



Daniel 4:1-37

8/9/20 AM

THE DISSOLUTION OF A DESPOT

Introduction:

Nebuchadnezzar's Personal Introduction: (vs. 1-3)

"It has seemed good to me to declare the signs and wonders which the Most High God has done for me."

I. THE KING'S INSOMNIA (vs. 4-18)

A. Nebuchadnezzar's Dread (vs. 4-9)

"I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and flourishing in my palace"

"I saw a dream and it made me fearful...fantasies...visions in my mind kept alarming me"

"So I gave orders to bring into my presence all the wise men of Babylon..."

"but they could not make its interpretation known to me"

"Daniel...Beltshazzar according to the name of my god..."

"I know that a spirit of the holy gods is in you..."

B. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (vs. 10-17)

"...there was a tree in the midst of the earth and its height was great"

"an angelic watcher, a holy one, descended from heaven"

"Chop down the tree..."

"Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let a beast's mind be given to him, and let seven periods of time pass over him."

"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 bestows it on whom He wishes and sets over it the lowliest of men."

C. Nebuchadnezzar's Desire (vs. 18)

"Beltshazzar, tell me its interpretation...you are able, for a spirit of the holy gods is in you."

II. THE KING'S INSANITY (vs. 19-27)

A. Daniel's Astonishment (vs. 19)

"Then Daniel...was appalled for a while as his thoughts alarmed him."

"My lord, if only the dream applied to those who hate you and its interpretation to your adversaries!"

B. Daniel's Assessment (vs. 20-26)

'The tree that you saw...is you, O king...'

"In that the king saw an angelic watcher, a holy one...this is the decree of the Most High"

"that you be driven away from mankind and your dwelling place be with the beasts of the field...until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes"

"in that it was commanded to leave the stump...your kingdom will be assured to you after you recognize that it is Heaven that rules"

C. Daniel's Advice (vs. 27)

"break away now from your sins by doing righteousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor"

"in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity"

III. THE KING'S INSIGHT (vs. 28-37)

A. Nebuchadnezzar's Rebellion (vs. 28-30)

"twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon..."

"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?"

B. The Most High God's Response (vs. 31-33)

"While the word was in the king's mouth..."

"King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you"

"you will be driven away from mankind..."

"Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled"

"his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws."

C. Nebuchadnezzar's Restoration (vs. 34-37)

"But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me..."

"...I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him"

"All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will"

"my majesty and splendor were restored to me...and surpassing greatness was added to me."

"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."

Conclusion:

- 1) He is God and you are not.
- 2) God's discipline lasts until we learn the lessons He wants to teach us.
- 3) God's discipline has the purpose of our restoration.
- 4) God's discipline is not spiteful.
- 5) God's discipline is not something you want to experience.

Food for Thought:

- 1) God hates pride and will *always* deal with it. How does this chapter contribute to our understanding of this?
- 2) Material blessing is not always a mark of God's blessing on one's life. How does this play out in Nebuchadnezzar's life? Job's?
- 3) How are you doing in your walk with God. Is it a healthy relationship? What form(s) might God's discipline take for you?
- 4) Besides the sovereignty of God over the affairs of men, what other lessons should be learned from this chapter?