

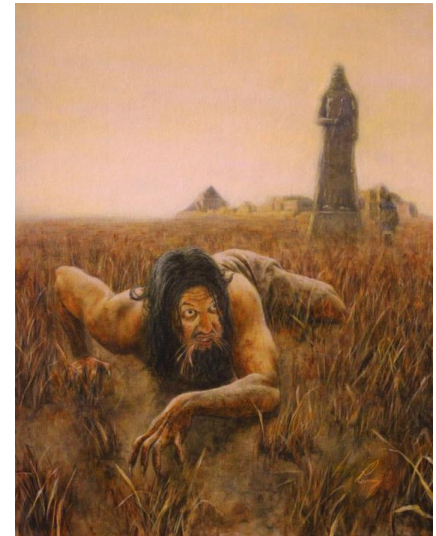
# Daniel 4

## The King is Humbled by God

**Pride**



**Humility**



**God Appoints Leaders & God Rules Earthly Kingdoms**

# Has God Given You a Vision of Your Need for Salvation?

Your kingdom or

the Kingdom of God?



## Foolish Pride

Look how great I am and what I have accomplished. I have no concerns of the future.



## Fear of God & Humility

What happens after I die if Jesus is real and I rejected Him & the Cross? I am nothing without His Grace.



# Daniel 4 – Humble Yourself

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- This is a story of God's Salvation of the most evil, pagan, heathen ruler of the world, showing that no one is beyond God's forgiveness.
- God humbles the proud until they acknowledge that God is the Almighty creator who deserves all the glory.
- This is a teaching for all of us on the greatest sin – PRIDE - read this by putting yourself in the place of King Neb.
- Everyone hates it when they see pride in others, yet pride is the most difficult thing to see in ourselves. This disease must be recognized and cured by God.
- **You must come to realize that you are a wretched, prideful sinner before you can be saved. You must be convicted** of your spiritual crime by the Holy Spirit and receive the verdict from God, before you can feel **sorrow for your sin** to truly **repent and ask Jesus Christ for forgiveness.**
- Stop & humble yourself to listen and learn from the Word of God and ask Him for forgiveness of rejecting Him all these years.
- Prov. 16:18 "Pride *goes* before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall."

# Daniel 4: 1-3

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<sup>1</sup> Nebuchadnezzar the king,  
To all peoples, nations, and  
languages that dwell in all the  
earth:  
Peace be multiplied to you.

<sup>2</sup> I thought it good to declare  
the signs and wonders that the  
Most High God has worked for  
me.

This chapter was  
personally  
written by King  
Nebuchadnezzar  
and Daniel.

This language is  
typical of a royal  
decree by  
oriental kings.

# Daniel 4: 1-3

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<sup>3</sup> How great *are* His signs,  
And how mighty His wonders!  
His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom,  
And His dominion *is* from generation to  
generation.

**Chronologically,  
verse 1-3  
belong at the  
end of the  
chapter.**

**Last Verse (v37) Creates an Envelope or Bracket for entire Chapter**

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<sup>37</sup> 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 final  
verse  
closes the  
chapter  
with Praise  
to God.**

# Psalm 143: 10-13

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Psalm 145:10-13 – (King Neb. Quotes this)

<sup>10</sup> All Your works shall praise You, O LORD,  
And Your saints shall bless You.

<sup>11</sup> They shall speak of the glory of Your  
kingdom,

And talk of Your power,

<sup>12</sup> To make known to the sons of men His  
mighty acts,

And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
And Your dominion endures throughout  
all generations.**

**“Your  
dominion endures  
throughout  
all generations”**

Shows that God is perfectly exerting his rule over His creation everyday. Satan is only permitted to do what God allows.

# Daniel 4: 4-8

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<sup>4</sup> I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in my house, and flourishing in my palace.

<sup>5</sup> **I saw a dream which made me afraid**, and the thoughts on my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> **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*:

