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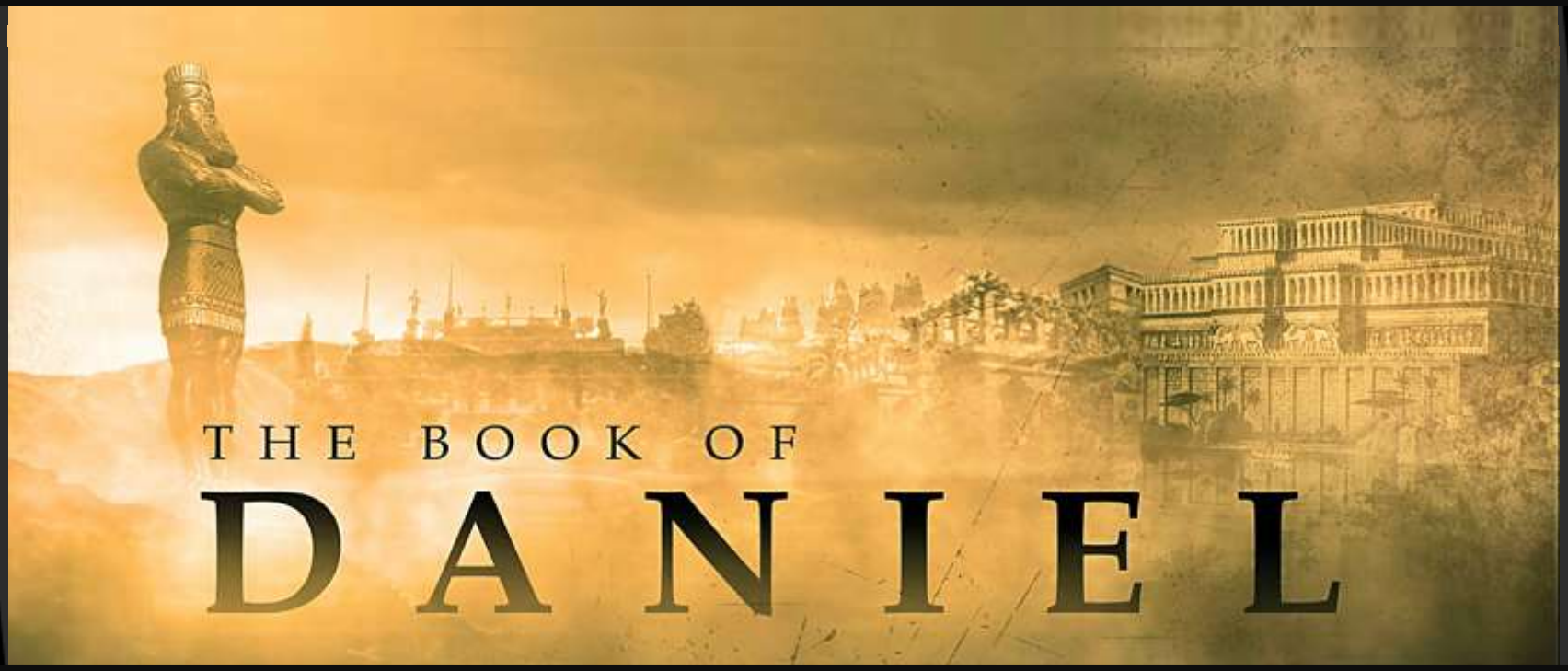

...a verse by verse study

Chronological Order

Chapter		
1	Babylonian Captivity	606 B.C.
2	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	604 B.C.
3	Nebuchadnezzar's Image	587 B.C.
4	Nebuchadnezzar's Pride	570-563 B.C.
7	The vision of the 4 beasts	552 B.C.
8	Ram and He-goat vision	550 B.C.
5	Babylon falls to Persians	539 B.C.
6	The Lions' Den	539 B.C.
9	Vision of seventy weeks	537 B.C.
10 -12	Closing visions	536 B.C.

