his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, [and] into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, [and] bless his name. For the LORD [is] good; his mercy [is] everlasting; and his truth [endureth] to all generations.”

Revelation 12:17, “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”