

Synthetic Outline

B. Chiasm "Aramaic" (2-7)



1. Gentile History (2)
2. Protection (3)
3. Revelation to a gentile king (4)
3. Revelation to a gentile king (5)
2. Protection (6)
1. Gentile history (7)

Daniel's Age

CHAPTER	EVENTS	AGE
1	Taken to Babylonian captivity	15
2	Interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's 1 st dream (hugo image)	17
3	Daniel's 3 friends cast into the fiery furnace	19 or 20
4	<u>Interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd dream (huge tree)</u>	<u>45-50</u>
5	Interpreting handwriting of the wall at Belshazzar's feast	Early 80's
6	Delivered from the den of lions	c.83
7-8	Daniel's visions and dreams	Mid-60's
9	Daniel's seventy "sevens" prophecy	Early-80's
10-12	Final dreams and visions	Mid-80's

Daniel 2:37-38 (NASB)

You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; ³⁸ and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.



Daniel 4:30 (NASB)

“The king reflected and said, ‘Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?’”



IN THE PRIOR CHAPTERS, KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR WAS PORTRAYED AS A VAIN, VIOLENT, VICIOUS MAN ([DANIEL 2:5](#); 3:15). THIS CHAPTER BEGINS WITH A RADICAL SHIFT IN ATTITUDE. THE KING WISHES PEACE TO OTHERS AND EXPRESSES A DESIRE TO EXPLAIN "SIGNS AND WONDERS" DONE FOR HIM BY GOD. NEBUCHADNEZZAR PROCLAIMS THE LORD'S SOVEREIGNTY BEFORE BEGINNING TO TELL HIS STORY. WHAT'S RECORDED IN THIS PASSAGE IS STILL IN ARAMAIC, RATHER THAN HEBREW ([DANIEL 2:4–7:28](#)) AND WAS LIKELY COMPOSED WITH DANIEL'S HELP ([DANIEL 4:1–3](#)).

Chapter 4 Outline

- I. Introduction (1-3)
- II. Dream Described by Nebuchadnezzar (4-18)
- III. Dream Interpreted by Daniel (19-27)
- IV. Dream Fulfilled by God (28-37)



I. Introduction 4:1-3

- A. Nebuchadnezzar's public decree v. 1
- B. Nebuchadnezzar's personal testimony v. 2
- C. Nebuchadnezzar's change in attitude v. 3



The King Acknowledges God- Chapter 4

Nebuchadnezzar the king to all the peoples, nations, and *populations of all* languages who live in all the earth: “May your peace be great! ² I am pleased to declare the signs and miracles that the Most High God has done for me.

³ How great are His signs

And how mighty are His miracles!

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

And His dominion is from generation to generation



II. Dream Described By Nebuchadnezzar 4:4-18

A. To the wise men v. 4-7

B. To Daniel v. 8-18



4 “I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and happy in my palace. 5 I saw a dream and it startled me; and *these* appearances *as I lay* on my bed and the visions in my mind kept alarming me. 6 So I gave orders to bring into my presence all the wise men of Babylon, so that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. 7 Then the soothsayer priests, the sorcerers, the Chaldeans, and the diviners came in and I related the dream to them, but they could not make its interpretation known to me.

A. To the Wise Men (4-7)

1. Nebuchadnezzar's fear v. 4-5
2. The wise men's failure v. 6-7



B. To Daniel (8-18)

- A. Daniel's entrance v. 8-9
- B. The growing tree v. 10-12
- C. The tree chopped down (13-14)
- D. The stump remains (15a)
- E. Animalistic behavior (15b-16)
- F. Chapter lesson (17)
- G. Nebuchadnezzar's request (18)



8 But finally Daniel came in before me, whose name is Belteshazzar according to the name of my god, and in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and I related the dream to him, saying, 9 ‘Belteshazzar, chief of the soothsayer priests, since I know that a spirit of the holy gods is in you and no secret baffles you, tell me the visions of my dream which I have seen, along with its interpretation.

10 ‘Now these were the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed: I was looking, and behold, there was a tree in the middle of the earth and its height was great.

**11 The tree grew large and became strong, And its height
reached to the sky,
And it was visible to the end of the whole earth.**

**12 Its foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant,
And in it was food for all.
The animals of the field [l]found shade under it,
And the birds of the sky lived in its branches,
And all [m]living creatures fed from it.**

**13 ‘I was looking in the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed,
and behold, an angelic watcher, a holy one, descended from
heaven.**

14 He shouted out and spoke as follows:

**“Chop down the tree and cut off its branches,
Shake off its foliage and scatter its fruit;
Let the animals flee from under it
And the birds from its branches.**

**15 Yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground,
But with a band of iron and bronze around it
In the new grass of the field;
And let him be drenched with the dew of heaven,
And let him share with the animals in the grass of the
earth.**

**16 Let his mind change from that of a human
And let an animal's mind be given to him,
And let seven periods of time pass over him.**

**17 This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers,
And the decision is a command of the holy ones,
In order that the living may know
That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind,
And He grants it to whomever He wishes
And sets over it the lowliest of people.”**

18 This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, tell me its interpretation, since none of the wise men of my kingdom is able to make known to me the interpretation; but you are able, because a spirit of the holy gods is in you.'