Chronological Order

	Date B.C.	Approx. Chapter Date	Daniel's Approx. Age	Servitude (Jer 29:10)	Desolations (Jer 25:11)	Babylonian Kings King Neb's reign	Judah's Kings	
1st Seige of Jerusalem	606	Chapter 1	14	1		Ascension Year	Jehoiakim 3rd Year	2 Chron 36:5-7
	605		15	2		1st Year	4th Year	(Also Dan 1:1)
	604	Chapter 2	16	3		2nd Year	5th Year	
	603		17	4		3rd Year	6th Year	
	602		18	5		4th Year	7th Year	
	601		19	6		5th Year	8th Year	
	600		20	7		6th Year	9th Year	
	599		21	8		7th Year	10th Year	
	598		22	9		8th Year	11th Year	
2nd Seige of Jerusalem	597		23	10		9th Year	Zedekiah 1st Yr	2 Kings 24:18-20
(Ezekiel taken captive)	596		24	11		10th Year	2nd Year	
	595		25	12		11th Year	3rd Year	
	594		26	13		12th Year	4th Year	
	593		27	14		13th Year	5th Year	
	592		28	15		14th Year	6th Year	
	591		29	16		15th Year	7th Year	
	590		30	17		16th Year	8th Year	
3rd Seige begins	589		31	18	Desolations	17th Year	9th Year	2 Kings 24:1-7
	588		32	19	Begin	18th Year	10th Year	
3rd Seige of Jerusalem	587	Chapter 3	33	20	1	19thYear	11th Year	2 Chron 36:11-21
(City & Temple destroyed)	586		34	21	2	20th Year		
	585		35	22	3	21st Year		
	584		36	23	4	22nd Year		
	583		37	24	5	23rd Year		
	582		38	25	6	24th Year		
	581		39	26	7	25th Year		
	580		40	27	8	26th Year		
	579		41	28	9	27th Year		
	578		42	29	10	28th Year		
	577		43	30	11	29th Year		
	576		44	31	12	30th Year		
	575		45	32	13	31st Year		
	574		46	33	14	32nd Year		
	573		47	34	15	33rd Yead		
	572		48	35	16	34th Year		
	571		49	36	17	35th Year		
	570	Chapter 4	50	37	18	36th Year		
	569	Chapter 4	51	38	19	37th Year		
	568	Chapter 4	52	39	20	38th Year		
	567	Chapter 4	53	40	21	39th Year		
	566	Chapter 4	54	41	22	40th Year		
	565	Chapter 4	55	42	23	41st Year		
	564	Chapter 4	56	43	24	42nd Year		
	563	Chapter 4	57	44	25	43rd Year		
	562		58	45	26	44th Yr / Died		

44th Yr / Died

This was king Neb's 7 years of illness until he acknowledged God was in control

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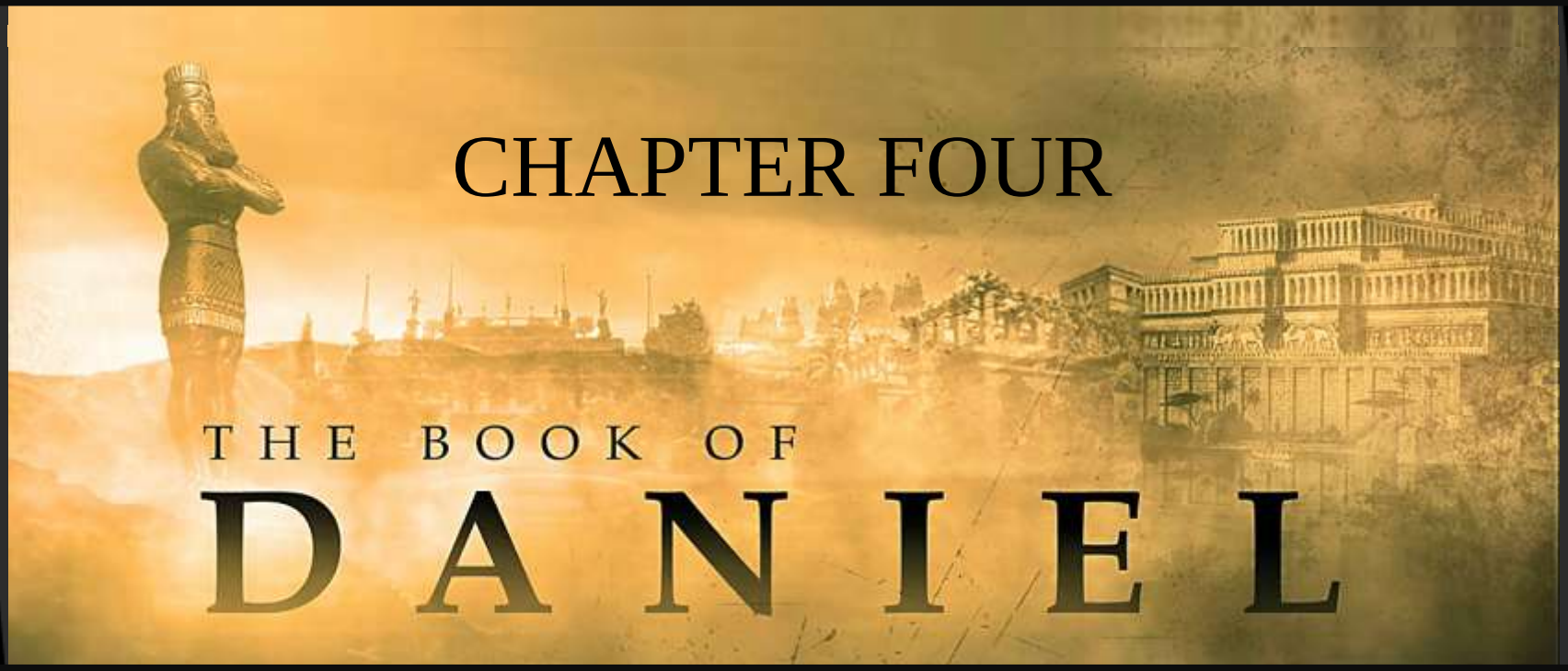

