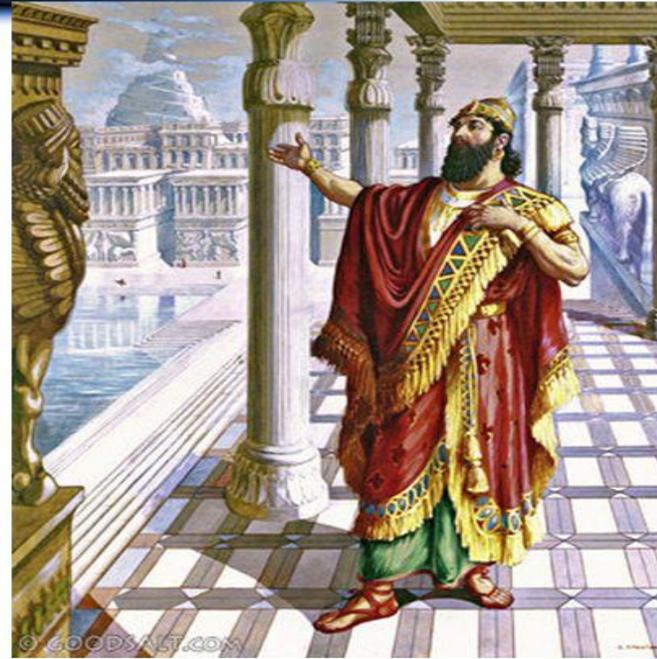
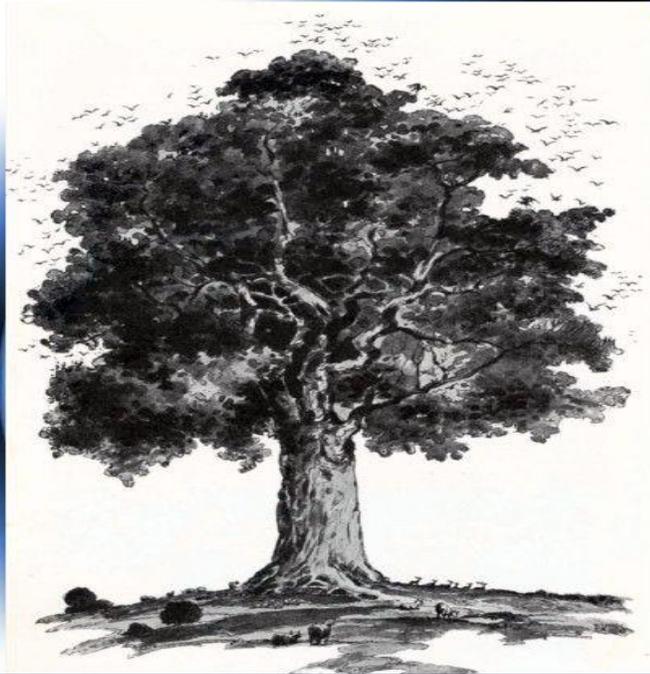


# *Daniel Chapter 4 – Part 1*

## *From Pride to Humility*



Dethroned Nebuchadnezzar:  
A Dream and the Insane King

**Past** > **Present** > **Future**



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# ***Enter The Ark of Hope***

The Great Controversy between God and  
Satan is primarily over

**“WORSHIP”**

Who will you Choose?



# ***Get into the Ark*** **Sanctuary**



**And let them  
make me a  
sanctuary;  
that I may dwell  
among them.**

– Exodus 25:8

**Psalms 77:13**



# Health Snippet – Hydrotherapy for Fever

## Home Hydrotherapy for Safe Fever Management: *(Always get Medical Advice)*

Fever is a protective mechanism of the body to fight infection. These home remedies help maintain the fever at a safe temperature. They also improve the ability of the body to fight infections. For over 200 years has been in use internationally in colds, flus, pneumonia, cholera, smallpox, polio & other epidemics a safe method.

Apply the procedure indicated based upon the temperature. Wring the wet towels from cold tap water – wrung very well to be only damp and not dripping. And not ice cold. Leave the application on until it warms to the temperature of the body then remove. Renew the applications until the patient sleeps or rests well (leave on if sleeping until they wake) or until the temperature comes down to around 101°F which is ideal for safe fever.

**For fevers 98.6-99.5°F – Wet Sock Treatment:** Use a pair of cotton socks and wring them out in cold tap water. Put on the wet socks. Put on over the cotton socks a pair of thick wool socks. Relax for 20 minutes or until the wet socks are warmed to body temperature, then remove. This will bring the fever down about 0.5 F degree.

**For fevers 99.6-102°F – Abdominal Girdle:** Wring a thin towel in cold water. Fold in half lengthwise so it is two layers thick and wrap around your torso, covering from chest to hip bone. Use a thick blanket of velux or wool to wrap around tightly and compress the cold towel “girdle”. Wear this for 10-20 minutes until it is warmed.

**For fevers 102-104°F – Torso Pack:** Wrap once or twice around the body cotton linen which wrung out in cold water from the armpits to the buttocks. Wrap a thick blanket of wool or velux, making sure to seal the wet sheet from the air. This helps dissipate the fever. Leave this wet sheet on the body until warmed, then remove.

**For Fevers 104°F or higher – Wet sheet wrap:** Wrap once or twice around the body a cotton sheet wrung out in cold water, wrap around the person from shoulders to ankles. Wrap a thick blanket of wool or velux, making sure to seal the wet sheet from the air. Leave this wet sheet on the body until dry or significantly warmed.

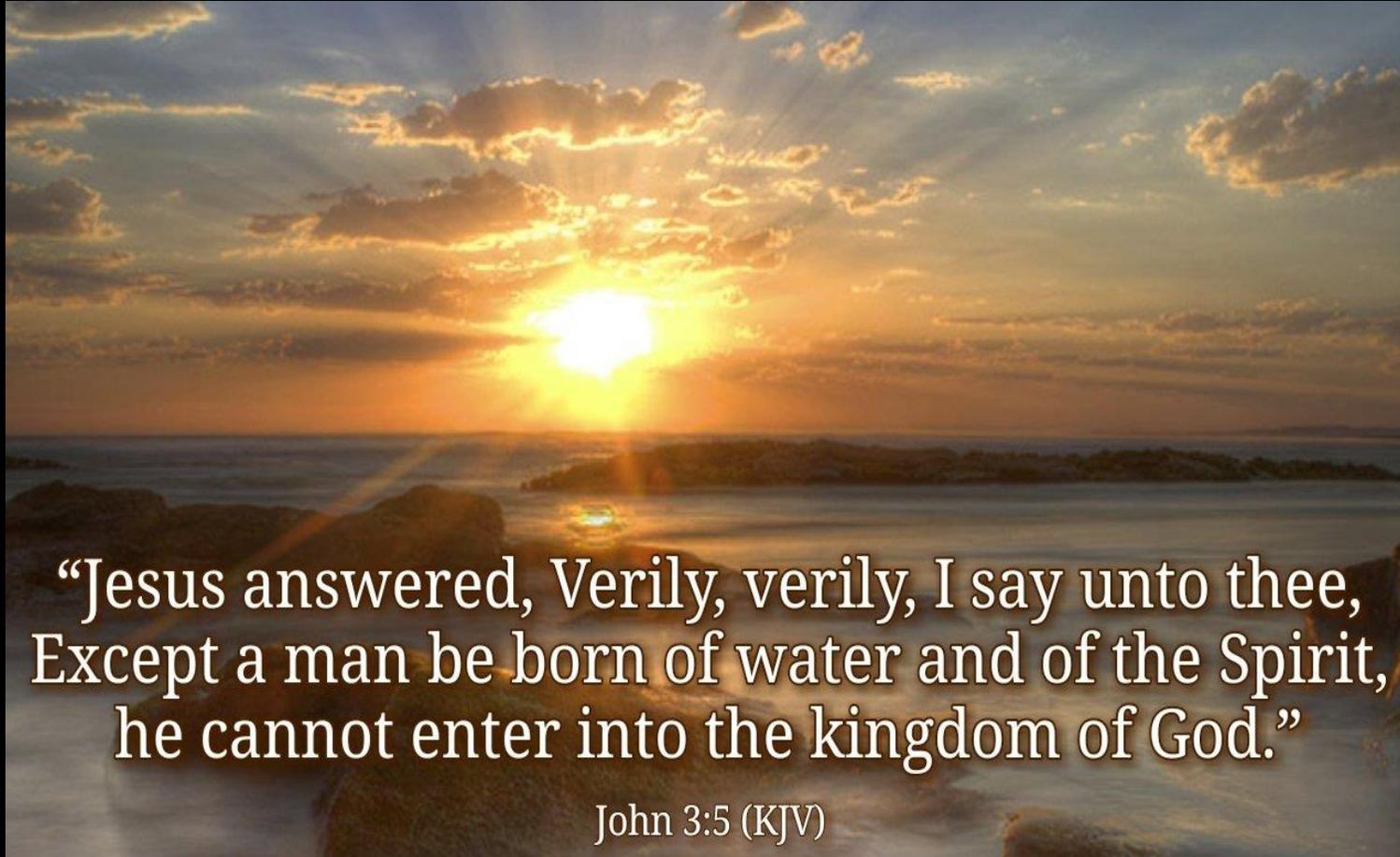
• “Give me a fever and I can cure any disease” – Hippocrates, *The Father of Modern Medicine.*



# Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



# Yes we Can!

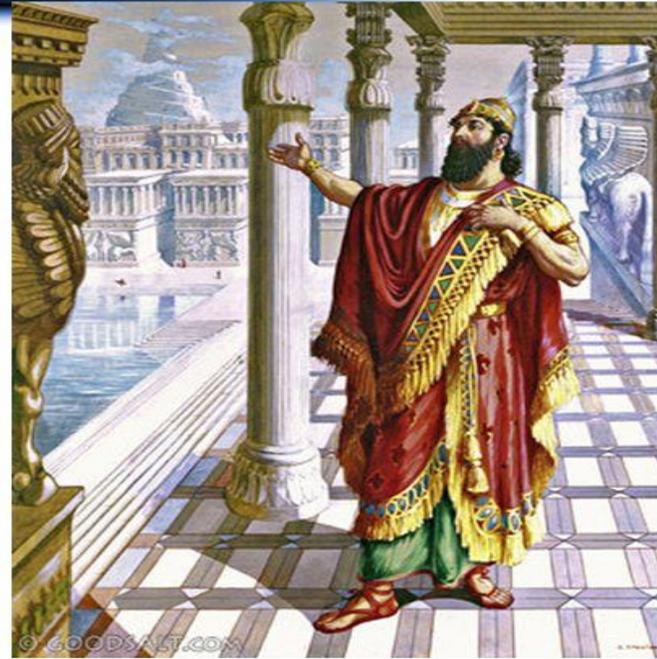


“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

John 3:5 (KJV)



# *Daniel Chapter 4 - From Pride to Humility*



Dethroned Nebuchadnezzar:  
A Dream and the Insane King

**Past** > **Present** > **Future**



# Introduction

So far in our prior studies, we have looked at the first three chapters of the Book of Daniel.

We have learned that the Book of Daniel contains two basic sections:

1. **Stories of individuals as they came face to face with life and death decisions.** These stories give us models for living at the end of time.
2. **Prophecy accurately predicting the rise and fall of the great empires from Daniel's time to the end of time.**

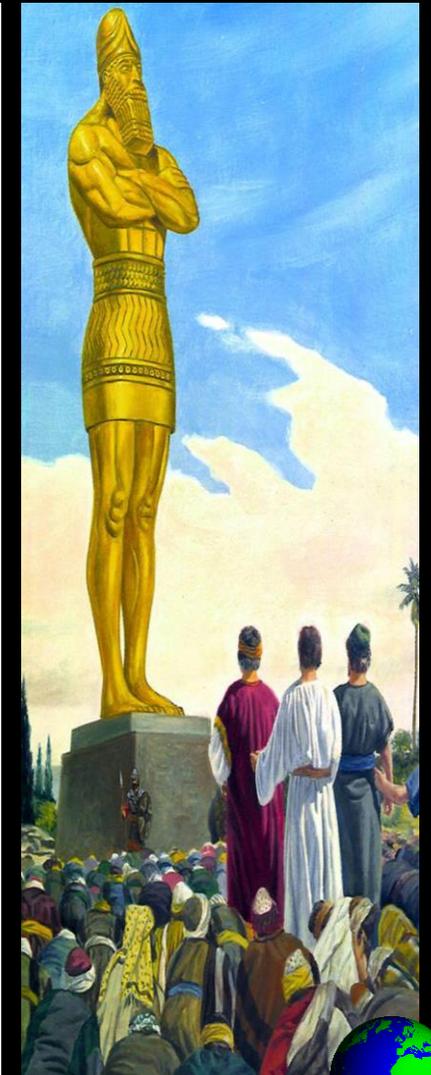
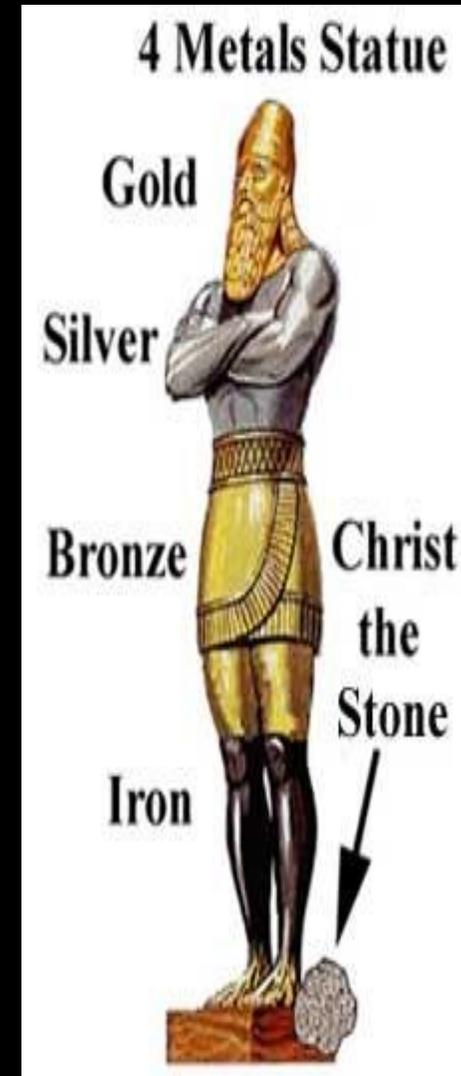
In Daniel 1, we learned how **Nebuchadnezzar attacked God's sanctuary**. He also took God's people captive along with the consecrated vessels of the temple. **He placed these sacred vessels of worship in the pagan temple of his God.** In doing this, he mixed the vessels of God's worship with pagan worship. **In this regard he is a type or example of the Antichrist power.**



# Introduction (cont'd)

In [Daniel 2](#), we learned how Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a great metal man followed by a rock that struck the image and destroyed it. The image grew into a mountain that filled the whole earth. God showed Nebuchadnezzar an outline of history of the great empires which will impact God's people from Daniel's time all the way down to the end of time. During this study, we also noticed several scriptures that reveal Jesus to be the rock. We identified the mountain as God's Kingdom.

In [Daniel 3](#), we saw that Nebuchadnezzar rejected God's prophecy, and with it, the historical view of prophecy. Nebuchadnezzar established both false and forced worship. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to the image, but the fiery furnace punishment did not hurt them. Nebuchadnezzar saw the son of God walking in the midst of the fire with the three Hebrews. We learned that God honoured their faithfulness by allowing them to stand in the presence of his eternal and fiery glory without being destroyed. Nebuchadnezzar was not killed when he approached the fiery door because he was being drawn to God.



