



BYKOTA  
Verse by  
Verse  
Journey  
Through  
The Book  
of Daniel

**Week 11**

## Daniel 4: 10 (NASB)

*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.*

## Daniel 4: 11 (NASB)

*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.*

## Daniel 4: 12 (NASB)

*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.*

## Daniel 4: 13 (NASB)

*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.*

## Daniel 4: 14 (NASB)

*'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.*

## Daniel 4: 15 (NASB)

*“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.*

## Daniel 4: 16 (NASB)

*"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.*

## Daniel 4: 17 (NASB)

*"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,*

# Daniel 4: 17 (NASB)

*And bestows it on whom  
He wishes And sets over it  
the lowliest of men."*

# Daniel 4: 18 (NASB)

*This is the dream which I,  
King Nebuchadnezzar,  
have seen. Now you,  
Belteshazzar, tell me its  
interpretation,*

## Daniel 4: 18 (NASB)

*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.'*

# Question

What do you think the interpretation of the dream is?

## Daniel 4: 19 (NASB)

*"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.'*

# Daniel 4: 19 (NASB)

*Belteshazzar replied, 'My lord, if only the dream applied to those who hate you and its interpretation to your adversaries!'*

# Question

What is Daniel upset or alarmed about?

What does Daniel's reply tell us about how he feels about the king?

# Daniel 4: 19 (NASB)

*Belteshazzar replied, 'My lord, if only the dream applied to those who hate you and its interpretation to your adversaries!'*

# Question

What does this show us about Daniel's character that it troubles him to give the king bad news.

How difficult is it to give someone bad news?

# Question

Is it difficult to give  
someone the news that  
they are lost without  
Christ?

# True Story

A preacher by the name of Caesar Malan heard a woman with a beautiful voice singing at a public event. After she finished singing the preacher went up to her and said the following words:

"I thought as I listened to you tonight, young lady, how tremendously the cause of Christ would be benefited if your talents were dedicated to Him," he said. "You know, young lady, you are a sinner in the sight of God. But I am glad to tell you that the blood of Jesus Christ, His son, cleanses you from all sin."

Well, this offended the young singer and she snapped back at him and he replied, "Lady, I mean no offense. I pray God's spirit will convict you."

Later that night the young woman went to bed but couldn't sleep. The face of the preacher appeared before her and his words rang through her mind.

A few days later she called Dr. Malan and apologized.

She said she wanted to clean up her life before becoming a Christian.

Malan answered, "Come just as you are." She gave her life to Christ that day.

A few years later while remembering her conversion she wrote a song as she recalled the words that were spoken to her by this preacher:

# Charlotte Elliott



*"Just as I am without  
one plea, but that thy  
blood was shed for me.  
And that thou bids me  
come to thee, oh, Lamb of  
God, I come."*

# Daniel 4: 20 (NASB)

*'The tree that you saw,  
which became large and  
grew strong, whose height  
reached to the sky and  
was visible to all the earth*

Daniel 4: 21 (NASB)

*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--*

## Daniel 4: 22 (NASB)

*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.*

There was the good  
news before the bad. A  
little sugar to make the  
medicine go down.

# Question

How do you think  
Nebuchadnezzar is  
feeling now that he  
knows he is a mighty  
tree?

## Daniel 4: 23 (NASB)

*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,"*

# Question

How do you think  
Nebuchadnezzar is  
feeling now that he  
knows he is a mighty  
tree that is going to be  
chopped down?

# Daniel 4: 24 (NASB)

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

## Daniel 4: 25 (NASB)

*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;*

## Daniel 4: 25 (NASB)

*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.*

## Daniel 4: 26 (NASB)

*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.*

## Daniel 4: 27 (NASB)

*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.'*

# Question

What is Daniel pleading  
with Nebuchadnezzar  
to do?

Repent!

# Question

Why was Daniel wanting  
the king to repent?

Read about Nineveh's  
repentance in the book of  
Jonah!

## Jonah 3: 10

*When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.*

# Daniel 4: 28 (NASB)

*"All this happened to  
Nebuchadnezzar the king.*

# Question

This is a sad verse.

Do you think  
Nebuchadnezzar  
repented?

# Daniel 4: 29 (NASB)

*"Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon."*

# Question

How long did God give  
Nebuchadnezzar to  
repent?

A year!

## Daniel 4: 30 (NASB)

*"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?'*

# Question

What sin do you hear in  
Nebuchadnezzar's  
statement?

Pride!

Babylon was the largest and most powerful city in the ancient world. The city was a 15-mile square with a population thought to be around 1.2 million people.

The city of Babylon was impenetrable. It was surrounded by a wall that was 87 feet thick and 350 feet high and the Euphrates river ran under the wall through the middle of the city.

The wall surrounding  
Babylon was so wide  
that they could race four  
chariots side by side  
around the city on the  
top of the wall!

The city was full of beautiful palaces and also was home to the Hanging Gardens which were actually air conditioned.

