

CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH

“Lessons from the Book of Daniel - #7”

Date: May 24, 2009

Text: Daniel 4:1-18

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FINAL DAYS AND DREAMS

INTRODUCTION: The Book of Daniel is actually a record of the experiences of his life from the time of his capture to the end of his life. In it he recounts the actual events that occurred in the great city of Babylon. As Daniel writes chapter four, he tells us of the final days of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, the great king of Babylon. God was working on him and in his life, but he was a “tough nut” to crack. However, God is able to humble and secure even the lowliest of men, as we begin to see here. We begin Daniel's story of the conversion and faith of Nebuchadnezzar . . .

I. THE KING'S PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT - (4:1-9)

A) His Testimony and Faith

B) His Trouble and Fear

II. THE KING'S PERSONAL ACCOUNT - (4:10-18)

A) The Dream is Told

B) The Dream is Telling

CONCLUSION: God often communicated the progressive revelation of His Word to His people by dreams and visions. He also chose this method, at times, to speak to the godless who had control of His people. Such was King Nebuchadnezzar. God gave him two dreams in his lifetime. One at the beginning of his reign, and the last at the near end of it. In each case, God's goal was to use it to preserve His people in their captivity, and to reach out and save even the most hopeless case of a man in love with himself. However, the overall intent of the story and the dream is to once again declare – “ that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men.” (Dan. 4:17)

BIBLE TEXT FOR MESSAGE

The New International Version

Dan 4:1-18 (NIV) King Nebuchadnezzar, To the peoples, nations and men of every language, who live in all the world: May you prosper greatly! 2 It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me. 3 How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation.

4 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. 5 I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in my bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me. 6 So I commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream for me. 7 When the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners came, I told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me. 8 Finally, Daniel came into my presence and I told him the dream. (He is called Belteshazzar, after the name of my god, and the spirit of the holy gods is in him.) 9 I said, "Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you. Here is my dream; interpret it for me.

10 These are the visions I saw while lying in my bed: I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous. 11 The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth. 12 Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit abundant, and on it was food for all. Under it the beasts of the field found shelter, and the birds of the air lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed. 13 "In the visions I saw while lying in my bed, I looked, and there before me was a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven. 14 He called in a loud voice: 'Cut down the tree and trim off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches. 15 But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field. "'Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth. 16 Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him.

17 "'The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men.' 18 "This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now, Belteshazzar, tell me what it means, for none of the wise men in my kingdom can interpret it for me. But you can, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you."