

- I) V1-3 Nebuchadnezzar the king to all peoples nations and languages that dwell in all the e
- II) This chapter represents the conclusion of Nebuchadnezzar's spiritual journey
- III) His journey has been carefully outlined from the beginning of the Book
  - In ch 1:19-20, Nebuchadnezzar recognized the excellence of Daniel and his friends
  - In ch 2:47, Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that the God of Daniel is the God of gods
  - In ch 3:26-27, he acknowledged that Daniel's God was a God who delivers His servants
- IV) In this ch. Nebuchadnezzar openly illustrates the praise that comes from brokenness
  - Often, this is the purest kind of praise
  - Ps 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.
- V) This is a chapter that gives a great illustration of God breaking a man's pride
  - This is because God hates pride
  - Pr 16:5 Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished.
- VI) Throughout the bible man is exhorted to live a genuinely humble life
  - Humility is often the result of an honest understanding of our own shortcomings
  - It is simply seeing ourselves for what we truly are
- VII) On the other hand, pride is generally an over high opinion of yourself
  - It is often manifested by arrogance and boasting in your own achievements
  - This sinful pride is often manifested by an obvious self-sufficiency
- VIII) Throughout the book of Daniel, God has been dealing with the king's pride
- IX) He had slowly performed works that had gotten his attention
  - First, through a dream and then the rescue of the young men, His majesty was seen
- X) Now Nebuchadnezzar writes a lengthy personal testimony
  - Many commentators say that this may be his conversion to the God of Israel

- XI) This reminds me of what we read in Ps 66:16 Come and hear all you who fear God and I will declare what He has done for my soul
- XII) V25 Gives us the context of this chapter: It's purpose is declared  
 God humbles Nebuchadnezzar, a man filled with irreverent pride and self-dependence  
 This may also be a picture of God's dealing with people in general, especially Gentiles
- I) As we will see: God gives kingdoms to whomever He desires!
- II) V1-3 Nebuchadnezzar the king To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all
- III) This chapter begins with a public proclamation that is actually a royal edict  
 It is written to *all his subjects* and is a testimony of what God has done to him
- IV) V2 I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked  
 This tells us God is not the God of Israel alone, but of the whole earth  
 In Daniel's day, each nation or people group had their own gods
- V) The God of Israel is not a tribal god, but is the God of the entire world  
 Job 41:11 Who has given to Me that I should repay him Everything under heaven is Mine  
 Dt 10:14 Behold, to the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, and the earth and everything in it.  
 Ps 24:1 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it
- VI) This is not a closet confession but is open for all to be aware of  
 It is Nebuchadnezzar's decree that is to serve as a testimony about Israel's God  
 Ps 64:9 All men shall fear *and shall declare the work of God*; for they shall wisely consider His doing
- VII) V3 How great are His signs and how mighty His wonders His kingdom is an everlasting
- VIII) His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and His dominion is from generation to generation  
 This contrasts the temporary nature of Babylon with the eternal kingdom of God

**IX) This was something that God had already made clear to him in ch 2  
He had the dream of the golden image, and Daniel told him he was the  
head of gold**

**This made it clear that other kingdoms would arise, and his kingdom  
was temporary**

**X) The bible makes it clear that there is only one kingdom that lasts forever:  
God's**

**Ps 145:13 Your kingdom is an *everlasting kingdom*, and Your  
dominion endures throughout all generations**

**Rev 11:15 Then the 7th angel sounded: And there were loud  
voices in heaven, saying The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of  
our Lord and of His Christ and He shall reign forever and ever**

**XI) V4-7 I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in my house and flourishing in my palace  
He was at rest and flourishing, in peace and security: No campaigns or  
battles exist**

**In spite of all of this, his spiritual poverty is now being revealed**

**I) V5 I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts on my bed and the  
visions**

**In the midst of his peace and security, he once again has a troubling  
dream**

**II) V6 Therefore I issued a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before  
me**

**This had happened before when he had the dream of the great image**

**III) He called the wise men, and they were unable to give him the interpretation  
(2:2, 10)**

**It seems that he had not understood the greatness of Daniel and his  
friends' God**

**IV) In ch 2 he had not disclosed to them his dream**

**Here, he tells them but they are unable to give him insight into it**

**V) Once again, God communicates with a man who will not open the bible**

**Job 33:14-18 Indeed God speaks once, Or twice, yet no one notices it. In  
a dream, a vision of the night, when sound sleep falls on men, While they slumber in  
their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction, that He may  
turn man aside from his conduct, and keep man from pride He keeps back his soul  
from the pit, And his life from passing over into Sheol.**

VI) V7 Then the magicians the astrologers the Chaldeans and the soothsayers came in

Once again, they are unable to give him the interpretation and bring comfort to him

VII) V8-9 But *at last* Daniel came before me (his name is Belteshazzar according to the name