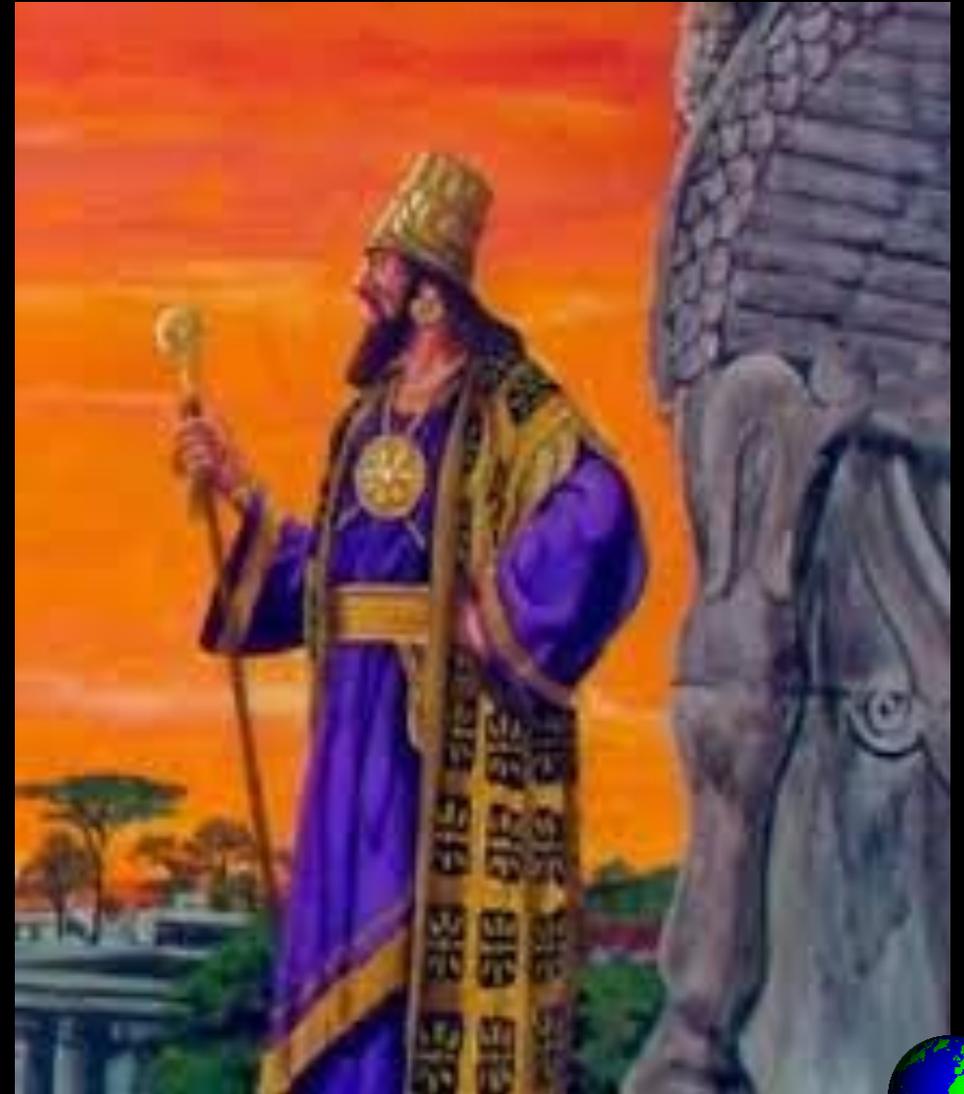
# **Introduction (cont'd)**

In **Daniel chapter 4**, Daniel has been in captivity for about 35 years, and is over fifty years old. He and his friends Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego have been witnesses of the true God to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

In **Chapter 2**, God was revealed as the only one who really knows the future. The third chapter reveals God as the true DELIVERER. He is the mighty saviour of his people. And in the fourth chapter of Daniel, God is revealed as the true CONQUEROR. He is the only true king of all the nations on earth.

For 35 years God demonstrated His mercy toward Nebuchadnezzar. He created opportunities for the king to know and accept Him as the true God.

In **Daniel 4**, Nebuchadnezzar tells his testimony and conversion story, recording the miracle of God's transforming grace and power in a heathen King's life.



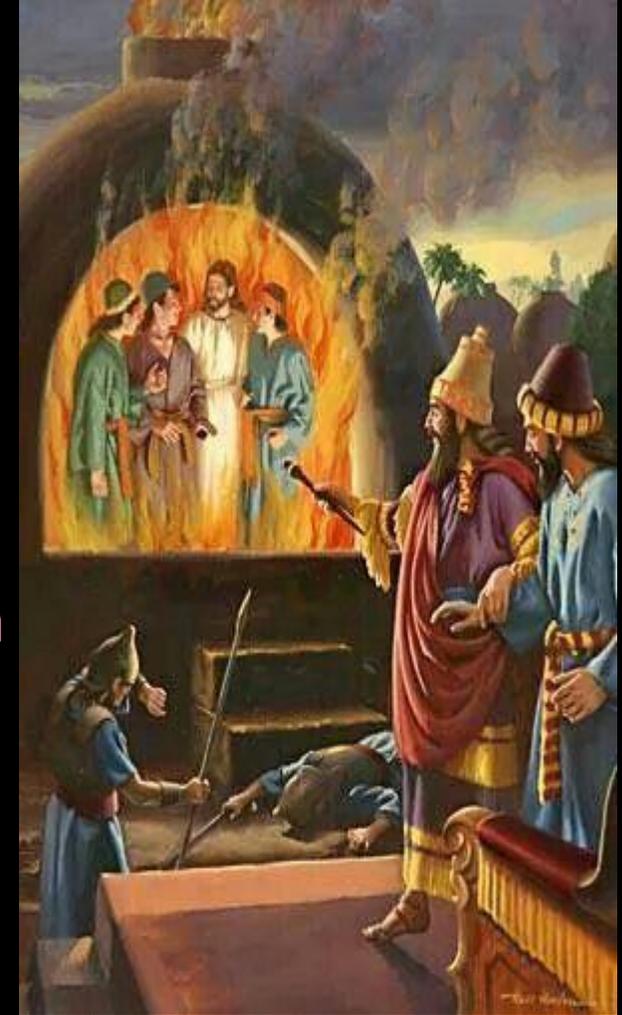
# Setting the Stage

Pride has been called the first sin. It is first made manifest in Lucifer, an angel in the courts of heaven.

Thus God says through Ezekiel, *“Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee”* - Ezekiel 28:17.

Pride leads to Lucifer’s fall, so now he instills pride in men, thus leading them to be against God and, so, to go down a path toward destruction. We are all fallen human beings, dependent upon God for our very existence. Any gifts we have, any things that we accomplish with those gifts, come only from God. Hence, how do we dare to be proud, boastful, or arrogant when, in reality, humility should dominate all that we do?

It takes a long time for Nebuchadnezzar to understand the importance of humility. Even the appearance of the fourth man in the fiery furnace (see last week) does not change the course of his life. Only after God takes away his kingdom and sends him to live with the beasts of the field does the king recognize his true status.



# The Flow of Chapter 4

## First and Third Person

Verses 2-27 are the first person because the king is describing his own experience.

Verses 28-33 (while Nebuchadnezzar is beside himself) are in the third person because someone else is telling the story.

Verses 34-37 return to the first person because the king is 'all there' once more.

## Examine the chapter in sequence:

- **Nebuchadnezzar receives the dream** (Daniel 4:4-5).
- The king calls the wise men (Daniel 4:6-7). **These verses clearly reveal that the king himself knew that the religion of Babylon was bankrupt so at last he has to call Daniel** (Daniel 4:18).
- **Daniel comes to the rescue** (Daniel 4:8-9).
- The king tells Daniel the dream (Daniel 4:10-17).



When The Magicians,  
Enchanters, Astrologers And  
Diviners Came, I Told Them  
The Dream, But They Could  
Not Interpret It For Me.

Daniel 4-7



# The Flow of Chapter 4 (cont'd)

- The king affirms his trust that Daniel will be able to interpret the dream (Daniel 4:18).
- Daniel is troubled about the meaning of the dream and yet chooses to tell the king the truth (Daniel 4:19).
- Daniel repeats the dream to Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:20-26).
- Daniel counsels the king to 'shape up' to prevent God's judgment (Daniel 4:27).
- The king manifests his arrogant pride one year later (Daniel 4:28-32).
- God's voice pronounces the sentence upon the king (Daniel 4:31-32).
- The sentence is executed and the king 'loses it' for seven years (Daniel 4:33).
- A sane Nebuchadnezzar praises God for humbling him (Daniel 4:34-37).



