

# "THE BOOK OF DANIEL"

## Chapter Four

### Review:

**Nebuchadnezzar's image, and his command to worship it -**

**The accusation against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego -**

**The king's threat of the fiery furnace -**

**Acts 5:27-29 “We must obey God rather than men.” (ESV)**

**How they were saved in the fiery furnace.**

**How Nebuchadnezzar was led to bless the true God -**

**There was a fourth person in the fire!**

Isaiah 43:2 “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.” (ESV)



# Lesson Seven

**The Most High Rules in Kingdom Of  
Men (Daniel 4:1-37)**

**I. THE DREAM, INTERPRETATION,  
AND FULFILLMENT**

**A. NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S  
FOREWORD...**

# **1. Addressed to all who dwell on the earth -**

**Daniel 4:1-2 “King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me.”**

**2. To declare the signs and wonders of the Most High God and Proclaiming God's kingdom to be everlasting -**

**Daniel 4:3 “How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.”**



## **B. NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM...**

**1. A dream which troubled him and made him afraid -**

**Daniel 4:4-5 “I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace. I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me.” (ESV)**

## **2. His dissatisfaction with the wise men of Babylon -**

**Daniel 4:6-7** “So I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not make known to me its interpretation.” **(ESV)**



### **3. The dream is told to Daniel...**

#### **a. The king's confidence in Daniel -**

**Daniel 4:8-9 “At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream, saying, “O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation.”**

## b. Elements of the dream -

**Daniel 4:10-17** “The visions of my head as I lay in bed were these: I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found



**shade under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it. “I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven. He proclaimed aloud and said thus: ‘Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. But leave the stump of its roots in the**



earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth. Let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him. The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.'(ESV)



**1) A tree in the middle of the earth, its height reaching to the heavens**

**2) The decree of a holy one, a "watcher", concerning the tree**

**a) To be cut down, leaving only the stump and roots.**

**b) Bound with a band of iron and bronze**

- c) Wet with the dew of heaven**
- d) To graze with the beasts of the earth**
- e) His heart changed from that of a man to an animal**
- f) And let seven times (years?) pass over him**

**3) The purpose of the decree is for the living to know:**



**a) The Most High rules in the kingdom of men**

**b) Who gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men**

**c. The king repeats his confidence in Daniel to interpret the dream -**

**Daniel 4:18 “This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because 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 gods is in you.” (ESV)

## C. DANIEL'S INTERPRETATION...

### 1. Daniel is astonished and troubled by the dream -

Daniel 4:19 “Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king answered and said,



**“Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you.” Belteshazzar answered and said, “My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!” (ESV)**

**b. Daniel wished the dream pertained to the king's enemies**

## **2. Elements of Daniel's interpretation -**

**Daniel 4:20-26 “The tree you saw, which grew and became strong, so that its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth, whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which beasts of the field found shade, and in whose branches the birds of the heavens lived—it is you, O king, who**



**have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth. And because the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field, and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the**



**beasts of the field, till seven periods of time pass over him,' this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High**



**rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules.” (ESV)**

**a. The tree which became strong and tall represents Nebuchadnezzar**

**b. The king shall be driven from men,  
dwell among beasts and eat grass like  
oxen.**

**1) Seven times (years?) will pass over  
him**

**2) Till he knew that the Most High rules  
in the kingdom of men, giving it to  
whomever He chooses**



**c. The kingdom shall be returned to  
Nebuchadnezzar**

**1) Indicated by the command to leave the  
stump and roots of the tree cp. Job 14:7;**

**2) Once he comes to know that Heaven  
rules**

**3. Daniel's counsel for the king to be  
righteous and show mercy -**

**Daniel 4:27** “Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.” (ESV)



# QUESTIONS And/Or OBSERVATIONS

# Prayer Time



# LESSON EIGHT

## D. THE DREAM'S FULFILLMENT...

**1. It came to pass at the end of twelve months -**

**Daniel 4:28-29 “All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon,” (ESV)**

## **2. As the king was boasting about his power and majesty -**

**Daniel 4:30-32 “and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?” While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has**



departed from you, and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.” (ESV)

**3. That very hour he was driven from men -**







**"Babylon, too, lies in a plain; and the circuit of its wall is three hundred and eighty-five stadia. 233677.8' (44.26 Miles) The thickness of its wall is thirty-two feet; the height thereof between the towers is fifty cubits; (75') that of the towers is sixty cubits; (90') and the passage on top of the wall is such that four-horse chariots can easily pass one another; and it is on this account that this and the hanging garden are called one of the Seven Wonders of the World."**











