

The Salvation of Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4

Part 3

Introduction: In our study of Daniel, we are in Daniel 4, and it is in this chapter that we have the testimony of Nebuchadnezzar as to how he was saved. God had been reaching out with the hand of grace over and over again. God gave the king a dream in Daniel 2 in which we were able to see the Times of the Gentiles and the Gentile world powers that would rule from Babylon to the last Gentile kingdom which will be the kingdom of the Anti-Christ. That kingdom will be restored when Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation to set up His Kingdom. Getting back to the thought, God used this dream to stir the heart of the king. Then there was Daniel's 3 friends cast into the fiery furnace and when Nebuchadnezzar looked in there was a 4th Man in the fire. This was Jesus Christ. Daniel's friends were unharmed by the fire, and this too was to demonstrate to the king the power of the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. This looked to turn the king's heart.

Notice Daniel 3:27-30

The king gives the appearance that he has turned from his gods to the True and living God, but the next chapter tells a different story.

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?***

In this verse we see the king was full of pride and self-confidence. He was focused upon building his kingdom and for these reasons God would allow the king to experience some very difficult years. God will use his most powerful tool to get the attention of a man and that is suffering.

Before God would bring the suffering into the life of the king He gave him a dream which only Daniel would be able to interpret. This now brings us to where we are as Nebuchadnezzar tells the dream to Daniel.

➤ The Dream

➤ Part 3

Notice Daniel 4:10-13

In the dream Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom are represented by a tree. The tree grows very large, and it provides both for people and creatures. While the king is looking there is a watcher that comes from heaven. This was an angel sent from God with a command concerning the will of God.

Notice Daniel 4:14-15

The command was to cut the tree down but let the stump and the roots remain. This would be the judgment of God upon Nebuchadnezzar, but it did not come without a warning. Also, when the judgment did fall upon the king it would not destroy him. The stump and the roots would remain because the judgment was temporary and the king would eventually come back to power.

Application:

There are several points of application here.

1. **God always gives a warning before His judgment falls.**

Let us consider the flood.

Genesis 6:1-3

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

² That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

³ And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

2 Peter 2:5

⁵ And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

Noah worked on the ark for 120 years and preached of the coming judgment as he worked.

Another example is the Babylonian captivity.

Jeremiah 1:14-19

¹⁴ Then the LORD said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land.

¹⁵ For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the LORD; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah.

¹⁶ And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands.

¹⁷ Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.

¹⁸ For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land.

¹⁹ And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.

God also has given warnings of the coming Tribulation. He uses preachers, events in our world that are setting the stage for the fulfillment of prophecy, and all that is recorded in His Word.

2. God is a God of justice and grace.

Nebuchadnezzar would not perish but through the judgment he would be saved. The iron and brass band on the stump spoke of preservation. I am reminded that in the midst of the judgment of the Tribulation there will be an innumerable number of people saved. In the judgment of the flood Noah and his family were saved and through them the promise of Genesis 3:15 was preserved. We have seen the grace of God over and over again in our study of 2 Kings. He brought judgment with the famines, but He also showed forth grace to Isarel and Judah.

Notice Daniel 4:15-16

Here we see that the king will find his portion with the beasts of the field. His heart will be changed from the heart of a man to the heart of a beast.

Application:

This is what happens when man distances himself away from God. The depravity in man's heart will take him to the darkest depths and he will live his life like a beast of the field. Is this not what we are seeing in our society today as we watch the people reject God? We see people living like animals. They fight and they kill one another just like wild animals do. This is the result of man rejecting the Truth of God.

Romans 1:28-32

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

²⁹ Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

³⁰ Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

³¹ Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

³² Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

There are moral restraints upon the human race and when people refuse to retain God in their knowledge the restraints are removed and the depravity of man is manifested. When this happens man will do things that are animal like.

Notice Daniel 4:16 again.

The king will be in a state of insanity for a period of 7 times, which is 7 years. How do we know this? Because the book of Daniel tells us that a "time" is 1 year.

Daniel 12:1-3, 7

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

² And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

³ And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

⁷ And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

In Daniel 12:1 the "time of trouble such as never was" is the Great Tribulation. Which refers to the last half of the Tribulation. Here in verse 7, we see that the last half of the Tribulation will be for a time (1), times (2), and an half (1/2). This equals 3 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

Matthew 24:15, 21

¹⁵ When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

I show you these verses to help us to know that the last 3 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years is Great Tribulation like the world has never seen. Getting back to the king, he will be in a state of insanity for 7 years.

There is something else here that we can miss if we are not careful. The period of 7 years that the king will go through is a picture of what the nation of Israel will go through.

Daniel 9:24-27

²⁴ Seventy weeks (these are weeks of years - 490 years) are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

²⁵ Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: (69 weeks of years = 483 years) the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

²⁶ And after threescore and two weeks (69 weeks of years again) shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and

the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. (There is a gap between the 69th and the 70th week and that is the time we are living in now.)

²⁷ And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: (7 years = the remaining years of the 490 years) and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Isarel will go through 7 years of Tribulation, but they will not be destroyed.

Zechariah 13:8-9

⁸ And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

⁹ And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

Nebuchadnezzar will not only be preserved but he will also be saved. The same is true of the one third of Israel that come through the 7 years of Tribulation.

Conclusion:

Notice Daniel 4:17

Here is the purpose for the dream and for what the king will go through. It is to make known that the king is not in control, but God is in control. He places the people whom He desires in the places where He wants them to be. He does it all so that He will get the glory.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

²⁶ For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

²⁸ And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

²⁹ That no flesh should glory in his presence.