...a verse by verse study

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 shew 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.

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.

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.

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.

Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonied 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.

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;

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.

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

All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. 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? 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.

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 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?
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.

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.

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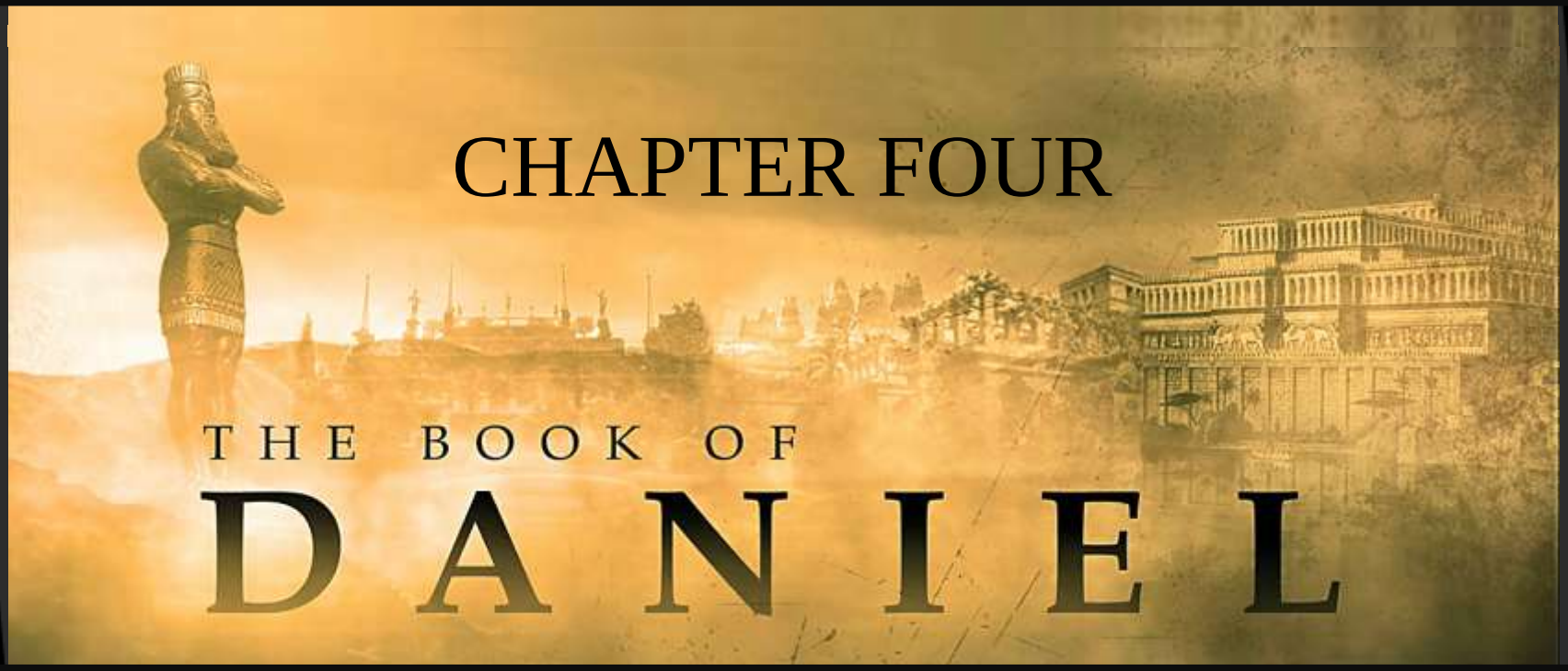


...a verse by verse study

Daniel 4:1

Nebuchadnezzar the king:

Unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth. Peace be multiplied unto you.

