

The Salvation of Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4

Part 1

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of Daniel, we have come to chapter 4, and this chapter will prove to be unique. Let us keep in mind that the book of Daniel is a wisdom book. We want to see it as a book of prophecy and it does contain much prophecy, but the purpose of this book is to teach us how to live in the midst of a pagan society. If we were to be more detailed, we could say the book is really for the Jews and it teaches them how to live in the Times of the Gentiles from the beginning under Babylon until the end under the Anti-Christ.

The chapter that we are stepping into is very interesting because in this chapter we find the testimony of Nebuchadnezzar. Some have seen this chapter as a Gospel tract as Nebuchadnezzar recounts how God worked in his life to bring him to saving faith. This chapter is written by Nebuchadnezzar, so it is the king giving us his own personal testimony. As we look at this chapter we can see clearly what God is doing in the Times of the Gentiles and that is that He is working in the lives of people including the Gentiles to bring many of them to saving faith. This is especially true in the age we are in which is the Church Age.

Acts 15:14

¹⁴ *Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.*

➤ Nebuchadnezzar's Testimony

Notice Daniel 4:1

As the king prepares to write down his testimony we see that he desires the entire world to hear what he has to say. He desires the people who read his testimony to have the very peace he now enjoys in his life. Something major has happened in his life and he desires to make it known.

Notice Daniel 4:2

Here we see the desire of the king. He wanted to share what God had revealed to him. When I read this, I am reminded of what eternal life is. It is a relationship with the Father and the Son and in that relationship, we come to know more of God.

John 17:3

³ *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

Application:

Man was created so that God could have fellowship with us. When sin entered into the world the fellowship was broken but God has gone to great extremes so that we could be forgiven and man could enter back into that fellowship. God became a Man and He went to the cross and died to pay for each of our sins just so that He could have fellowship with us and so that He could bless us with the abundant life.

John 10:9-11

⁹ *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

¹⁰ *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

¹¹ *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

Those who claim to be saved but have no relationship with God are deceived.

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

²² *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

²³ *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

When we get saved, we enter into a relationship with our Lord and as we walk with Him the fellowship is sweet and we come to know more of Him, which is the abundant life.

Notice Daniel 4:3

Here we see the change in Nebuchadnezzar. Here in this verse the king is giving all glory to God. Before the experience that we are about to look at Nebuchadnezzar was all about himself.

Daniel 4:30

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?*

Here in Daniel 4:30 the king is focused upon his accomplishments and upon his personal kingdom. Daniel had told him earlier of the sovereignty of God.

Daniel 2:37-38

³⁷ *Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.*

³⁸ *And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.*

The king brushed these words to the side, if he even heard them. It seems as though all he heard was that he was the head of gold. But after the events described in Daniel 4 the king is a new man. He extols God and not himself.

➤ **The Dream**

➤ **Part 1**

Notice Daniel 4:4

Humanly speaking the king had life made. He had the kingdom and the power, and he had everything he wanted at his fingertips.

Application:

This is the place that so many people are striving for, but it is a dangerous place to be for anyone. That is believer and unbeliever. For the unbelievable this place gives him a false sense of security.

Luke 12:16-20

¹⁶ And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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?

Jesus often spoke of the dangers of riches in the lives of the unsaved.

Matthew 19:21-26

²¹ Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

²³ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

²⁴ And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

²⁵ When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?

²⁶ But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Riches are also dangerous in the lives of believers. They can give us a false sense of security as well and they can become that which a believer trusts in causing him or her to forget God. They often become a distraction even to the point of consuming the individual.

1 Timothy 6:8-11

⁸ *And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*

⁹ *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.*

¹⁰ *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

¹¹ *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*

The prayer found in Proverbs 30 needs to be prayed by all of us.

Proverbs 30:8-9

⁸ *Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:*

⁹ *Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.*

Notice Daniel 4:5

Here we see that God steps into the life of the king again. This is not the first time which God stepped into the life of this man.

Daniel 2:1

And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

God was working on this Gentile king and as he was in the midst of his kingdom feeling like he had everything in control, he had no idea that God was about to step in and use the most powerful tool in his toolbox. The tool would be suffering, and God will use this to bring the king to salvation.

Application:

God has an unlimited number of resources to get our attention. But His most effective tool is suffering. There have been many people who have been in the situation where the king is in the beginning of this chapter and then out of nowhere, they found themselves in a season of suffering. Let me just remind you that God is more concerned about a man's

salvation than He is about a man's comfort. He is more concerned about our spiritual growth and testimony than He is about our comfort. The life apart from suffering comes when we leave this world. But while we are here God is using us to glorify Himself and that sometimes means we face seasons of affliction.

Psalm 119:67, 71, 75

⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

⁷¹ It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

⁷⁵ I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

Notice Daniel 4:6-7

You would think that the king would have gone directly to Daniel. These men proved to be nothing but pretenders earlier. They had no answers for the first dream and now the king summons them again.

Application:

I see in the king here a reminder of many in our world today. They desire to know answers to life's questions, but they continually go to the wrong sources. They turn to people who have no knowledge of the Scriptures and people who are caught up in the ways of the world. Over and over they turn to sources that have no spiritual wisdom to offer.

James 1:5

⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Psalm 119:103-105

¹⁰³ How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴ Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Conclusion:

There will be seasons in life when we will need wisdom and direction. Let us be sure to go directly to the Lord. All other sources have nothing to offer and often lead us down a path of frustration and trouble.