# Strabo Geography Book XVI, Chapter 1

**"There were in it also several artificial rocks, that had the resemblance of mountains; with nurseries of all sorts of plants, and a kind of hanging garden suspended in the air by a most admirable contrivance. This was to gratify his wife, who, being brought up in Media, among the hills, and in the fresh air, found relief from such a prospect." Thus writes Berosus [c. 280 B.C.] respecting the king...."**



**Daniel 4:33** “Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.” (ESV)

**a. He ate grass like oxen**

**b. His body was wet with the dew of heaven**

**c. His hair grew like eagle's feathers, his nails like birds' claws**

**4. And the end of the time, understanding returned to the king -**

**Daniel 4:34-35 “At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason 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 endures from  
generation to generation; all the  
inhabitants of the earth are accounted as  
nothing, and he does according to his  
will among the host of heaven and among  
the inhabitants of the earth; and none  
can stay his hand or say to him,  
“What have you done?” (ESV)**

**a. Prompting him to bless and praise the Most High, who lives forever**

**b. Acknowledging His everlasting dominion and kingdom**

**c. Who does according to His will in the army of heaven and among inhabitants of the earth, and none can restrain or say "What have You done?"**



## **5. Nebuchadnezzar restored -**

**Daniel 4:36-37 “At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.” (ESV)**

**a. His reason, honor, and splendor returned, his counselor and nobles resorted to him**

**b. But now he praises and honors the King of heaven for His truth and justice, Who is able to humble those who walk in pride**



# E. THE MAIN POINT OF THE DREAM AND ITS FULFILLMENT...

## 1. Stated several times in this chapter

### a. In the dream itself -

**Daniel 4:17** “The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.’ **(ESV)**

**b. By Daniel, in providing the interpretation -**

**Daniel 4:25-26 “...till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules.” (ESV)**



**c. As spoken from Heaven when the dream came to pass -**

**Daniel 4:32 “and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.” (ESV)**

**d. By Nebuchadnezzar when he returned to his senses -**

**Daniel 4:34-35 “...I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, ...and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?””(ESV)**



## **2. To learn that "The Most High Rules In The Kingdom Of Men"**

**a. Which Daniel acknowledged from Nebuchadnezzar's first dream -**

**Daniel 2:20-21 "Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.**

**He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;" (ESV)**

**b. And now does the king, from his second dream!**

## **II. CHRIST NOW REIGNS IN THE KINGDOM OF MEN...**

**A. As foretold by the prophets**

**1. In Psalms 2, which speaks of:**



## **a) The attempt of the nations to reject Christ -**

**Psalm 2:1-3 “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”(ESV)**

## **b) The coronation of Christ despite their efforts -**

**Psalm 2:4-6 “He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”(ESV)**



## **c) The exercise of Christ's rule over the nations -**

**Psalm 2:7-9** “I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.” **(ESV)** **cp.** Isaiah 11:4; Revelation 2:27; 12:5; 19:15;



Isaiah 11:4 “but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.” (ESV)

**Revelation 2:27; “and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.”**

**Revelation 12:5; “She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne,”**

**Revelation 19:15 “From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. (ESV)**



**Matthew 25:41** “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

**Matthew 25:46**; “And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

**Luke 19:27** “But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.”” (**ESV**)



**The sense here is, simply, that the Messiah would be absolute; that he would have power to quell all rebellion against God, and to punish all those that rise up against him; and that on those who are incorrigibly rebellious he would exercise that power, and take effectual means to subdue them.**

**This is merely what is done by all just governments, and is by no means inconsistent with the idea that such a government would be mild and gentle toward those who are obedient. The protection of the righteous makes the punishment of the wicked necessary in all governments, and the one cannot be secured without the other.**



## **d) The importance of kings and judges serving the Lord -**

**Psalm 2:10-12 “Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.**

**Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”(ESV)**

## **Confirmation that this passage refers to Jesus!**

**Acts 4:23-28** “When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant,



said by the Holy Spirit, “Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’—for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.”

**(ESV)**

## **2. In Psalms 110, which tells of:**

**a) The rule of Christ in the midst of His enemies -**

**Psalm 110:1-2 “The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!” (ESV)**



**b) The voluntary service of His people (the church), and the priestly service of their King -**

**Psalm 110:3-4 “Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.” (ESV)**

## **c) The exercise of judgment among the nations -**

**Psalm 110:5-7 “The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth. He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.” (ESV)**



# **Confirmation that this passage refers to Jesus!**

**Acts 2:32-36** “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he

himself says, “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”” Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” (ESV)

**B. As taught by the apostles**



**1. Governing authorities exist as appointed by God, to serve as ministers of God -**

**Romans 13:1-4 “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will**

**incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.” (ESV)**



**2. Why pray for kings and those in authority, that peace may prevail, unless God through Christ can do something about it?**

**1 Timothy 2:1-2 “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.” (ESV)**

# QUESTIONS And/Or OBSERVATIONS



# Prayer Time