## Daniel 4: 31 (NASB)

*"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,*

## Daniel 4: 32 (NASB)

*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*

# Daniel 4: 32 (NASB)

*until you recognize that  
the Most High is ruler over  
the realm of mankind and  
bestows it on whomever  
He wishes.'*

# Question

What point is God making crystal clear to Nebuchadnezzar?

God is in charge!

# The Truth

The king should have reflected and said

*“Is this not Babylon the great, which **God** built as a royal residence by the might of **His** power and for the glory of **His** majesty?”*

## Daniel 4: 33 (NASB)

*"Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle,*

## Daniel 4: 33 (NASB)

*and his body was  
drenched with the dew of  
heaven until his hair had  
grown like eagles' feathers  
and his nails like birds'  
claws.*

# Question

What can we learn about  
God from this verse?

God is a righteous and  
just God who keeps his  
promise of judgement on  
those who do not repent!

## Daniel 4: 34 (NASB)

*"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;*

# Daniel 4: 34 (NASB)

*For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.*

## Daniel 4: 35 (NASB)

*"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?'"*

# Question

What is the first thing  
Nebuchadnezzar did  
after he regained his  
senses?

Praised and Worshiped  
God!

# Question

Do you think  
Nebuchadnezzar got the  
point God was making  
to him?

## Daniel 4: 36 (NASB)

*"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;*

# Daniel 4: 36 (NASB)

*so I was reestablished in  
my sovereignty, and  
surpassing greatness was  
added to me.*

# Question

Why did not one person  
try to overthrow  
Nebuchadnezzar during  
the 7 years he was out  
of his mind?

God keeps his promises!

## Daniel 4: 15 (NASB)

*“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.*

# Question

Why did all the people  
so quickly forget the  
king's period of mental  
incapacitation?

The grace of God!

# James 4: 6

*But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says,  
"GOD IS OPPOSED TO  
THE PROUD, BUT  
GIVES GRACE TO  
THE HUMBLE."*

## Daniel 4: 37 (NASB)

*"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."*

# Question

Did Nebuchadnezzar get  
the point God was  
making?

Who are you standing in  
opposition to when you  
are prideful?

# Question

Can you think of times in your life or in lives of others where God has used drastic measures to get your attention?



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**Chapter 5**

Just like Daniel  
Chapter 4 is James 4:6  
demonstrated in king  
Nebuchadnezzar's life,  
Daniel Chapter 5 is  
Psalm 9:17  
demonstrated in the life  
of king Belshazzar!

Psalm 9:17 (KJV)

*The wicked shall be  
turned into hell, and all  
the nations that forget  
God.*

# History Lesson

We need a little historical background to set the stage for this chapter.

The chapter starts off with controversy. It starts off with king Belshazzar.

Years ago the critics had been saying Daniel is wrong because there was no historical record of king Belshazzar.

Historical document show the last recorded king of Babylon was Nabonidus.

Until this was found in  
1881!



This is the Nabonidus  
cylinder that was  
written by king  
Nabonidus!

In this document Nabonidus tells us that he left Babylon fairly early in his reign, went off to establish a capital at Teman, and left Belshazzar behind to rule in Babylon.

Daniel was right! This fact was unknown to all the other sources. Even Herodotus, who wrote within 50 years of the time of Babylon, did not know it. But Daniel knew because he was there!

This underscores for us again the confidence we can have in the Word of God. This is a prophetic writing, written by Daniel at the time it is claimed to have been written, in the sixth century B.C.

Seventy years have passed since Daniel and his friends were taken captive. This means Daniel would now be around 85 years old.

At this time  
Nebuchadnezzar has  
also died after 43 years  
of reigning, seven of  
them in insanity like an  
animal.

After Nebuchadnezzar  
died, his son,  
Amel-Marduk, took over  
the rule of Babylon.

He only ruled for two  
years because he was  
assassinated by his  
brother-in-law,  
Neriglissar.

Neriglissar died four years later and was succeeded by his son, Labashi-Marduk, who was just a young boy at the time and only lasted nine months until he was beaten to death by conspirators attempting to overthrow the government.

After this coup the conspirators appointed Nabonidus as king, although he was not related to Nebuchadnezzar so he didn't have a right to the royal line.

Nabonidus was apparently very intimidated by not being a member of Nebuchadnezzar's family, so he married a widow of Nebuchadnezzar therefore marrying into the royal family.

This widow of Nebuchadnezzar had a son by Nebuchadnezzar named Belshazzar who was a remaining child of royalty who had not laid claim to the throne and because of that had not been assassinated.

Nabonidus knew he could be assassinated at any time so he wisely moved the capital and his palace down to a town called Tayma in the middle of Arabia.

Nabonidus wanted to enjoy  
the power and pleasure of  
being king without the risk  
of being assassinated  
so he appointed  
Nebuchadnezzar's son  
Belshazzar, who is now his  
step-son, as co-king or  
co-regent.