

The Book of Daniel

God's Prophet and Statesman

I. Daniel's Exile to Babylon (1:1-21)

II. Nebuchadnezzar's *Troublesome* Dream (2:1-49)

III. Nebuchadnezzar's *Threat* against the Jews (3:1-30)

IV. Nebuchadnezzar's *Teaching* in Humility (4:1-37)

A. His *Virtuous* Proclamation (4:1-3)

4 Nebuchadnezzar the **king** to all the **peoples, nations,**
and **men** of every language that **live** in **all the earth**:

"May your **peace** abound! ² It has seemed **good to me** to declare the **signs**
and **wonders** which the **Most High God** has **done for me**.

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**.

B. His *Vexing* Dream and Visions (4:4-9)

⁴ "I, **Nebuchadnezzar**, was at **ease** in my house and **flourishing** in my **palace**.

⁵ I saw **a dream** and it made me **fearful**; and *these fantasies* as I lay
on my bed and the **visions** in my mind kept **alarming me**.

⁶ So I gave **orders** to bring into my presence all the **wise men** of **Babylon**,
that they might **make known** to me the **interpretation** of the **dream**.

⁷ Then the **magicians**, the **conjurers**, the **Chaldeans** and the **diviners** came in
and I related the **dream** to them,
but they could **not** make its **interpretation known** to me.

⁸ But finally **Daniel** came in before me, whose name is **Belteshazzar**
according to the name of my god, and in whom is a **spirit of the holy gods**;
and I related the **dream** to him, *saying*,

⁹ 'O **Belteshazzar**, **chief** of the **magicians**, since I know that a **spirit**
of the holy gods is **in you** and **no mystery** baffles you,
tell *me* the **visions** of **my dream** which I have seen,
along with its **interpretation**.

C. His *Visions* Revealed (4:10-18)

¹⁰ 'Now *these were* the visions in my mind as *I lay* on my bed:
I was looking, and behold, *there was* a **tree** in the **midst** of the **earth**
and its **height** was **great**.

¹¹ 'The **tree** **grew large** and became **strong**
And its height reached to the **sky**,
And it was **visible** to the **end** of the **whole earth**.

¹² 'Its **foliage** was **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 sky **dwelt** in its **branches**,
And **all** living **creatures** **fed themselves** from it.

¹³ 'I was looking in the visions in my mind as *I lay* on my bed, and behold,
an **angelic watcher**, a **holy one**, descended from **heaven**.

¹⁴ 'He **shouted out** and **spoke** as follows:

Chop down the **tree** and **cut off** its **branches**,
Strip off its **foliage** and **scatter** its **fruit**;
Let the **beasts flee** from under it
And the **birds** from its branches.

¹⁵ "Yet **leave the stump** with its **roots** in the ground,
But with a **band of iron** and **bronze** *around it*
In the new grass of the field;

And **let him** be **drenched** with the **dew of heaven**,
And **let him share** with the **beasts** in the **grass** of the **earth**.

¹⁶ "Let his mind be **changed** from *that of* a man
And **let a beast's mind** be **given to him**,
And let **seven periods** of time pass over him.

¹⁷ "This **sentence** is by the decree of the **angelic watchers**
And the **decision** is a command of the **holy ones**,
In order that **the living** may **know**
That the **Most High** is ruler over the **realm of mankind**,
And **bestows it** on whom **He wishes**
And **sets over it** the **lowliest of men**."

¹⁸ This is the **dream** *which I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen*.
Now you, **Belteshazzar**, tell *me* its interpretation, inasmuch as none of the
wise men of my kingdom is **able** to make **known to me** the **interpretation**;
but you are able, for a **spirit of the holy gods** is in you.'

D. His *Visions* Interpreted (4:19-27)

¹⁹ “Then **Daniel**, whose name is **Belteshazzar**, was **appalled** for a while as his thoughts **alarmed him**. The **king** responded and said,

‘**Belteshazzar**, do not let the **dream** or its **interpretation** alarm you.’ **Belteshazzar** replied, ‘**My lord**, *if only* the **dream applied** to those who **hate you** and its **interpretation** to **your adversaries!**’

²⁰ The **tree** that you saw, which became **large** and **grew strong**, whose **height** reached to the **sky** and was **visible** to **all the earth**
²¹ and whose **foliage** was **beautiful** and its **fruit abundant**, and in which was **food for all**, under which the **beasts** of the field **dwelt** and in whose **branches** the **birds** of the sky **lodged**—
²² it is **you, O king**; for **you** have become **great** and **grown strong**, and your **majesty** has become **great** and reached to the **sky** and your **dominion** to the **end** of the **earth**.