# Daniel 4: 4-8

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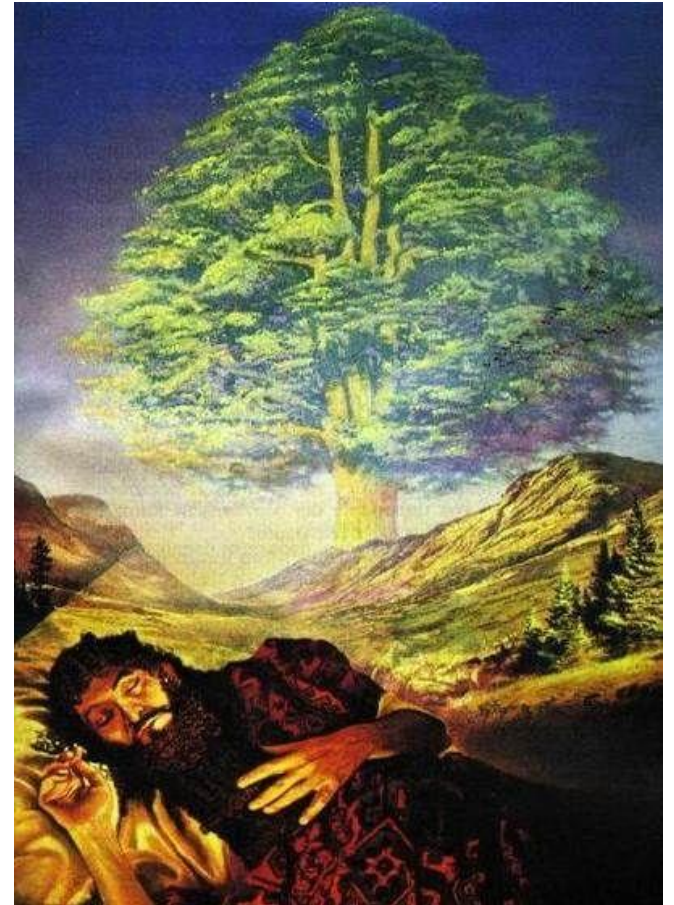
<sup>9</sup> “Belteshazzar (Daniel), chief of the magicians, because **I know that the Spirit of the Holy God is in you**, and no secret troubles you, explain to me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and its interpretation.

<sup>10</sup> “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.

# Daniel 4: 11-12

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**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.



**Tree is both the king & his kingdom**

# Daniel 4: 11-12

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- <sup>12</sup> 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**.



Jesus makes a likely allusion to this verse in **the Parable of the Mustard Seed**.

# Daniel 4: 13-14

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<sup>13</sup> “I saw in the visions of my head *while* on my bed, and there was a **watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven.** <sup>14</sup> 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.**

**“Watchers or Holy Ones” are angels, or messengers of God.**

# Daniel 4: 15-16

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<sup>15</sup> 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.



<sup>16</sup> **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.

“**Heart**” means **MIND**, feelings, emotions...where the choice of free will is made.

# Daniel 4: 17

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,** (sovereign)
- **Gives it to whomever He will,**
- **And sets over it the lowest of men.'** (lowest = humble)

This verse is the key that unlocks the purpose of the entire chapter. Not so much to punish the King, but to teach us these things.

"Sentence" or verdict means this was a court decision by God.

The verdict can and will also apply to you and if we steal God's glory in pride.

# Daniel 4: 18

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<sup>18</sup> “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.**”

# Daniel 4: 19-21

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<sup>19</sup> 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, *may the dream concern those who hate you, and its interpretation concern your enemies!***”

<sup>20</sup> “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, <sup>21</sup> 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—

**Daniel has loving compassion for the King, but still declares the difficult truth.**



# Daniel 4: 22-23

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<sup>22</sup> *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.*

<sup>23</sup> “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’;

# Daniel 4: 24-25

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<sup>24</sup> **this is the interpretation**, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king:

<sup>25</sup> 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.** 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.**



Romans 1:28 – When people refuse to acknowledge God, “He gave them over to a debased mind”

# Daniel 4: 26-27

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<sup>26</sup> “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.

**Daniel ends the interpretation by a call to repentance.**

<sup>27</sup> 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.”

**God tells the king to show more compassion on people.**

# Daniel 4: 28-31

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<sup>28</sup> All *this* came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>29</sup> At the end of the **twelve months** he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon.

<sup>30</sup> **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?”**

<sup>31</sup> **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!”**

# Daniel 4: 32-33

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<sup>32</sup> 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.”

<sup>33</sup> 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.**

**This is a reference to a type of insanity (debased mind) called Lycanthropy or Zoanthropy – when man becomes like an animal.<sup>21</sup>**

# Daniel 4: 34-35

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- <sup>34</sup> 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.**

<sup>35</sup> 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?”

# Daniel 4: 32-33

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<sup>36</sup> 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.

<sup>37</sup> **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.**

**Written in 1<sup>st</sup> person. Not just a thanks to God, but praise and exaltation. His heart has been changed!**

# Questions

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1. How is pride connected to all other sin?
2. Why does God humble those who are prideful and how are some of the ways God does this?
3. Give an example where God troubled your heart to get your attention? How did you respond?
4. Are you mainly concerned with your “kingdom” or God’s Kingdom?
5. How does this affect your view of democratic elections? We just learned that God determines who rules? How about Hitler or Stalin...why would God appoint these men to rule?
6. Why is speaking the truth in love so hard? How does Daniel model this for us to learn from?
7. Is it more difficult for those who have experienced great success to be humble? How can we remain humble? How did Jesus model how to handle greatness?