Daniel was not present in the initial conversation, coming in later  
This is 25 years later so this explanation is for people who know Daniel as Belteshazzar

VIII) V8 In him is the Spirit of the Holy God

This may be an acknowledgement of His moral purity  
It may also speak of the moral excellence of the God Daniel serves

IX) V9 Belteshazzar chief of the magicians because I know that the Spirit of the Holy God

(scholars)  
Daniel was referred to as the chief, or the master over the magicians  
This was intended to honor him and recognize him as able to be of help

X) V10-17 These were the visions of my head while on my bed  
Nebuchadnezzar explains his dream to Daniel

XI) V10 The treat was great, being very strong and growing, bearing much fruit  
As he sees the tree, a watcher (vigilant one) comes down from heaven  
This would be his Babylonian way of speaking of an angelic messenger

I) A decree was given  
The tree was to be chopped down and stripped bare, leaving the stump in the earth

V15-6 The image then is changed to that of a man

II) V17 This decision is by the decree of the watchers and the sentence by the word of

III) The purpose of this is for people to know government is established by God  
It is He who place into power whomever He desires  
Job 5:11 He sets on high those who are lowly, and those who mourn are lifted to safety.

IV) V18 This dream I King Nebuchadnezzar have seen

V) V19 Then Daniel whose name was Belteshazzar was astonished for a time (a brief time)

Daniel was stricken dumb for a while: Nebuchadnezzar urges him not to be troubled

This reveals the king's respect and trust in Daniel: he assures Daniel there is no danger

VI) V19 Daniel's reply is typical courtesy: I wish this did not apply to you

VII) V20-27 The tree that you saw which grew and became strong whose height reached

V22 The tree represents you O king: you have grown mighty, but also proud

VIII) V27 No matter how great you are, God is greater still. Please humble yourself before Him

Break off your sins, live righteously; repent and demonstrate true repentance by concern for others

IX) REPENTANCE: Speaks of a change of mind

True repentance is not only felt, but is also seen by a changed way of living

Ac 26:20 (Paul said) First to those in Damascus then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God *and prove their repentance by their deeds*

X) V27 Break off your sins by being righteous and show mercy to the poor

Nebuchadnezzar could be angry and cruel as seen by his threats and the furnace

To build his empire, he used the poor and did not show them mercy

XI) Nebuchadnezzar, show a genuine humility by repenting

True repentance will always be accompanied by humble concern for others

This is called the fruit of repentance

XII) V28-30 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar

He apparently tried for 12 months but just couldn't contain himself

I) He turned over a new leaf in practice, but not in genuine heart repentance

Ultimately his true self was revealed: God had patience, giving him a space of time

II) God gave him time to repent, because He is a God of mercy

**2 Pe 3:15 the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation  
Ultimately, in his great pride Nebuchadnezzar boasted and was judged**

- III) V30 He was surveying an incredibly beautiful city  
There were beautiful building constructed of brick and sometimes stone  
He had constructed the gardens of Semiramis, known as the hanging  
gardens of Babylon: They were planted on top of a building and served to beautify  
and keep the building cool from summer heat.  
He had built temples that he could see in the distance; his own city had  
parks, armaments, beautiful architecture, and everything that his money could buy**
- IV) V31-33 No sooner were the words out of his mouth than he heard the voice  
from heaven  
He immediately went insane: He began living like a beast for up to seven  
years  
From a powerful king to a filthy shell of a human being**
- V) He was more then likely kept in isolation, so his subjects would not see him  
Daniel, his friends and other counselors began to run the empire  
Daniel most likely influenced the others to treat him kindly, saying it was  
temporary**
- VI) V34-35 And at the end of the time I Nebuchadnezzar lifted my eyes to heaven  
Interestingly, he was saved by a look to heaven  
Is 45:22 Look to Me and be saved all you ends of the earth! For I am God  
and there is no other**
- VII) V35 No one can restrain His hand or say to Him What have you done  
He acknowledged that God is all powerful: He is sovereign and does not  
answer to man  
Ps 115:3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.  
Ps 135:6 Whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in  
the seas and in all deep places.**
- VIII) V36-37 At the same time my reason returned to me and for the glory of my  
kingdom  
Prior to chapter four, Nebuchadnezzar looked at God in a similar way to  
his own gods  
Chapter four reveals that he actually worships the King of heaven  
only**
- IX) There is debate as to whether Nebuchadnezzar became a true follower of God  
He acknowledged God as the Sovereign ruler and king of heaven**

**He also made it clear that He is all powerful and unstoppable**

- I) It seems that he may very well have become a true believer in God**
  
- II) This closes with an amazing testament to the fruitfulness of Daniel's godly life**
  - Even the king of Babylon was moved by his testimony**
  - Ps 145:17-18 The Lord is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.**