



*Go for God!*

# **“Vision—Decision—Restoration!”**

## **Daniel Chapter 4**

**Introduction:** This chapter is a testimony of a self-exalted king brought down to the earth, literally as a beast. It’s a revelation of prideful man’s arrogance against God and the humbling process that brings repentance and restoration.

~ **There are four observations in chapter 4:**

- > ***Observation #1 - The VISION! (v1-18)***
- > ***Observation #2 - The INTERPRETATION! (v19-27)***
- > ***Observation #3 - The DECISION! (v28-33)***
- > ***Observation #4 - The RESTORATION! (v34-37)***

> **Observation #1 - The VISION! (v1-18)**

(v1-3) **The king’s witness of the Most High God is threefold:**

(1) **True signs and wonders from the one and only true God!**

- In Acts 2:22-24, Peter proclaims, **“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know — Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”**

- **However, we must beware of false signs and wonders!** – Jesus said in Matthew 24:24 – **For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.**

- **Paul warns of the coming Antichrist in the “Great Tribulation” in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 - The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

(2) **His (God’s) kingdom is an everlasting kingdom!**

The term *Kingdom of God* and *Kingdom of Heaven* are found 102 times in the Scriptures! In Psalm 145:8-13 we read,  
***The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,  
Slow to anger and great in mercy,  
The Lord is good to all,  
And His tender mercies are over all His works.***

All Your works shall praise You, O Lord,  
And Your saints shall bless You.  
They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom,  
And talk of Your power,  
To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts,  
And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.  
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

(3) His (God's) dominion is from generation to generation! Peter proclaims in

1 Peter 2:9-10 - But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

(v4-9) The king's call for an interpreter and an interpretation. Let us partake of Daniel's testimony in verse 9- "The Spirit of the Holy God is in you."

(v10-18) Nebuchadnezzar's dream described. (verse 17 – reveals the purpose of the dream.)

> Observation #2 - The INTERPRETATION! (v19-27)

- Notice the purpose of this dream in verse 25 – "till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses." Then verse 26 "after you come to know that Heaven rules."

- In verse 27 Daniel calls the king to a two-fold repentance – (1) "break off your sins by being righteous"

- In Romans 2:5-11 - But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God "will give to each person according to what he has done." To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism.

(2) "by showing mercy to the poor"

- Jesus teaches us what is truly important in life! - Luke 18:18-23 - Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No

*one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.*

*- Jesus displays the heart of repentance! - Luke 19:1-11 - Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

*> Observation #3 - The DECISION! (v28-33)*

*(v28-30) Observe God's patience with King Nebuchadnezzar, waiting one year for him to repent and change his arrogant ways, but he would not! See the king's arrogance in verse 30 "I, my, my".*

*- Remember Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall*

*(v31-33) Mr. Beauty, Nebuchadnezzar becomes the "beast" for seven years!*

*- Let us learn about the chastening of the LORD from Hebrews 12:3-11 - For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:*

*"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,  
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;  
For whom the Lord loves He chastens,*

**And scourges every son whom He receives."**

***If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.***

**> Observation #4 - The RESTORATION! (v34-37)**

**(v34-35) The king finally raises his eyes to heaven, recognizing that God is LORD of all! He then blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever! The king now humbly admits that God has an everlasting dominion and His kingdom is from generation to generation! God is the almighty!**

**> What is biblical humility? Humility is freedom from arrogance that grows out of the recognition that all we have and are comes from God. Biblical humility is recognizing that by ourselves we are inadequate, without dignity and worthless. Yet, because we are created in God's image and because believers are in Christ, we have infinite worth and dignity (1 Corinthians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 1:18-19). True humility does not produce pride but gratitude. Since God is both our Creator and Redeemer, our existence and righteousness depend on Him (John 15:5; Acts 17:28; Ephesians 2:8-10).**

**- James declares in James 4:6 - God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble**

**(v36-37) The king is restored by the grace and mercy of God. Notice that there is no bitterness, but rather a humble spirit of a man who experiences God's TRUTH and JUSTICE for his soul and life.**

**- God speaks through Jeremiah and explains that "self-glory" is useless, but to "glory in the Lord" is marvelous! - Jeremiah 9:23-24 - *Thus says the Lord:***

***"Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom,  
Let not the mighty man glory in his might,  
Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;  
But let him who glories glory in this,***

*That he understands and knows Me,  
That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and  
righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord.*

- *Philippians 2:5-11 - Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*