

FIRST BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
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THE CHURCH AT STUDY
Wednesday, November 10, 2010
7 PM - 8:30 PM

THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOK OF DANIEL
Chapter 4

INTRODUCTION

In the book of Daniel, we see the Universal Sovereignty of GOD/JEHOVAH (the ONE who is absolutely Self-Existent; He who in Himself possesses Essential Life, Permanent Existence; and the word Jehovah has special reference to His purpose of redemption revealed to our first parents after their fall into sin). Daniel's whole life was spent in Babylon during the Babylonian Captivity. He was carried into Babylon on the occasion of Nebuchadnezzar's invasion of the land of Palestine. Although a captive, Daniel never swerved, or deviated from his devotion, dedication and determination to be obedient to God. Although a captive, God allowed him to rise to the highest position in the State and exert (under God) a powerful, political office in three kingdoms: Babylon; Media and Persia.

In chapter 4, king Nebuchadnezzar has a humbling experience. He has rivaled himself with God by placing himself on the level with God, foolishly claiming Sovereignty. This is a grievous mistake. He learns that the supremacy of arrogance in the Face of God comes before a fall. He publishes and exhorts that God has all men's hearts in His Hand and he stands on record as a lasting testimony and proof of God's Supremacy. He tells his own story: 1) of another dream he has had: the tree dream; 2) the inability of his magicians to interpret the dream; 3) the interpretation of the tree dream by Daniel; and 4) the fulfillment of the dream and his, the king's restoration. He concludes, the God of Israel is above him and should be acknowledged and praised: "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and His ways judgment: and those that walk in pride He is able to abase" (Dan. 4:37).

The tree dream of Nebuchadnezzar happened sometime during the 30th and 35th year of his reign. About 28 years had elapsed since the fiery furnace incident. Daniel is around 48 years of age. "Nebuchadnezzar is the king, unto all people, nations and languages, that dwells in all the earth..." (Dan. 1:1). He is a man of vainglory. He is boastful of the benefits he sees in his kingdom. His self-importance appears throughout his realm. Even though

he is a Gentile king, it is imperative for him to know that there is ONE and only ONE TRUE and LIVING GOD in Heaven and earth.

I THE TREE DREAM

(4:1-18)

- A. Nebuchadnezzar=s testimony (v. 1-4)**
- B. The Dream**
- C. The Features of the Dream**
 - 1.**
 - 2.**
 - 3.**

II

THE TREE DREAM INTERPRETATION

(4:19-27)

- A. The Interpretation is fearful and silences Daniel for 1 hour (4:19)**
- B. Daniel reveals the details of the dream**
 - 1. The tree stood for a man (Nebuchadnezzar 4:22)**
 - 2. The heavenly individual was an angle who pronounced Judgment upon the tree (4:23)**
 - 3. The destruction of the tree was not to be total; God still had a purpose for Nebuchadnezzar.**
 - 4. The king however, would still suffer a 7 year period of insanity for his pride and vainglory.**
 - 5. This affliction would only end when he understood that the Athe powers that be are ordained of God.@ (4:25; Romans 13:1)**
- C. Daniel then seeks for Nebuchadnezzar Ato break off thy sins@ (4:27), but to no avail.**

III THE TREE CORRECTED THROUGH INSANITY

(4:28-37)

- A. The Pride of Nebuchadnezzar (4:30)
- B. The Punishment of Nebuchadnezzar (4:31-33)
- C. The Praise of Nebuchadnezzar as his reason is returned to him (4:34-37)

Nebuchadnezzar humbles himself and receives the manifold blessings of God. In his humility he repents, is reformed (converted from his pride) and is restored as king by God, who is the KING of kings.

It is said the Heavenly Blessings he receives are these:

- 1. His reason returns (Amy reason returned@).
- 2. His reign is returned (Athe glory of my kingdom@).
- 3. His reputation is returned (Amine honor@)
- 4. His resplendence is returned (Amine brightness@).
- 5. His rapport is returned (Amy counselors sought unto me@).
- 6. His rhetoric is returned (Anow I Nebuchadnezzar praise, and extol, and honor@).
- 7. His redemption is accomplished.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE LESSONS TO LEARN FROM THIS CHAPTER

A.

B.

C.