

### Scripture Reading

## Daniel 4:1-18

King Nebuchadnezzar,  
To the nations and peoples of every language, who live in all the earth:  
May you prosper greatly!  
It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me.  
How great are his signs,  
how mighty his wonders!  
His kingdom is an eternal kingdom;  
his dominion endures from generation to generation.

1 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. 2 I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me. 3 So I commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream for me. 4 When the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners came, I told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me. 5 Finally, Daniel came into my presence and I told him the dream. (He is called Belshazzar, after the name of my god, and the spirit of the holy gods is in him.)  
6 I said, "Belshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you. Here is my dream; interpret it for me." 7 These are the visions I saw while lying in bed: I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous. 8 The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth. 9 Its leaves were beautiful; its fruit abundant, and on it was food for all. Under it the wild animals found shelter, and the birds lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed.  
10 In the visions I saw while lying in bed, I looked, and there before me was a holy one, a messenger coming down from heaven. 11 He called in a loud voice: "Cut down the tree and trim off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches. 12 But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth." 13 Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal; let seven times pass by for him.  
14 The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people.  
15 This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now, Belshazzar, tell me what it means, for none of the wise men in my kingdom can interpret it for me. But you can, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you."

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*“What god is able?”*

*Our God!*

*“There is a God in Heaven!” (2:28)*

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*“What god is able?”*

*Our God!*

*“I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”*  
*Daniel 3:29*

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Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon 604-561 B.C.

One of only a few Gentile rulers with extensive coverage in Scripture

Pharaoh of the Exodus

Nebuchadnezzar: “The Gospel according to Nebuchadnezzar!”

But... constitutes an entire chapter of the Bible!

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## Daniel 4:1-3

*“King Nebuchadnezzar, to all the peoples, nations and languages that dwell in all the earth...”*

### Written in Aramaic!

As Koine Greek in the time of Jesus!

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### Daniel 4:1-3

*"King Nebuchadnezzar, to all the peoples, nations and languages that dwell in all the earth...*

*Peace be multiplied to you! It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me.*

*How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.*

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### Daniel 4:1-3

*"I was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace...*

*...at peace!*

*...self-satisfied!*

*...contemplating*

*"All I had built!"*



*"I saw a dream that made me fearful!"*

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### Daniel 4:1-3

*"I decreed that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not make known to me its interpretation.*

**AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH, SO ARE MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS AND MY THOUGHTS THAN YOUR THOUGHTS.**  
ISAIAH 55:9 NIV

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### Daniel 4:1-3

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*At last Daniel came in before me!*

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### Daniel 4:1-3



**The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth.** Its leaves were 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 heavens lived in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it. Daniel 4:11-12

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### Daniel 4:1-3

*"...and behold, an angelic watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven. He proclaimed aloud and said thus: 'Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field.'"*



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**DANIEL 4:19**

Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for a time, and his thoughts troubled him. So the king spoke, and said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation trouble you." ...

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**Daniel's Response**

*"My lord, oh that the dream would be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!"*

**Distressed! Grieved!**  
**No rejoicing!**  
 No "thanks be unto God!"

**Yields his "position before God" to serve his earthly master...**

*Jeremiah 29:7*  
*"Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have sent you!"*

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*Ephesians 4:15*  
*"Speaking the truth in love..."*

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*Colossians 4:6*  
*"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person..."*

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*"My lord, oh that the dream would be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!"*

**Distressed! Grieved!**  
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**Yields his "position before God" to serve his earthly master...**

*John 1:14*  
*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth"*

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*"My lord, oh that the dream would be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!"*

*"Your Majesty,  
 You are that tree!"*




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*"My lord, oh that the dream would be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!"*

*"...this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you. **till you know...** that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will."*



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*"My lord, oh that the dream would be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!"*

**Repent!**

*...of your pride!  
...of injustice!  
...of oppression!*

*"I have indeed seen the misery...  
I have heard them crying..."*

*Exodus 3:7*



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*"My lord, oh that the dream would be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!"*

**Repent!**

*...of your pride!  
...of injustice!  
...of oppression!*

*"As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live."*

*Ezekiel 33:11*



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*"My lord, oh that the dream would be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!"*

**You (and all)  
are but My  
instrument!**



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**Repent!**

*...of your pride!  
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...of oppression!*




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*"My lord, oh that the dream would be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!"*

**1 Year  
later!**

*"As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live."*

*Ezekiel 33:11*



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*"At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven..."*  
*Daniel 4:34*

*"...by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain."*  
*1 Corinthians 15:10*

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*"At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven..."*

**Daniel 4:28-37**

*24*At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; *25*all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

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**Thy Kingdom Come!**

*Saul - 1 Samuel 13 & 15*  
*"Your kingdom shall not stand!"*

*Pharaoh - Exodus 4:14, 17*  
*"And I will be glorified through him!"*

*Nebuchadnezzar - Daniel*  
*"...so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes."*

**I am the Lord, that is My name;**  
I WILL NOT GIVE MY GLORY TO ANOTHER, NOR MY PRAISE TO GRAVEN IMAGES. IS. 42:8 NASB

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**Thy Kingdom Come!**

*David - 1 Samuel 17:46*  
*"This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, that the whole world will know there is a God in Israel."*

**I am the Lord, that is My name;**  
I WILL NOT GIVE MY GLORY TO ANOTHER, NOR MY PRAISE TO GRAVEN IMAGES. IS. 42:8 NASB

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**Thy Kingdom Come!**

*"For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son."*  
*Romans 8:29*

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*All this is from God, who through Christ, reconciled us to Himself, and gave us the ministry of...*

**RECONCILIATION**

*2 Corinthians 5:18*

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