²³ In that the **king** saw an **angelic watcher**, a **holy one**, descending from **heaven** and saying,
“**Chop down** the **tree** and **destroy it**; yet leave the **stump** with its **roots** in the **ground**, but with a **band of iron** and **bronze** *around it* in the new grass of the field,
and let **him** be **drenched** with the **dew of heaven**, and let **him share** with the **beasts** of the **field** until **seven periods** of time pass over him,” ²⁴ this is the **interpretation**, **O king**, and this is the **decree** of the **Most High**, which has come upon **my lord the king**:

²⁵ that **you** be **driven away** from **mankind** and your **dwelling place** be with the **beasts** of the field, and you be given **grass to eat** like **cattle** and be **drenched** with the dew of heaven; and **seven periods** of time will pass over you, **until you recognize** that the **Most High** is **ruler** over the realm of **mankind** and **bestows it** on **whomever He wishes**.

²⁶ And in that it was **commanded** to **leave** the **stump** with the **roots** of the **tree**, **your kingdom** will be **assured to you** *after you recognize* that *it is* **Heaven that rules**.

²⁷ Therefore, **O king**, may **my advice** be **pleasing to you**:
break away now from **your sins** by **doing righteousness**
and from **your iniquities** by showing **mercy to the poor**,
in case there may be a **prolonging** of **your prosperity**.’

E. His **Visions Fulfilled** (4:28-37)

²⁸ “All *this* happened to **Nebuchadnezzar the king**.
²⁹ **Twelve months later** he was walking on the **roof** of the royal palace of **Babylon**.

³⁰ The **king reflected** and said, 'Is this not **Babylon the great**, which **I myself** have **built** as a royal residence by the **might of my power** and for the **glory of my majesty**?'

³¹ While **the word** was in the **king's mouth**, a **voice** came from **heaven**, *saying*, '**King Nebuchadnezzar**, **to you** it is declared: **sovereignty** has been **removed** from **you**,
³² and **you** will be **driven away** from **mankind**, and **your dwelling place** *will be* with the **beasts** of the field.

You will be **given grass** to **eat** like **cattle**, and **seven periods** of time will pass over you **until you** recognize that the **Most High is ruler** over the realm of **mankind** and **bestows it** on **whomever He wishes**.'

³³ **Immediately** the **word** concerning **Nebuchadnezzar** was **fulfilled**; and he was **driven away** from **mankind** and began **eating grass** like **cattle**, and his **body** was **drenched** with the **dew of heaven** until his **hair** had grown like **eagles' feathers** and his **nails** like **birds' claws**.

³⁴ "**But** at the **end** of that period, **I, Nebuchadnezzar**, raised my eyes toward **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**.

³⁵ "**All** the **inhabitants** of the **earth** are accounted as **nothing**,
But **He** does according to **His will** in the **host of heaven**
And *among* the **inhabitants** of **earth**;
And **no one** can **ward off** **His hand**
Or **say to Him**, 'What have **You** done?'

³⁶ At that time **my reason** returned to me.
And **my majesty** and **splendor** were **restored to me**
for the **glory** of **my kingdom**,
and my **counselors** and my **nobles** began **seeking me out**;
so I was **reestablished** in my **sovereignty**,
and **surpassing greatness** was **added to me**.

³⁷ Now **I, Nebuchadnezzar**, **praise**, **exalt** and **honor** the **King of heaven**,
for **all His works** are **true** and **His ways just**,
and **He is able** to **humble those** who **walk in pride**."

Chapter Summary

Key Theme → the **Sovereign Power** of **God**

A. **His Power** to **Rattle** the **Powerful** through **Dreams** (4:5)

B. **His Power** to **Reveal** the **Prophetic Future** (4:24-26)

C. His *Power* to Reduce in **Stature** the **Proud** and **Powerful** (4:31-33, 37)

D. His *Power* to Renew **Hearts** unto Repentance (4:2-3, 37)

E. His *Power* to Restore the Humble (4:36)

Another Key Theme → Nebuchadnezzar's *Lessons in Humility*

1. Nebuchadnezzar *learned* by *personal* experience that **God is able** to humble those who are powerful and proud.

“Now I, **Nebuchadnezzar**, *praise, exalt* and *honor* the **King of heaven**,
and **He is able** to humble those who walk in pride.” (4:37)

2. Nebuchadnezzar *learned* that it was **God's sovereign power** and **will** that gave him his **place** of power, and allowed him his **great achievements**.

