

# Daniel Chapter 4

The Rev. Dr. Cameron J. Scalera



4 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace. 5 I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me. 6 So I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream.

7 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. 8 At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream... Daniel 4:4-8



# The Issue at Hand

The God who Speaks

Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream

The Interpretation of the Dream

Nebuchadnezzar's Humiliation



# Nebuchadnezzar as Gilgamesh?

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. And the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,... you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

– Daniel 4:1, 4-5







# Nebuchadnezzar as Enkidu?

Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws. – Daniel 4:33

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enkidu>





# The Issue Addressed

The God of gods

God's Displays of Supremacy

Wisdom

Power

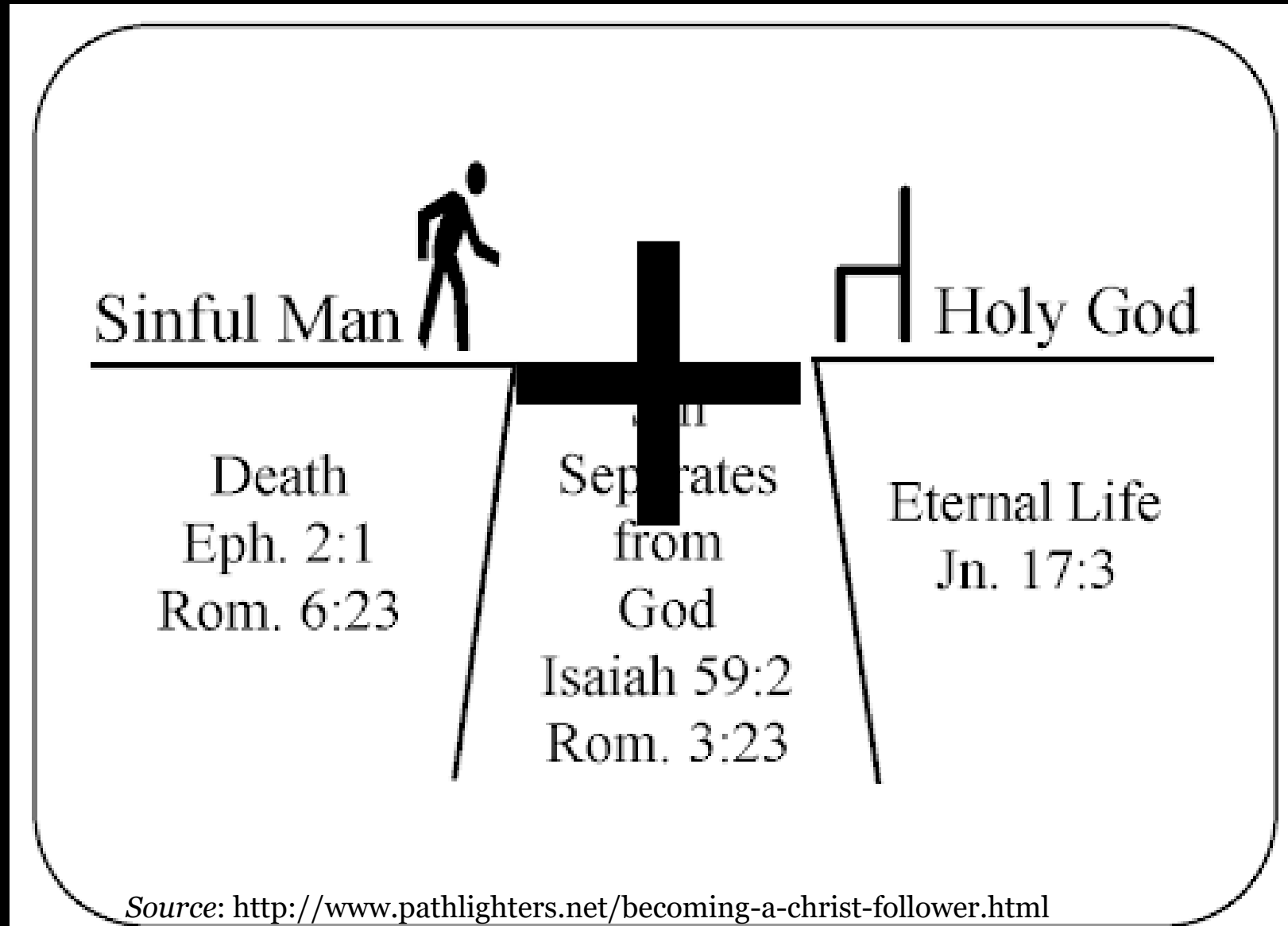
Existential Reality

Neb Worships the One True God

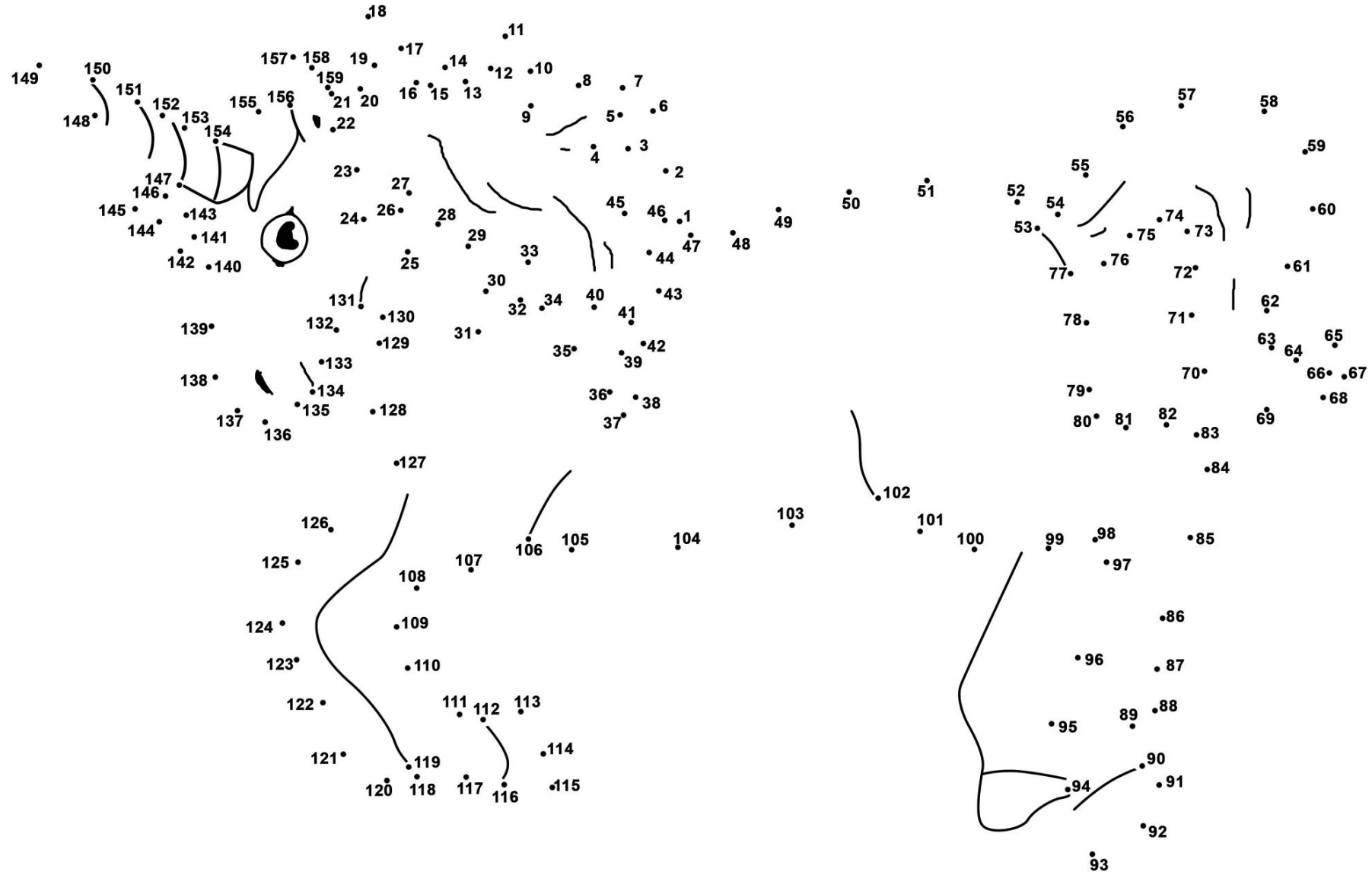


# The Importance of Process in a Post-Christian World

# Evangelism that Connects the Dots

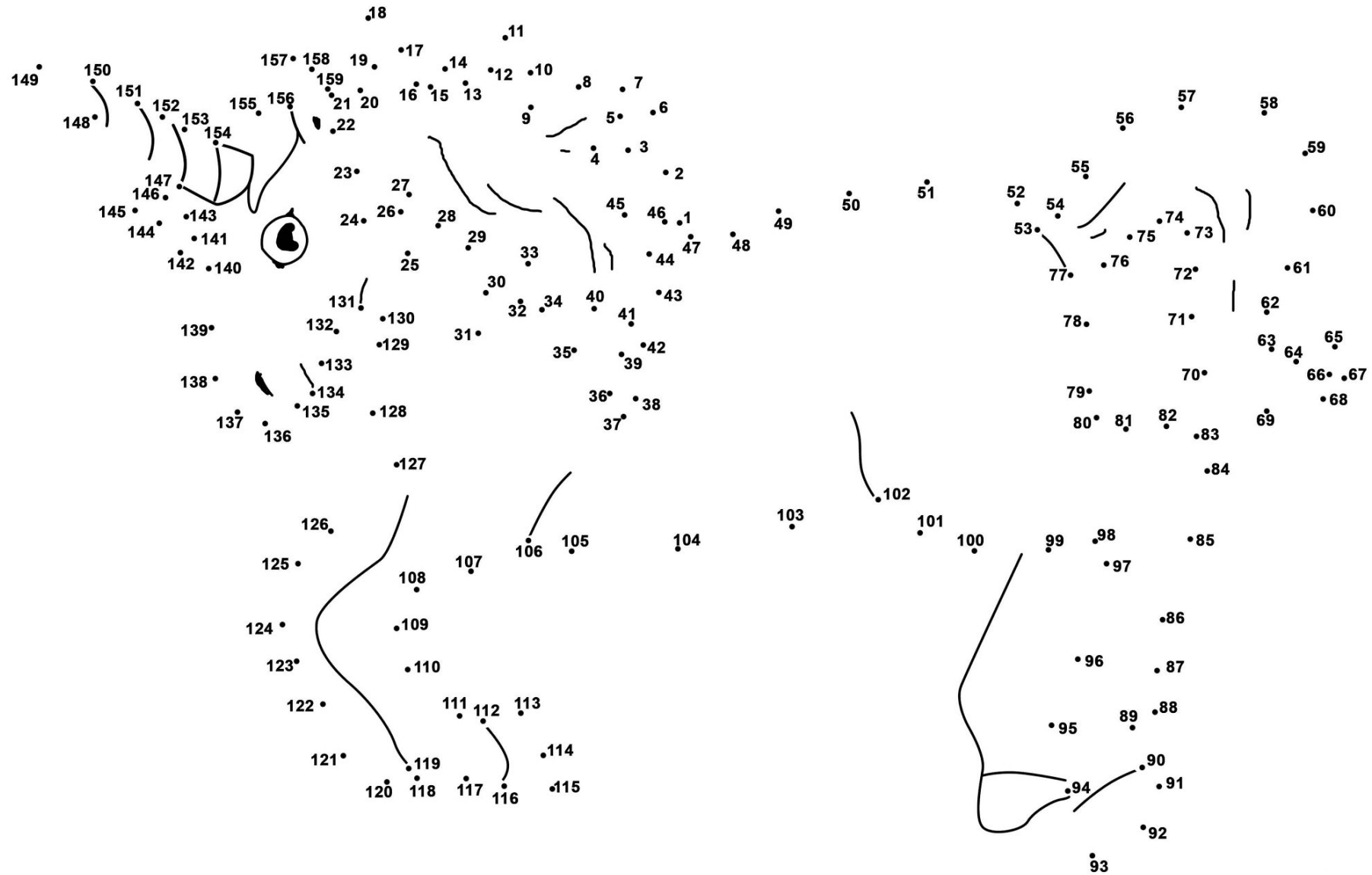


# Draw the Unicorn





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# The Importance of Story in a Post-Christian World

The Story of God disrupting the Story of Neb

The Failure of Neb's gods - Wisdom

The Success of Israel's God - Power

Neb's Personal Encounter  
– Existential Reality



# The Importance of Story in a Post-Christian World

What are my origins? Who am I?

What is good?

What am I to do?

Where is it all going?

# Engaging with Story



I wish everyone could experience being rich and famous, so they'd see it wasn't the answer to anything.

— *Jim Carrey* —

AZ QUOTES

# Engaging with Story



If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.

— *C. S. Lewis* —

**AZ QUOTES**





# Question for reflection

1. Do I place God's story of redemption first in my life?
2. Am I able to share with someone the story of Jesus in my life?
3. Do I consider how God is moving in the story of those around me?