# Daniel 4:1-3 - Nebuchadnezzar's Conversion

**Daniel 4:1** *Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.*

**2** *I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me.*

**3** *How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.*

**The king's poetic anthem of praise in Daniel 4:1-3 should probably be included as the conclusion of chapter 3. When Daniel's three friends were delivered from the furnace, the king was impressed with God's signs and wonders. But at the end of chapter 4 we will find that he was deeply impressed with God's character as a person. His concept of God had changed from One who performs signs and wonders to a God who can humble the proud and perform the greatest miracle of all, transform the stony heart of a haughty despot to that of a humble child.**



# The Most High Rules

Nebuchadnezzar personally addresses the reader by acknowledging the goodness and power of the true God.

What a change from the Nebuchadnezzar of chapters 2 and 3 who had rejected God's historical outline of prophecy by creating the golden image in the plain of Dura.

Nebuchadnezzar starts out with words of "Peace". How similar to the phrases in the openings of many of the writings of Paul (Galatians 1:3, Ephesians 1:2, Philippians 1:2, Romans 5:1, etc.).

Both Nebuchadnezzar and Paul had been opposed to God.

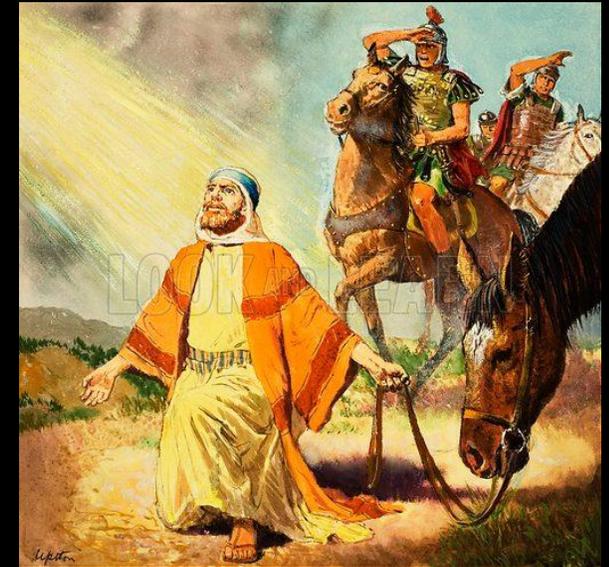
Both had been persecutors of God's people. Both had experienced "supernatural" events leading to their conversions.

Both had come to know the Source of peace in their lives.

And both wanted to share the truth of God's love with others.

Notice that Nebuchadnezzar sought to know the inner workings of his mind in Daniel 2:30.

In Daniel 2:1, the Bible says that he was "troubled" and unable to sleep, but when the purpose of prophecy has worked its way in the king's life, he is now able to say with confidence that peace is found in the True God of Heaven.



# Examining the verses...

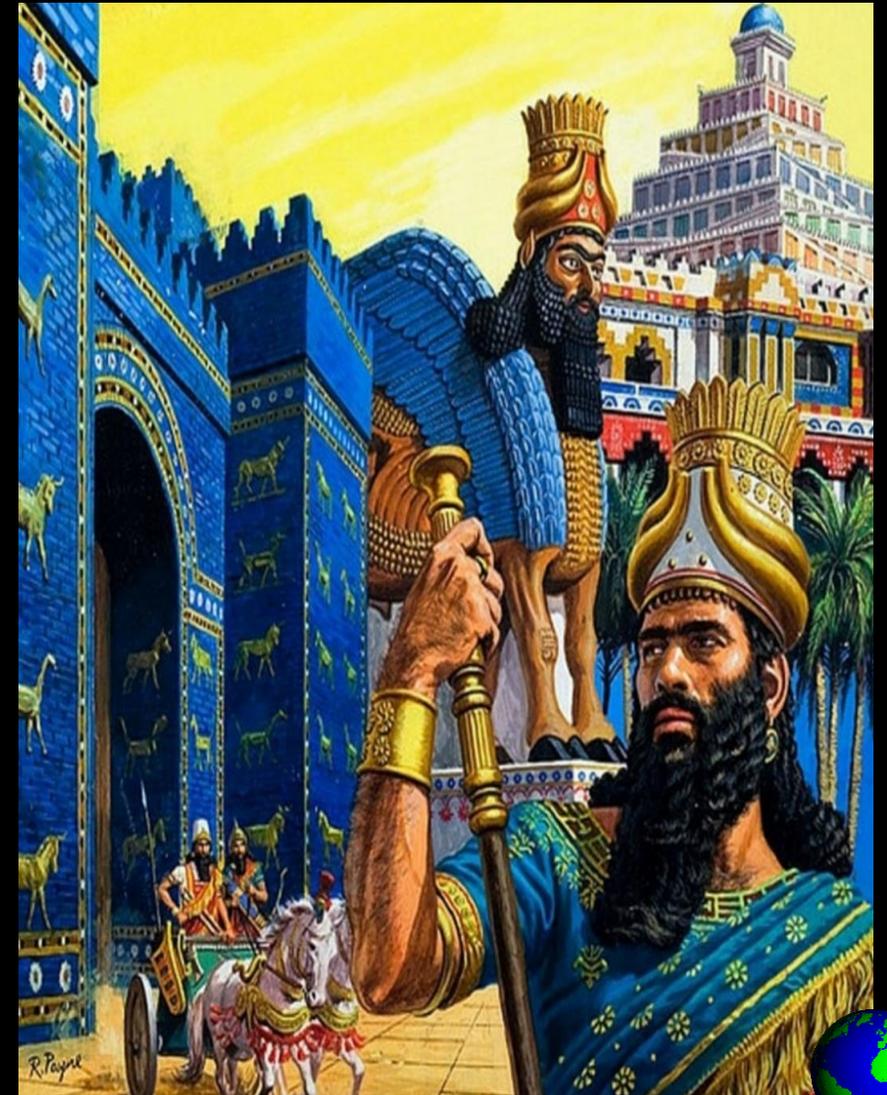
Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people -

Here in this chapter we are seeing a decree that Nebuchadnezzar is making to all people, nations, and languages, as he was the ruler of the world at this stage. So this entire chapter deals with this decree that shows the conversion of Nebuchadnezzar.

Signs and wonders - God had wrought many signs and wonders before him. They were the great vision of chapter 2 where he was shown from the kingdom of Babylon to the Second Coming of Christ. Also the mighty deliverance of the three Hebrews from the fiery furnace in chapter 3. Now we will see in this chapter another wonder performed by God to bring Nebuchadnezzar to a decision.

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom -

Nebuchadnezzar freely acknowledges that God's kingdom is an everlasting one and that His dominion is from generation to generation.



# Men of Destiny Watched With Vigilance

In verse 3, Nebuchadnezzar rejoices in the signs and wonders of God revealed in his life and in prophecy. It is important to note that signs and wonders can harden or soften hearts. Just like in the book of Exodus, when God was giving signs and wonders, through the ten plagues, trying to convince Pharaoh to let His people go from Egypt. Pharaoh hardened his heart. Each of us have a choice, when we hear God's truths of the Bible, we either harden or soften our heart.

- Nebuchadnezzar now recognizes the truth revealed to him in Daniel 2:44 that God's kingdom is the only eternal kingdom.

The Lord God omnipotent reigneth. All kings, all nations, are His, under His rule and government. His resources are infinite. The wise man declares, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will." - 4BC 1170.2

Those upon whose actions hang the destinies of nations, are watched over with a vigilance that knows no relaxation by Him who "giveth salvation unto kings," to whom belong "the shields of the earth" - 4BC 1170.3



# Practical Lessons to learn from...

The spectacular events of chapter 3 did nothing to convert the heart of the proud king.