- Daniel ch4: written by a gentile king!
- Note, he does not just write this to his own subjects, this is written to all that on the earth!
- This king - one of the most powerful who ever lived - has something to say to the world...

Daniel 4:2

I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me.

- By the time king Nebuchadnezzar writes this the account it has all taken place.
- Nebuchadnezzar is writing 'after the events', and so dramatic were they, he has to tell the world!

The god’s of Babylon

- Babylon was full of gods.
- Idolatry was practically invented in Babel (later to be known as Babylon),
- Don't miss the significance of Nebuchadnezzar referring to Daniel's God as 'the high God’.
- In Aramaic (which this chapter was written in) the word translated 'high' is the adjective ‘illay' (il-lah'-ee), meaning highest, supreme, the one above every other god.

The One True God

6 Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God

Isaiah 44:6

The One True God

20 Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together,
ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no
knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image,
and pray unto a god that cannot save.
21 Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take
counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient
time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the
Lord? and there is no God else beside me; a just God
and a Saviour; there is none beside me.

Isaiah 45:20-22

The One True God

22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Isaiah 45:20-22

The god's of Babylon

- As Nebuchadnezzar will explain, he once thought of himself as supreme.
- He had acquired great wealth and power, whatever Nebuchadnezzar said, people did.
- But he came to see that a man can gain the world but lose his soul, and where is the profit in that? (See Matt 16:26).
- Now he knows that there is a 'Higher Power', beyond the realm of earthly kings and governments, with a greater sovereignty than man has over even his own life.

Daniel 4:3

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.

- In chapter 3 Nebuchadnezzar built a golden statue to symbolize his own 'everlasting kingdom and dominion’.
- It took the faith of three Hebrew men to show Nebuchadnezzar, by signs and wonders, how inferior he was compared to their mighty God

Daniel 4:3

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.

- Nebuchadnezzar was duly impressed but there had been no change of heart.
- But now, around 26 years later, after learning the hard way (and we will see in the following verses just how hard!) Nebuchadnezzar finally gets it.

Daniel 4:4

I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace:

- This verse describes the complacency of the human condition!
- He was at rest and flourishing….

False Security

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

Luke 12:16-21

False Security

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up *treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

Luke 12:16-21

Daniel 4:5

I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

- God has a way of getting our attention!
- Even the hardest, most unreachable people in our eyes are never beyond the reach of God.
- Did Daniel pray for his king?
- We will see that Daniel did not give up on him

Daniel 4:6

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.

- Why not bring Daniel?
- Afraid of the answer?
- Sometimes we don’t want to hear the truth

Daniel 4:7

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.

- The Magi lead the way…
- The Chaldeans follow (at a distance!)
- Notice they ‘<u>did not</u> make known’ not ‘were not able’, it appears that they didn’t even try!

Daniel 4:8

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,

- Finally, Daniel gets to speak…
- Note the king calls him ‘Daniel’!
- What a contrast in this chapter! The king started out following his god, and ends up following the 'Most High God’!

Daniel 4:9

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.

- Daniel is now ‘Chief of the Magi’
- The king knew that Daniel would be able to interpret the dream!
- ‘Holy gods’ – Father, Son & Spirit ‘Eloheim’

Daniel 4:10-17

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.

Daniel 4:10-17

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,

Daniel 4:10-17

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:

Daniel 4:10-17

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.

Daniel 4:18

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.

Daniel 4:19

Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonied 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.

- Back in verse 9 the king confidently asserts that nothing troubles Daniel – that is, up until now!

Daniel 4:20-22

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:

- You can sense Daniel pausing at this point…

Daniel 4:20-22

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.

- No doubt Daniel had seen the king permanently remove those who offended him…
- This is another time Daniel has to trust God!

Daniel 4:23

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;

- 7x = 7 years

Daniel 4:24

This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:

- King Nebuchadnezzar was all too familiar with issuing decrees
- Now one had been issued against him by the highest authority there is – the Most High God.

