

The Book of Daniel: Chapter 4

April 30 & May 3, 2023

Chapter Overview: Nebuchadnezzar has another dream, this one of a great tree that fills the earth and then is cut down with its stump and roots left intact (1 – 18). Daniel interprets the dream as applying to the king, that he might know the power of God over the kingdoms of men (19 – 27). A year later, the dream is fulfilled, and Nebuchadnezzar praises, blesses and honors God (28 – 37).

(1 – 3) In his introduction of his address to his people regarding another dream that he had, how did Nebuchadnezzar describe God? How had he come to this knowledge?

(4 – 7) According to the king, what effect did the dream have on him, and what had he requested of his advisors? What was the result, and how was this request different than the one he had made regarding his first dream (recorded in Daniel Chapter 2)?

(8 – 9) Why did the king have confidence that Daniel could interpret the dream?

(10 – 17) List the three key elements of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Looking ahead in the chapter, consider what each element represents.

(18) Describe the king's explanation as to why he wanted Daniel to interpret the dream. To whom did the king attribute Daniel's power of interpretation?

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(19) How did the contents of the dream affect Daniel? What did the king say to Daniel, and how did Daniel respond? What did this interaction indicate about the relationship between Daniel and the king?

(20 – 22) Describe Daniel's explanation of the tree from the dream. Who did the tree represent?

(23 – 25) Describe Daniel's explanation of the tree being chopped down with the stump remaining. Who did the watcher (or messenger) represent? What realization would the king acquire as a result?

(26 – 27) What would happen to Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom following these events, and what recommendation did Daniel make to the king?

(28 – 30) How long was it until the dream was fulfilled? What was Nebuchadnezzar saying when the dream's fulfillment occurred, and what did this statement indicate about his attitude? (*Prov 3: 5 – 8; Prov 16: 18*)

(31 – 32) What did the voice from heaven say to Nebuchadnezzar, and what lesson would the king learn about God as a result of the events described in the dream?

(33) How was the king's behavior and appearance described? What condition did this likely indicate?

(34 – 35) What did the king do when his understanding returned? How did he describe God?

(36 – 37) What was restored to the king when his reason returned to him, and how did he respond?