Notice four things about the king's decree in [Daniel 3:29](#):

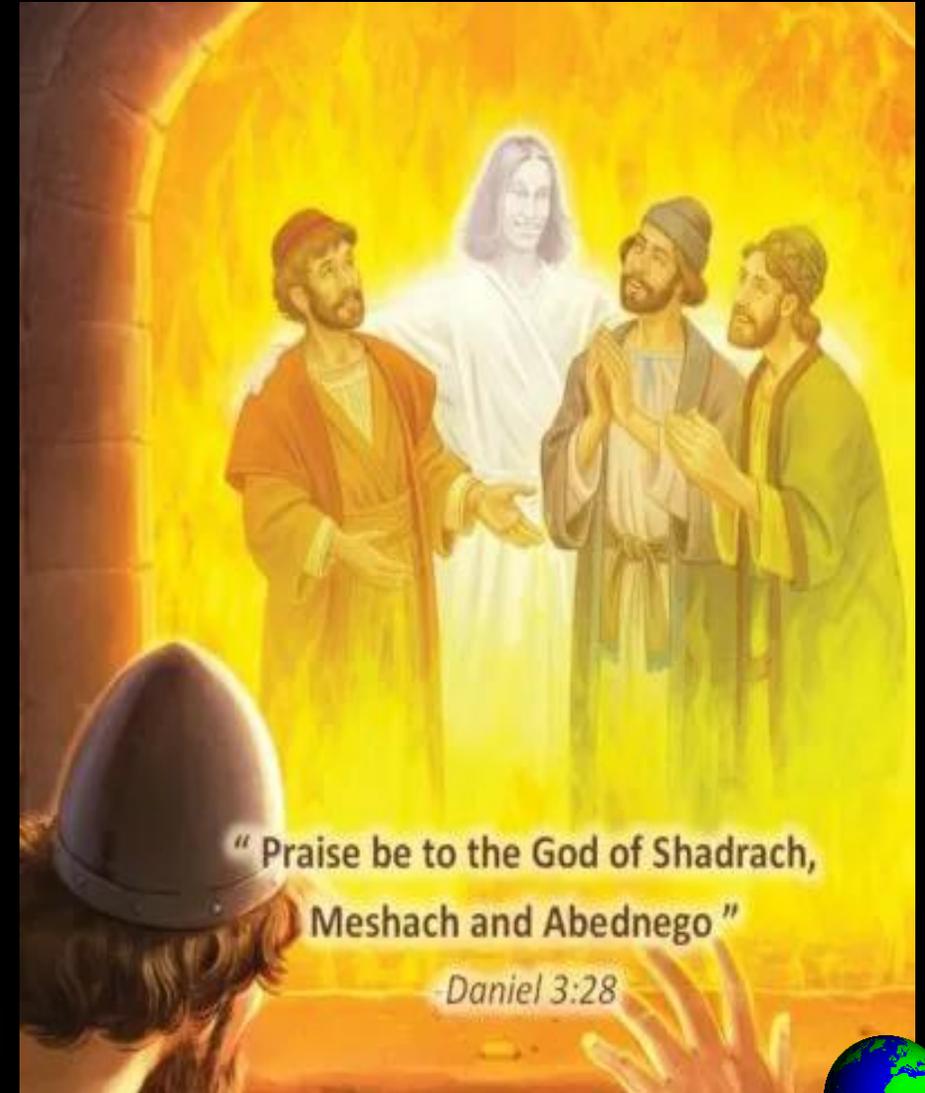
First, Jehovah is not his God but rather the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Second, the king's decree does not forbid the worship of other gods but simply forbids 'speaking against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.'

Third, the king's cruelty is still manifested when he threatens to cut in pieces anyone who speaks negatively about the God of the three Hebrew worthies.

Finally, according to [Daniel 4:1-3](#) Nebuchadnezzar conceived of the Hebrew God as a great worker of signs and wonders but he does not at this point know God as his personal friend.

We see that God is a patient God. God does not give up on the king. He has a passion for the salvation of the king. God was constantly on the king's track—He wanted him as his loving child.



# Can we find peace in our lives?

## Two Key Points:

1. When a person defies God's will and lives a life out of harmony with His plan, lasting peace will not be found.

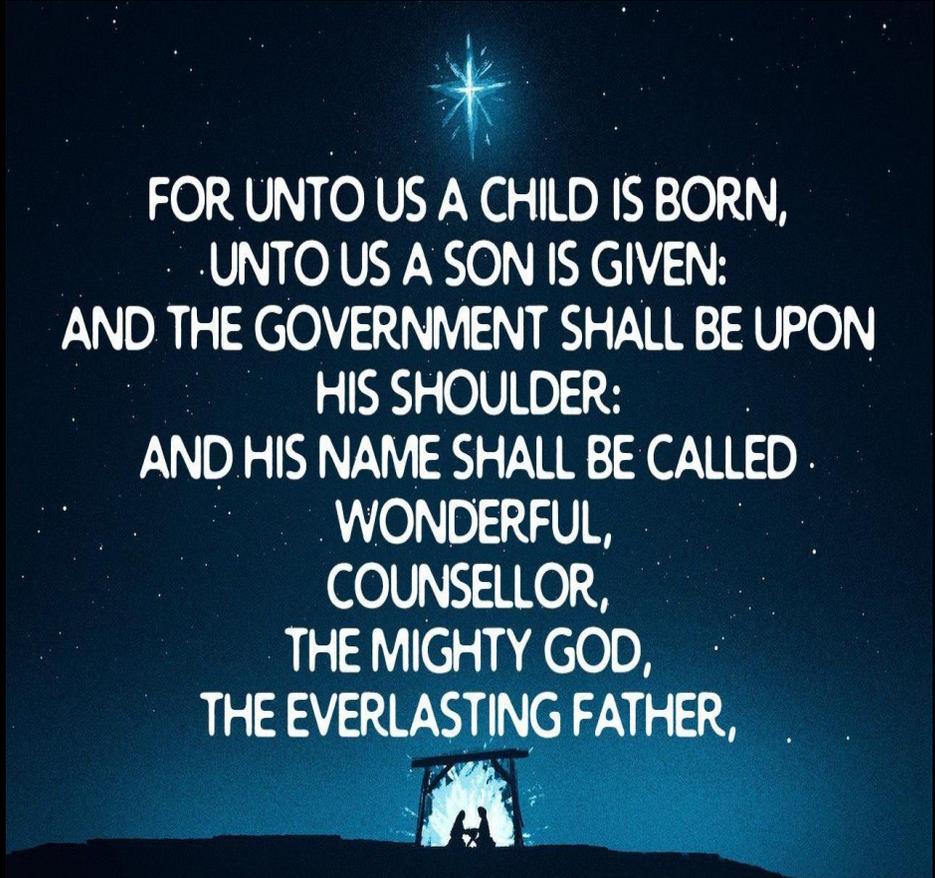
2. Both Paul and Nebuchadnezzar surrendered to the claims of the Spirit of God, and by doing so they found true and lasting peace.

*Isaiah 26:3* "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

*Philippians 4:7* "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

*Galatians 5:22* "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,"

*Romans 15:13* "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."



FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN,  
UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN:  
AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON  
HIS SHOULDER:  
AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED  
WONDERFUL,  
COUNSELLOR,  
THE MIGHTY GOD,  
THE EVERLASTING FATHER,

THE PRINCE OF PEACE.  
ISAIAH 9:6 KJV



# Daniel 4:4-7 - God gives a 2<sup>nd</sup> Dream

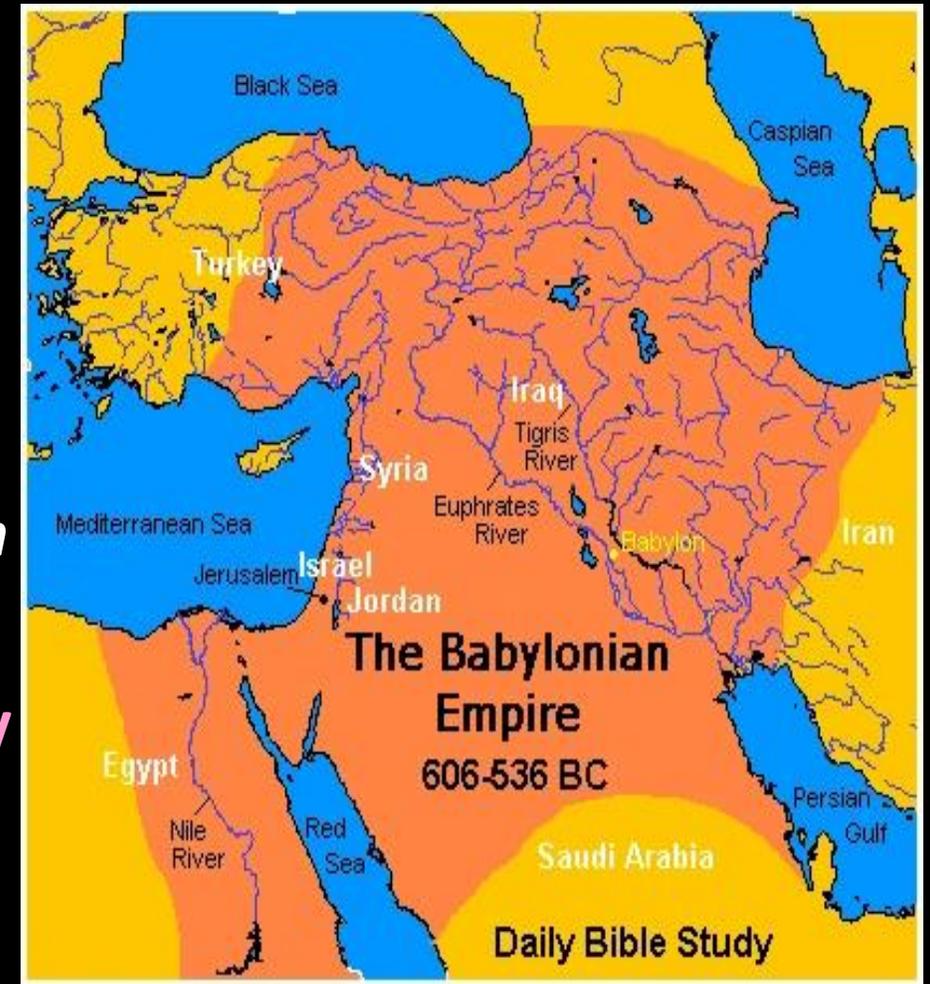
**Daniel 4:4** I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace:

**5** I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

**6** Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream.

**7** Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof.

**Nebuchadnezzar was at rest, or in a state of security because of his success, and flourishing/prosperous as he had subdued Syria, Phoenicia, Judea, Egypt, and Arabia. Because of this security and prosperity he was slipping into a condition of laxness. We can guarantee that Satan was using this prosperity to keep him from God as we will see in v 30.**



# Examining the verses...

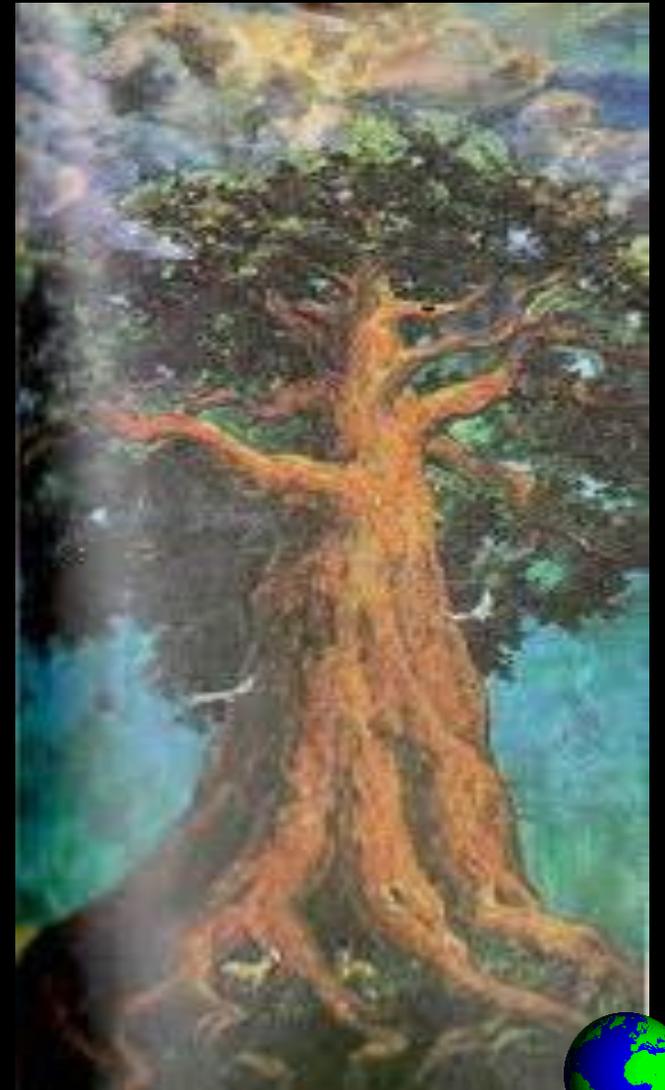
Dream which made me afraid...troubled me - It was at this time that God, in His mercy, gave him another dream. If you look through the book of Daniel, you will see God trying to draw Nebuchadnezzar to Himself, either through dreams or wonders performed before him.

- This dream struck fear into him at a time when he was secure, and continued to trouble his mind and not give him any peace.

Therefore...decree to bring in all the wise men - Because it brought so much unrest to his mind, he made a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon. This was to have them give him the interpretation of the dream.

I told the dream before them - Unlike the dream of chapter 2, the king remembers this time what he has dreamt. Therefore he tells the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and the soothsayers what the dream was.

Did not make known unto me the interpretation - In chapter 2 the wise men begged the king to give them the dream and they would give the interpretation. Here the king gives them the dream and they still could not give the interpretation of it. God is still exposing the falsity of the counterfeit system to Nebuchadnezzar.



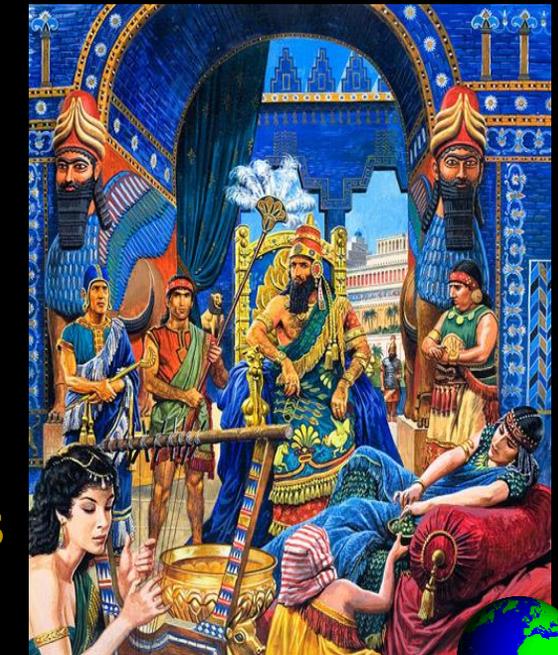
# King still a servant of 'his god'

At the beginning of **Daniel 4** the king was still a servant of 'his god' (**verse 8**) and this in spite of all that had occurred in **Daniel 1-3**. **The king had repeatedly seen the bankruptcy of the Babylonian religion. In each of the first four chapters the Hebrew religion was clearly proved to be superior.**

- In **Daniel 1** the Hebrew young men were proved ten times superior to the Babylonian priests.
- In **Daniel 2** the Chaldeans could not tell or interpret the dream.
- In **Daniel 3** the Chaldeans accused the three young men and **God delivered them from the evil plot.**

In spite of all of this, the king called these charlatans again in **Daniel 4:7** (on the bankruptcy of the Babylonian methods of divination see **Isaiah 47:12, 13**).