Daniel 4:25

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.

Daniel 4:26

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.

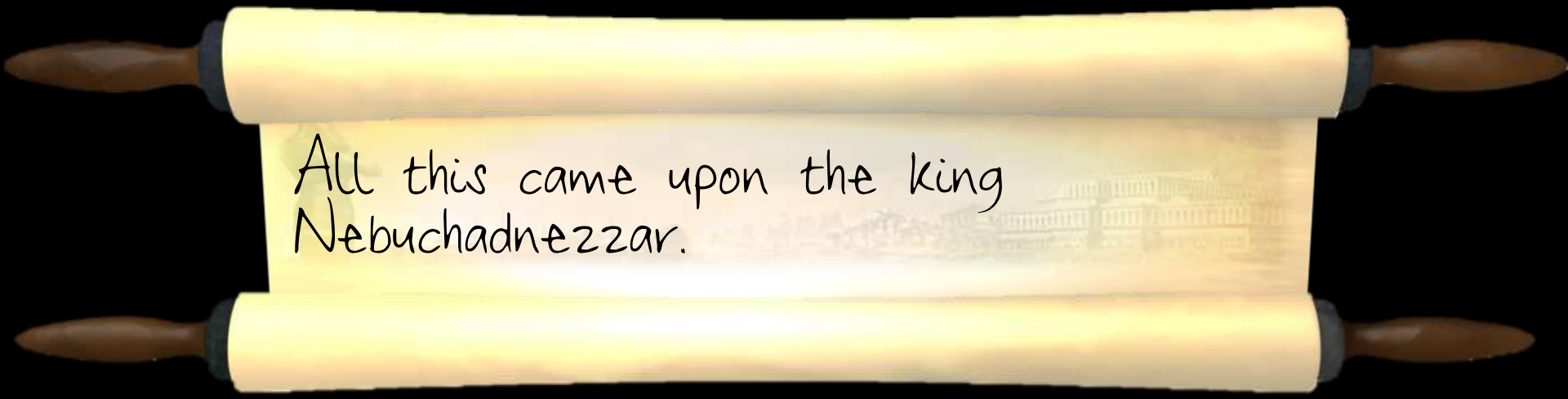
- Throughout this period Nebuchadnezzar did not lose his throne - an incredible fact in itself!
- No doubt in part as a result of Daniel being the king's right-hand man

Daniel 4:27

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

- Daniel pleads with the king to repent
- Daniel knows from Israel's history that God is longsuffering and full of mercy

Daniel 4:28



- God says what He means and means what He says!
- God is not mocked.

Daniel 4:29

At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

- God gave Nebuchadnezzar a year to repent, but as Jeremiah records in 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”
- So, one evening, the king is out for a stroll looking at his kingdom and feeling invincible...

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?

The Danger of Pride

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Proverbs 6:16-19

The Danger of Pride

Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be *unpunished.*"

Proverbs 16:5

The Danger of Pride

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit
before a fall"

Proverbs 16:18

Daniel 4:31

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.

- The terror of this is almost unimaginable.
- However God had warned twice and foretold this judgment a year before, so the king was without excuse.
- The same is true for the people in this world

Daniel 4:32-33

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.

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.

Nebuchadnezzar's Affliction

- There is a condition known as Lycanthropy,
  - it comes from the Greek 'lykos' meaning 'wolf' and 'anthropos' meaning 'man' lit. 'Wolf-Man'.
- Very few recorded cases exist yet extensive mythology has originated by the belief that a person could change into a wolf; this has led to world-wide legends of werewolf's etc.

Nebuchadnezzar’s Affliction

- A variation of this disease is Boanthropy where, rather than believing oneself to be a wolf, one believes oneself to be an ox or cow.
- It is this illness that most likely fits this situation.
- Myth and legend aside, there was a case recorded in England just after the Second World War.
- A man in his early twenties was admitted to a mental institution with all the symptoms consistent with Boanthropy.

Nebuchadnezzar’s Affliction

- Critics of the Bible say that this could never happen, however Eusebius refers to a Greek historian called Abydenus who sites a case in 268BC of a man with almost identical symptoms to Nebuchadnezzar.
- Josephus also quotes Berosus, a Babylonian historian, who documented the case of a Chaldean priest at the time of Alexander the Great, who once again appears to have suffered from this disease.