Activities of the Angels

■ Past

- ◆ Witnessed creation (Job 38:7)
- ◆ Brought judgment (Gen 19:22; Acts 12:22-23)
- ◆ Accompanied the Law (Gal 3:19)
- ◆ Announced births of John and Christ (Luke 1:11-13, 26-27)
- ◆ Strengthened Christ (Matt 4:11)
- ◆ Announced resurrection (Matt 28:1-7)
- ◆ Observed Ascension (Acts 1:11)
- ◆ Brought messages (Luke 1:13)

Activities of the Angels (cont'd)

■ Present

- ◆ Protect believers (Ps 34:7; 91:11-12)
- ◆ Deliver God's answers to prayer (Dan 9:23; 10:12)
- ◆ Take souls to heaven (Luke 16:22)
- ◆ Involvement in government (Dan 10:21; 11:1; 12:1)

Activities of the Angels (cont'd)

■ Future

- ◆ Rapture (1 Thess 4:16)
- ◆ Judged by humans (1 Cor 6:3)
- ◆ Tribulation judgments (Rev 8:2; 16:1)
- ◆ Return of Christ (Matt 24:31; 25:31)
- ◆ Bind Satan (Rev 20:1-2)

III. Dream Interpreted By Daniel 4:19-27



- A. Daniel's reluctance v. 19
- B. Interpretation of the tree v. 20-22
- C. Chopping down of the tree v. 23-25
- D. Interpretation of the preserved stump v. 26
- E. Daniel's advice to Nebuchadnezzar v. 27

Daniel Interprets the Vision

¹⁹ “Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was appalled for a while as his thoughts alarmed him. The king responded and said, ‘Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation alarm you.’ Belteshazzar replied, ‘My lord, *if only* the dream *applied* to those who hate you, and its interpretation to your adversaries! ²⁰ The tree that you saw, which became large and grew strong, whose height reached to the sky and was visible to all the earth, ²¹ and whose foliage *was* beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which *was* food for all, under which the animals of the field lived and in whose branches the birds of the sky settled—

²² it is you, O king; for you have become great and grown strong, and your majesty has become great and reached to the sky, and your dominion to the end of the earth. ²³ And in that the king saw an angelic watcher, a holy one, descending from heaven and saying, “Chop down the tree and destroy it; yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze *around it* in the new grass of the field, let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him share with the animals of the field until seven periods of time pass over him,”

²⁴ this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: ²⁵ that you be driven away from mankind and your dwelling place be with the animals of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes. ²⁶ And in that it was commanded to leave the stump with the roots of the tree, your kingdom will remain as yours after you recognize that *it is Heaven that* rules.

27 Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you: wipe away your sin by *doing* righteousness, and your wrongdoings by showing mercy to *the* poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.'

Grace Before Judgment

- Gen 6:3
- 1 Cor 11:31
- Rev 2:21
- Parent analogy



IV. Dream Fulfilled By God Daniel 4:28-37

- A. Nebuchadnezzar's insanity v. 28-33
- B. Nebuchadnezzar's humility v. 34-37



A. Nebuchadnezzar's Insanity (28-33)

1. Daniel's prophecy fulfilled v. 28-29
2. Nebuchadnezzar's pride v. 30
3. Nebuchadnezzar's pride v. 31-33



The Vision Fulfilled

²⁸ “All *of this* happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king. ²⁹ Twelve months later he was walking on the *roof of* the royal palace of Babylon. ³⁰ The king began speaking and was saying, ‘Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the honor of my majesty?’ ³¹ *While* the word *was* still in the king’s mouth, a voice came from heaven, *saying*, ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, ³² and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place *will be* with the animals of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.’ ³³ Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles’ *feathers* and his nails like birds’ *claws*.

Scripture and Pride

- Prov 16:18
- Isa 14:12-15; Ezek 28:12-17
- 1 Tim 3:6
- Acts 12:20-23
- 2 Cor 12:7-10
- 1 Pet 5:5-6



³⁴ “But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward 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.

³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth are of no account, But He does according to His will among the army of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of earth; And no one can fend off His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’

³⁶ At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the honor of my kingdom, and my state counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, **and surpassing greatness was added to me.** ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just; and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.”