“This sentence is by the **decree** of the *angelic watchers*
And the **decision** is a **command** of the **holy ones**,
In order that *the living* may **know**
That the **Most High** is ruler over the **realm of mankind**,
And bestows it on whom He wishes
And sets over it the **lowliest** of men.” (4:17)

...this is the **interpretation O king**, and this is the decree of the **Most High**,...

...until **you recognize** that the **Most High** is ruler over
the **realm of mankind** and bestows it on whom He wishes. (4:24a, 25b)

3. Nebuchadnezzar *learned* through his **humility**, that the **God of Daniel** was truly the “**Most High God**,” and was **worthy** of all praise, honor, and glory.

“But at the **end** of that period, I, **Nebuchadnezzar**,
raised my eyes toward **heaven** and **my reason** returned to me,
and I blessed the **Most High** and **praised** and **honored Him** who lives **forever**;..

Now I, **Nebuchadnezzar**, *praise, exalt* and *honor* the **King of heaven**,
for all **His works** are *true* and **His ways just**,
and **He is able** to humble those who walk in pride.” (4:34, 37)

4. Nebuchadnezzar *learned* that **God opposes** the **proud**, but **gives grace** to the **humble**. (James 4:6)

At that time **my reason returned** to me.
And **my majesty** and **splendor** were **restored** to me
for the **glory** of **my kingdom**,
and **my counselors** and **my nobles** began **seeking me out**;
so I was **reestablished** in **my sovereignty**,
and **surpassing greatness** was **added to me**. (4:36)

Personal Application

Learning Humility is not ever **easy**, but its **Lessons**
are **vital** for **Spiritual Growth** and **Maturity**

- A. **Times of humility** serve to “**humble**” hearts filled with **pride**
and **arrogance**.

The **proud** look of **man** will be **abased**
And the **loftiness** of **man** will be **humbled**,
And the **LORD alone** will be **exalted** in that **day**.

For the **LORD of hosts** will have a **day of reckoning**
Against **everyone** who is **proud** and **lofty**
And against **everyone** who is **lifted up**,
That **he** may be **abased**. (Isaiah 2:11-12)

Whoever **exalts himself** shall be **humbled**;
and whoever **humbles himself** shall be **exalted**. (Matthew 23:12)

- B. **Times of humility** are **times of divine teaching**.

When **pride** comes, then comes **dishonor**,
but with the **humble** is **wisdom**. (Proverbs 16:5, 11:2)

He leads the **humble** in **justice**, and He **teaches the humble His way**.
(Psalms 25:9)

“You shall **remember** all the way which the **LORD your God**
has **led you** in the wilderness these **forty years**,
that He might **humble you, testing you**, to know what was in
your heart, whether you would keep His **commandments** or not.

He **humbled you** and **let you be hungry**, and **fed you** with **manna**
which you did not know, nor did your fathers know,

that He might **make you understand** that **man does not live**
by bread alone, but **man lives by** everything that **proceeds**

out of the **mouth of the LORD.**" (Deuteronomy 8:2-3)

C. Times of *humility* draw us closer to God.

For thus says the **high** and **exalted One** who lives forever,
whose name is Holy, "**I dwell on a high and holy place,**
and **also** with the **contrite** and **lowly of spirit...**(Isaiah 57:15)

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and **purify your hearts,**
you **double-minded...** **Humble yourselves** in the **presence**
of the **Lord,** and **He will *exalt* you.** (James 4:8, 10)

D. "Putting on *humility*" means you are **growing in godliness.**

So, as those who have been **chosen of God, holy and beloved,**
put on a heart of **compassion, kindness, humility,**
gentleness and patience;.. (Colossians 3:12)

Therefore I, the **prisoner of the Lord,** implore you to **walk** in a manner
worthy of the **calling** with which you have been called,
with all **humility** and **gentleness,** with **patience,**
showing **tolerance** for one another **in love,**..(Ephesians 4:1-2)

You younger men, likewise, be **subject** to *your* elders;
and **all of you, clothe yourselves** with **humility** toward **one another,**
for **GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**
(I Peter 5:5)

Closing Comments