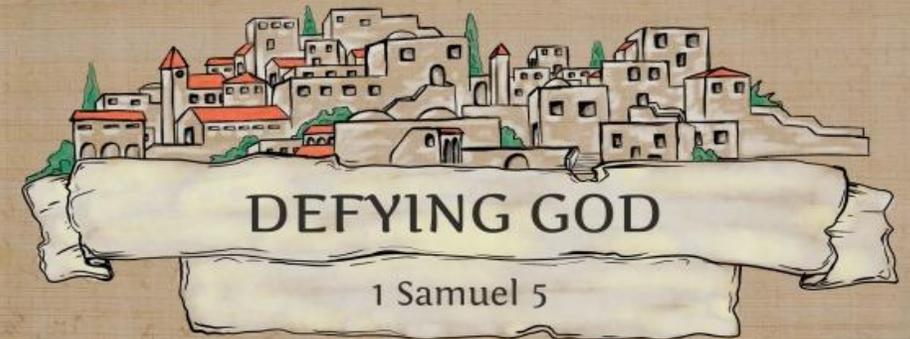
**Nebuchadnezzar's concept of the God's was that of the Chaldeans in Daniel 2:11—a totally transcendent god who is uninterested in human affairs. Ancient gods were conceived of as self-serving despots and tyrants who did not care about human beings except to have them cater to their every whim and fancy.**



# Some Today are Like Nebuchadnezzar

We are living in the last days of this earth's history, and we may be surprised at nothing in the line of apostasies and denials of the truth. Unbelief has now come to be a fine art, which men work at to the destruction of their souls. There is constant danger of there being shams in pulpit preachers, whose lives contradict the words they speak; but the voice of warning and of admonition will be heard as long as time shall last; and those who are guilty of transactions that should never be entered into, when reproved or counselled through the Lord's appointed agencies, will resist the message and refuse to be corrected. They will go on as did Pharaoh, and Nebuchadnezzar, until the Lord takes away their reason, and their hearts become unimpressible. The Lord's Word will come to them; but if they choose not to hear it, the Lord will make them responsible for their own ruin. [4BC 1170.4](#)

Original sin = Adam and Eve defying God and eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.



# Daniel 4:8-9 – In desperation calls for Daniel

**Daniel 4:8** *But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying,*

**9** *O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof.*

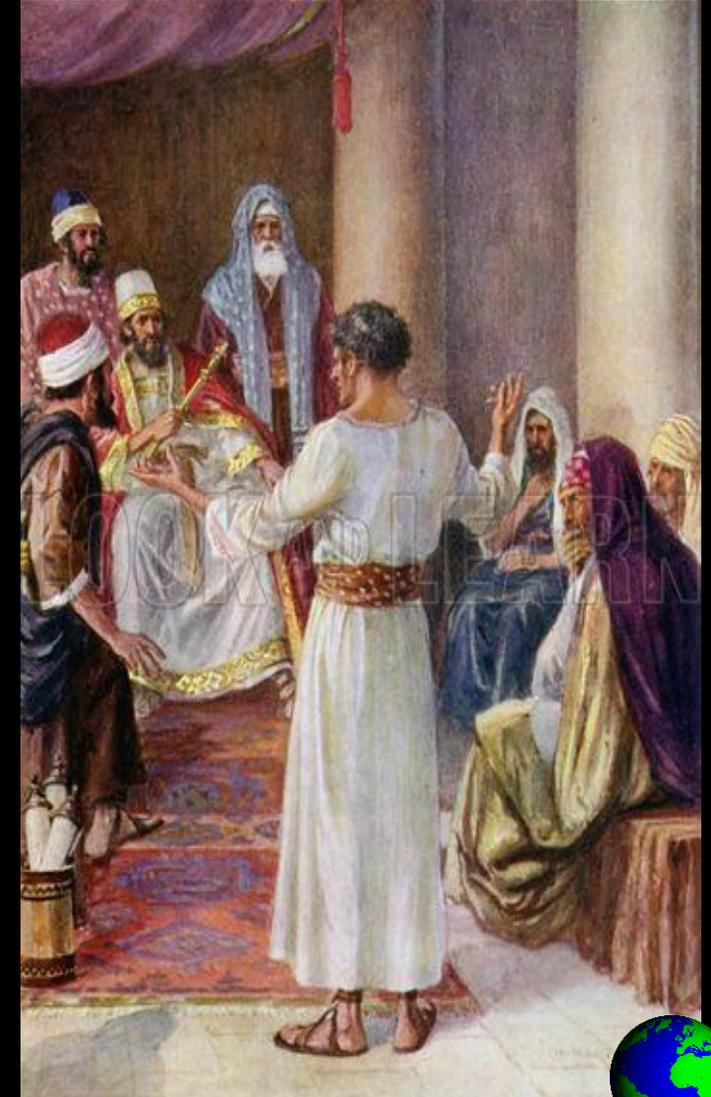
**Nebuchadnezzar has another dream that troubled him.**

He starts out just like he did in **chapter 2**, calling his wise-men, magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers.

**He seeks the wisdom of men, but as before, they are unable to help him. Now, even though he told them the dream, they still couldn't interpret it.**

**Finally, Nebuchadnezzar called Daniel, showing he had not learned from the prior experience to seek God's truth first.**

**Sometimes, just like Nebuchadnezzar, we resist the lessons God provides for our lives. We try everything else first, then, in desperation, we call out to God for help.**



# Examining the verses...

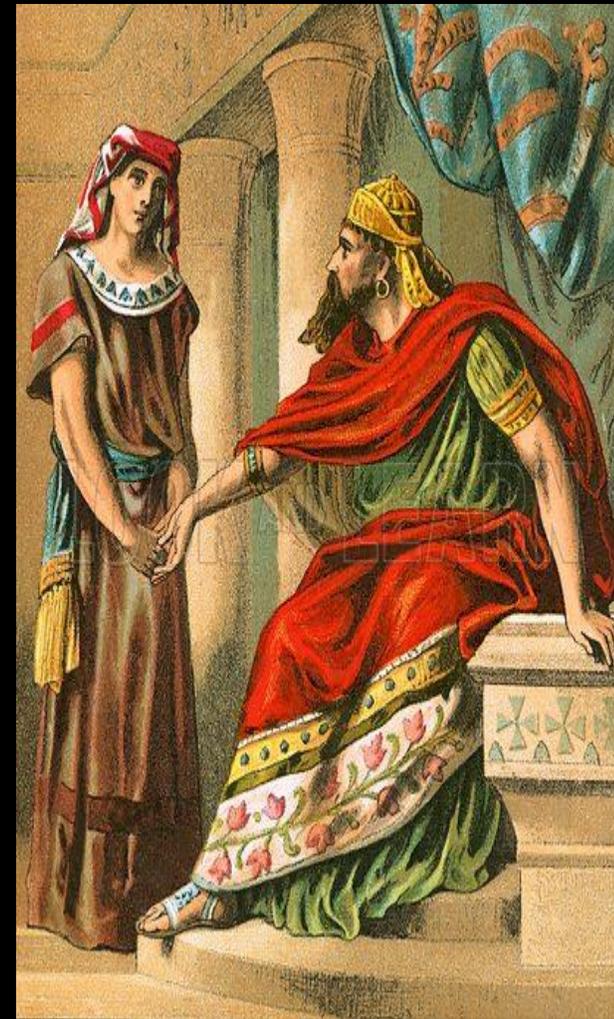
But at the last Daniel - At last Daniel has come in before the king. The king remembers Daniel and the abilities he has plus the position of being the master of the magicians. He is called this because he can give the answer of all secret things.

Spirit of the holy gods - Nebuchadnezzar says this about Daniel because it is Daniel's God that is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets. (Daniel 2:47)

Before him I told the dream - Before Daniel the king tells the dream and asks Daniel for the interpretation.

- Nebuchadnezzar is troubled by a dream a second time. Just like he was when he had the dream of the image that had the head of gold, arms and chest of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, feet and toes of iron and clay, in Daniel two.

Key Point: Nebuchadnezzar admitted that Daniel had the knowledge of the holy "gods" using the Chaldean word "Elahiyn." This is equivalent to the Hebrew word "Elohiym," for one god. Thus Nebuchadnezzar is acknowledging Daniel knows the one true God.



