

Character Study: Daniel

Part 4 – Daniel Interprets the Second Dream

Daniel 4:1-37

What's happening?

- King Nebuchadnezzar had a second dream that troubled him like the first. Once again, only Daniel could give the interpretation. Chapter 4 is the king's account of how God worked in his life. (4:1-9)
- Nebuchadnezzar explained that in his dream he saw a big tree that could be seen to the ends of the earth, which provided shade and fruit for everyone. Then he saw a messenger come from heaven saying that the tree needed to be cut down, leaving only the stump, in order to show that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men. (4:10-17)
- Daniel was troubled, but yet told the king the dream's meaning. He told King Nebuchadnezzar that he was the mighty tree, but that God would strip him of his power. Even worse, the king would dwell in the fields and eat grass with the animals until he recognized God as the Most High. Daniel encouraged him to turn from his pride, hoping that would prolong his kingdom. (4:18-27)
- Nebuchadnezzar continued in his pride for another year. Then God's word came to pass and he lost his throne. The king found himself living as an animal in a field. His hair and nails grew long as he faced the lowest point of his life. (4:28-33)
- Over time, the king came to understand that the God of heaven truly works His will and is worthy of honor. He blessed and praised the everlasting God. By God's hand, the king was restored to his position as king over Babylon, and his majesty was restored as well. (4:34-37)

What's God doing?

> Nebuchadnezzar was a powerful man, but he failed to recognize God's sovereignty over all things, including the kings and kingdoms of the earth. God knew it would take extreme measures to change this prideful king's heart, but in the end, he came to see God for who He is.

What's to learn?

→ We often attribute "power" to the wealthy and esteemed people in society. But no one compares to God's power. In fact, no one comes close. We must either willingly admit that or God will humble us until we face that reality. He is the Creator and we are the creation, period!