Nebuchadnezzar’s Affliction

- In the East India Company Museum in London there is a cuneiform tablet that has been discovered that is inscribed with details about Nebuchadnezzar’s illness.
- Yet further evidence to support the Biblical account was the discovery of what has become known as the ‘Prayer of Nabonidus’ found in cave no#4 at Qumran (part of the Dead Sea Scrolls found between 1947-1956).

Nebuchadnezzar's Affliction

- "The words of the prayer that (Nabonidus?), the king of A[ssyra and Ba]bylon, the [great] king, prayed [when he was smitten] with a malignant disease by the decree of the [Most High God] in [the city of] Tema. I was smitten for seven years and from [men] I was put away. But when I confessed my sins and my faults, He [God] allowed me (to have) a soothsayer. This was a Jewish [man of the exiles in Babylon. He] explained (it) and wrote (me) to render honour and g[reat glor]y to the name of the [Most High God]…"

Daniel 4:34

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:

Daniel 4:35

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?

- *"Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?"* (Isaiah 45:9)

Daniel 4:36-37

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 counsellers and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.

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.

Never Give Up Praying!

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 2:1-5

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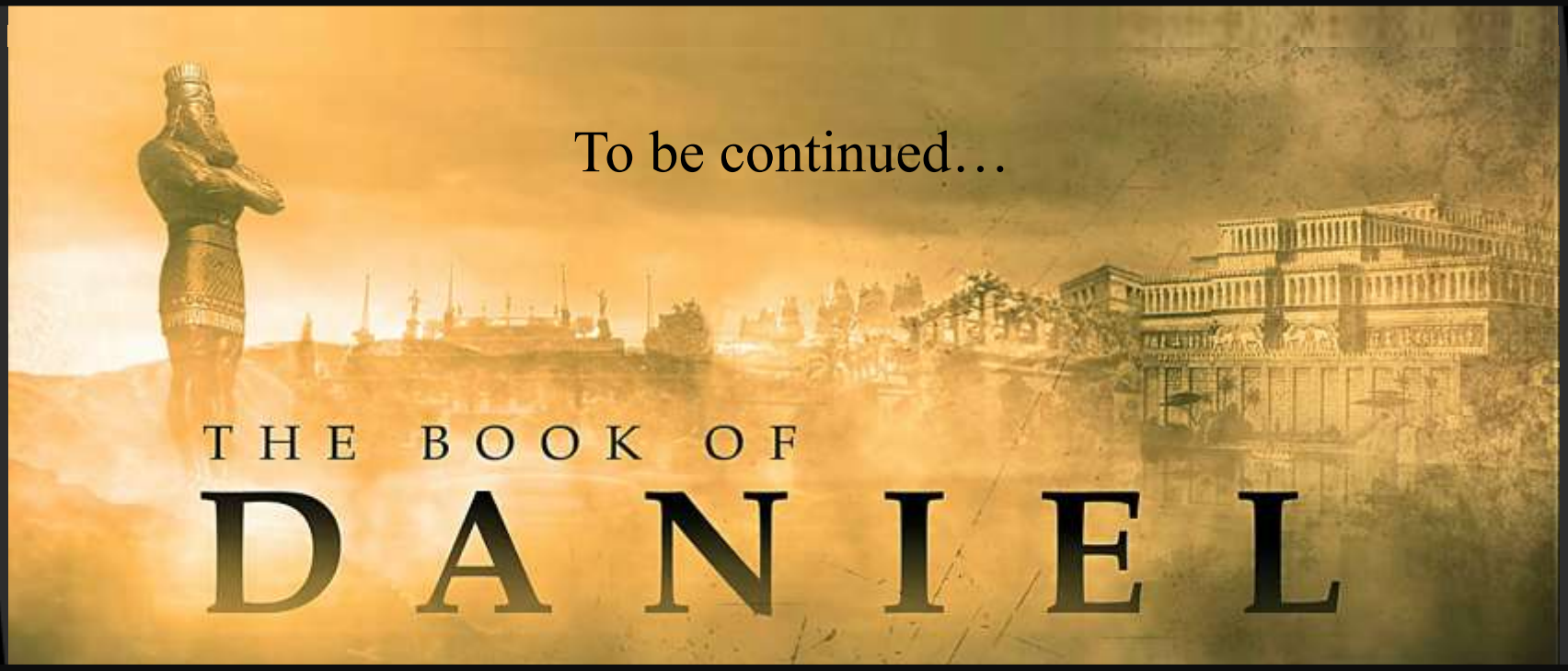

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