

Daniel 4

1 Chapter 4 is written by Nebuchadnezzar. Imagine, this king has seen the revelation of his dream of the future of the world, Jesus in the furnace with the three men who were not burned, yet he needs more to turn his heart from his pride. God is patient but the last lesson is a hard one.

2 Actually it is all for God but you are blessed in the process, and He has set his love on you. The signs are awesome but that love and patience are really mind boggling.

3 His signs and wonders are all around us if we will have eyes to see. He will always be Sovereign and eternal.

4 King of the known world, with anything his heart could desire. We often aim for this condition as a goal, contentment with prosperity. God has something else in mind.

5-8 Why didn't he learn his lesson from before and just call Daniel? He has it right now, that it is God in him, but the King thinks of gods not God.

9-16 He tells his dream. Seven years - seven is the number of completion - sometimes of refinement - 7 years of famine - 7 years of tribulation, etc.

17 Messenger here is a watchman. We would say angel. They had the idea that these heavenly beings watched over the affairs of men occasionally issuing decrees from the gods. Why is this happening? It is for people of all time to know God is on the Throne of the Universe and sets up over nations the lowliest of men. Imagine proud Nebuchadnezzar saying this.

18 It is interesting that no one gives it a shot. Why didn't they do their usual fortune telling routine? Before Neb had praised Daniel's God as the God of gods (2:47) and in chapter 3 forbidden anyone to speak against Shad, Me, Abed's God. He reverts here to referring to gods in Daniel.

19 Daniel does not want to offend this proud king, because it could mean his life. He wisely tells of his reluctance to tell the king its meaning.

20-22 Must have sent a chill down the king's spine when the word 'you' came out. Like when David heard from Nathan - YOU are the man.

23-25 It is not by our might or ability or scheming or support or anything - God sets up whom He will. Proud Neb would have to be humbled 7 years before he could confess it.

26,27 Daniel was in a position where he could see the sins of this king expressed daily in the government. Do what is right. Justice was lacking and justice is required of rulers. Kindness to the oppressed instead of ignoring their plight or blaming it on something out of your control. The King needed to acknowledge his sin and speak out that he publicly renounced his policies of the past or... the dream would be fulfilled. Apparently he did not.

28 God warns us, but if we do not repent, He must carry out the justice He requires.

29 Looking over the marvels of Babylonian architecture, one of the seven wonders of the world, he utters verse 30. When God allows us high position and great accomplishments the temptation to be prideful is one few can resist.

30 One year later, instead of noting the warning and having a change of heart, he began to elevate himself in pride, claiming credit for what God had done, taking glory for himself.

31 God spoke from heaven! This man must really be loved of God for all these revelations to be given him to straighten him up. Or perhaps it was Daniel's prayers for this man that brought such conviction from God.

32 Same message he heard before and blew off within a year. How well do we remember the things the Lord has spoken to our hearts, one year later?

33 Pride turns us into animals.

34 Sometimes you don't realize the goodness of blessing of God until He removes it from you for awhile. 7 years he grazed, until God granted a restoration of his sanity. Now the glory goes to God. Now he realizes that God alone is Sovereign.

35 It's all God's and He is right in doing whatever He desires. No one should ask, "why"? He is always consistent with His character. How dare defiled and rebellious man question the Holy One.

36 Imagine that. No president that went insane would ever get back in office. The stump remained in the ground - the kingdom was restored to him. He had a greatness that surpassed his previous greatness, for now he gives the credit where it is due.

37 God can humble the proud! Now Neb praises, exalts and glorifies the King of heaven and knows He alone acts in righteousness and justice. James 4:6 1Peter 5:5