

Daniel Chapter 4:1-37 – “The Most High Rules in the Kingdom of Men”

Sunday, November 18, 2018

- ❖ Introduction – What we have in **Daniel 4** is...an **AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL** document; written and prepared by Nebuchadnezzar...to be distributed throughout his **ENTIRE** kingdom.
 - **SLIDE** - The king will learn two major lessons in this chapter: (1) **Proverbs 16:18** - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. (2) God is **PREEMINENT** and will not share His glory with anyone – **Isa. 48:11** - For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it; For how should My name be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.
 - Daniel is believed to have been 50-55 years old at this time...so 10-20 years may have elapsed...between **chapter 3** and **chapter 4**.
- ❖ **Daniel 4:1-37** – Painful and Personal Humiliation
 - **Ver. 1** – Nebuchadnezzar delivers an “official press release”...a legal...royal proclamation...to the **ENTIRE** Babylonian empire.
 - “**signs**” – a token of proof → “**wonders**” – a miracle that is **ASTOUNDING** ...**STUNNING**...and **AMAZING**.
 - **Ver. 2** – “**that the Most High God has worked for me**”
 - **SLIDE** – **MacArthur**: “Nebuchadnezzar’s praise of God here and at the end of the chapter is the theme that brackets the experience of verses 4–34; his reason for converting to Yahweh worship is explained in heart of the passage.”
 - **Ver. 3** – “**kingdom**” – reign...“**dominion**” – empire...“**generation to generation**” – age to age.
 - **Ver. 6-7** - The king gives the wise men a **SECOND** chance...but they are no more successful...at producing an **INTERPRETATION** of the king’s dream.
 - **SLIDE** - **Ver. 8-9** – “**at last**” – Daniel was not with the group in **Ver. 7**...“**chief of the magicians**” – Daniel was chief **AMONG** the magicians...he did not have management responsibility or **AUTHORITY** over them...he was **PREEMINENT** among them – “**ten times better**”...he was the **BEST!**
 - **Ver. 10** – “**a tree**” a picture of Nebuchadnezzar after 605 BC.
 - **Ver. 13** – “**watcher**” – an angelic being that was acting as a **GUARDIAN**...but who also controlled the... **RISE** and **FALL** of a nation → **Dan. 10:13**.
 - **Ver. 15** – “**a band of iron and bronze**” - is a guarantee that God will protect...what remains intact and...preserve the king’s rule.
 - **Ver. 15-16** – Notice the change to a **PERSONAL** pronoun...from “**Let it**” to “**let him**”...this is describing what...will happen to Nebuchadnezzar.
 - “**seven times**” – most probably 7 years → **Dan. 7:25** it means years.
 - “**the heart of a beast**” – there is a rare disease...**BOANTHROPY**...in which a person thinks he is a cow or an ox...and acts like it.
 - **Ver. 17** – “**in order that**” – the **REASON** the tree will be cut down.
 - “**the Most High God rules in the kingdom men**” - First of 3 times this phrase is used in this chapter → **Ver. 25** → **Ver. 32**.
 - **Ver. 19** – “**astonished**” – appalled or stupefied...“**troubled him**” – terrified – alarmed.
 - **Ver. 25** - The **REASON** for the king’s judgment – “**till you know that the Most High God rules in the kingdom men**”.

Daniel Chapter 4:1-37 – “The Most High Rules in the Kingdom of Men” Sunday, November 18, 2018

- **Ver. 27** – “**break off your sins**” – **SLIDE** - **Walvoord**: “Daniel concluded by exhorting the king to renounce his sins. This points out the principle that any announced judgment may be averted if there is repentance (Nineveh - the Book of Jonah). Daniel urged Nebuchadnezzar to turn from his sinful pride and produce fruits of righteousness (doing what is right and being kind to the oppressed)—acts which stem from a heart that is submissive to God. Had Nebuchadnezzar done so, he would have averted his seven years of insanity.”
 - “**iniquities**” – perversities
 - **SLIDE** – **Ver. 29-30** - Hanging Gardens of Babylon – One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
 - **Ver. 31-32** - Because of his ingratitude...he was going to experience...the full weight of God’s wrath...and the fulfillment of the punishment...threatened in his fateful dream...“**the kingdom has departed from you!**”...“**they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field.**”
 - **Ver. 34-35** – No bitterness toward God for His chastening...only **PRAISE** and **WORSHIP!**
 - **Ver. 37** – Nebuchadnezzar closes his “official press release”...with a warning based on the **LESSONS** the Lord had taught him – “**And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.**”
 - **Pro. 6:16-19**
 - **Pro. 8:13**
 - **Pro. 11:2**
 - **Pro.16:18**
 - **Pro. 29:23**
 - **James 4:6 & 10**
 - **1 Pet. 5:5-6**
- ❖ **SLIDE** – **MacArthur**: “Pride is the supreme temptation from Satan because pride is at the heart of his own evil nature. Consequently, Satan makes sure that the Christian is never entirely free from the temptation of pride. We will always be in a battle with pride until the Lord takes us to be with Himself. Our only protection against pride, and our only source of humility, is a proper view of God. Pride is the sin of competing with God, and humility is the virtue of submitting to His supreme glory. ... Humility is an ingredient of all spiritual blessing ... [it] is behind every harmonious human relationship, every spiritual success, and every moment of joyous fellowship with the Lord.”