# The Relentless God

Slowly and surely, the Hebrew God changed the king's concept of God. He came to see that God wanted to communicate His will to human beings. He came to see him as a God who is interested in human affairs generally and in specific persons in particular. In fact, he came to realize that the Hebrew God was interested in saving him!! He slowly came to realize that God is not only the high and lofty one but is also with those of humble and contrite heart. That is, God is concerned about His earthly children. He saw this clearly when Jesus Himself came into the furnace to deliver His servants from certain death.

In Daniel 1-4 we see the Hebrew God as the patient and long-suffering God who does all in His power to save. God even gave the king twelve months after the dream to repent in order to avert punishment (Daniel 4:29). After all, the prophecy was conditional (Daniel 4:27) and the judgment could be averted if the king repented and changed his ways.

But as the memory of his dream faded from his mind, 'he lost confidence in the interpretation of the dream, and jested at his former fears' - Prophets and Kings, p. 519

THE LORD IS NOT SLACK  
CONCERNING HIS PROMISE,

AS SOME MEN COUNT SLACKNESS;

*but is longsuffering to us-ward,*

**NOT WILLING THAT ANY**

**SHOULD PERISH,**

BUT THAT ALL SHOULD COME TO

**REPENTANCE.**

2 PETER 3:9 (KJV)

- IN HEAVEN'S EYES -



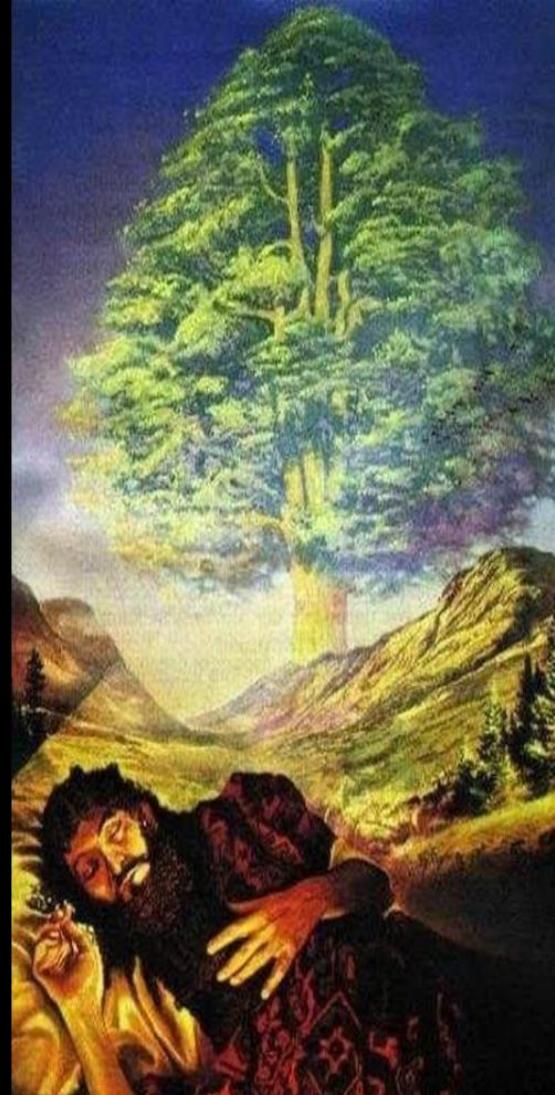
# Daniel 4:10-12 – King relates the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dream

**Daniel 4:10** Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great.

**11** The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth:

**12** The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.

**Nebuchadnezzar describes the dream to Daniel.** The first dream in Daniel 2 showed that God cared about his questions for the future. However, this second dream was given for a different reason (vs. 17), demonstrating that God rules over the kingdoms of men, and that He is able to remove and set up kings according to His will.



An epistle of  
Nebuchadnezzar



# Examining the verses...

Thus were the visions of mine head - In these two verses we have the first part of the vision, with the remainder of the vision in the verses following.

The king now proceeds to give the dream.

A tree - There are a number of things about this tree that we will now list below:

- It was in the midst/centre of the earth.
- Height was great, or large in size.
- The tree was strong.
- It reached to the end of all the earth. So it covered the earth.
- Much fruit was upon the tree. It was abounding in food.
- There was meat/food for all. So it feed all for all flesh were fed of it.
- The beasts of the field dwelt under it and the fowl of the air dwelt in it.

We will see the meaning of this when we look at the interpretation.



# Daniel 4:13-17 – 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the Dream

**Daniel 4:13** I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven;

**14** He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches:

**15** Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth:

**16** Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him.

**17** This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.



# Examining the verses...

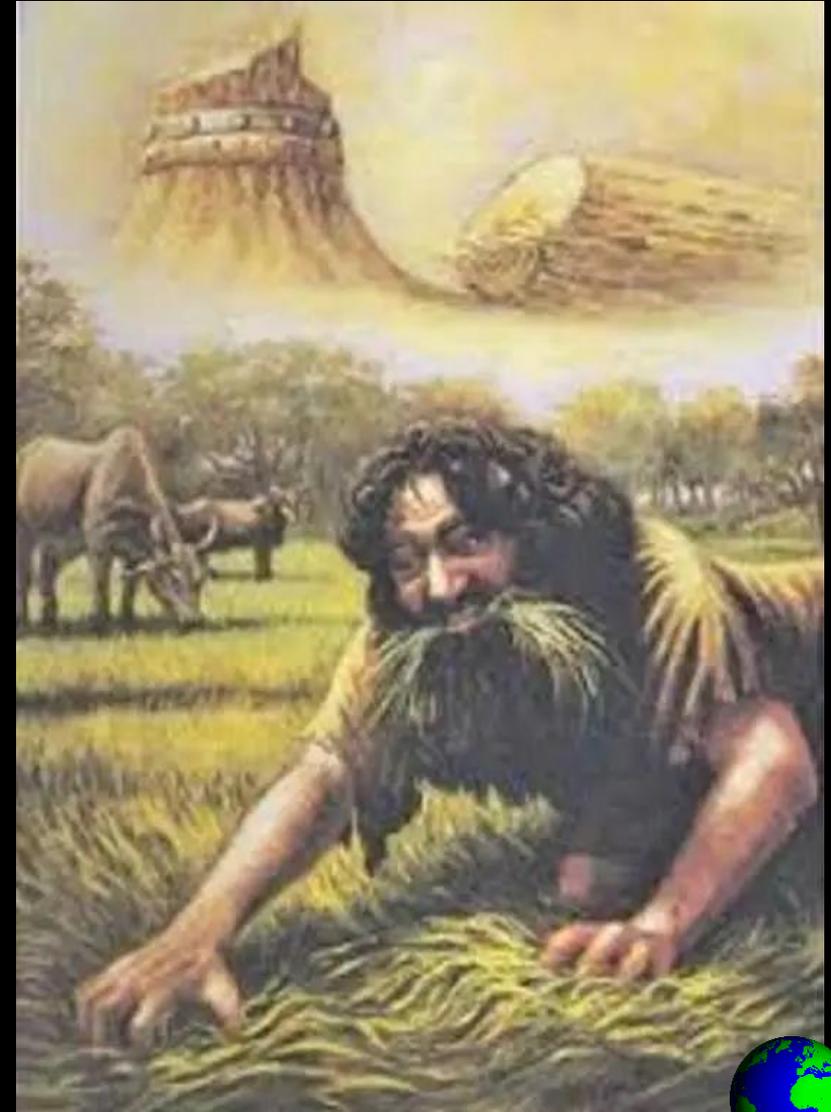
I saw in the visions - Now the king continues on with the second part of the dream.

A watcher and an holy one - He now sees a watcher, or a holy one, come down from heaven. The word watcher used here refers to an angel in the original language. The angel is one who watches and looks on at the events taking place and obviously records them. It is he who comes down from heaven.

- The watcher and the holy one are the same being. This we see from verse 17.

He cried aloud - It is the watcher that cried aloud to chop the tree down, cut off the branches, shake off the leaves, and to scatter his fruit. The beasts also and the fowls were to depart from it.

Leave the stump... - Even though the tree was to be cut down, the stump was to be left with a band of brass and iron around it and left in the field. It was to be wet with the dew of heaven, and the stumps portion was to be with the beasts in the grass of the earth.



# Examining the verses (cont'd)...

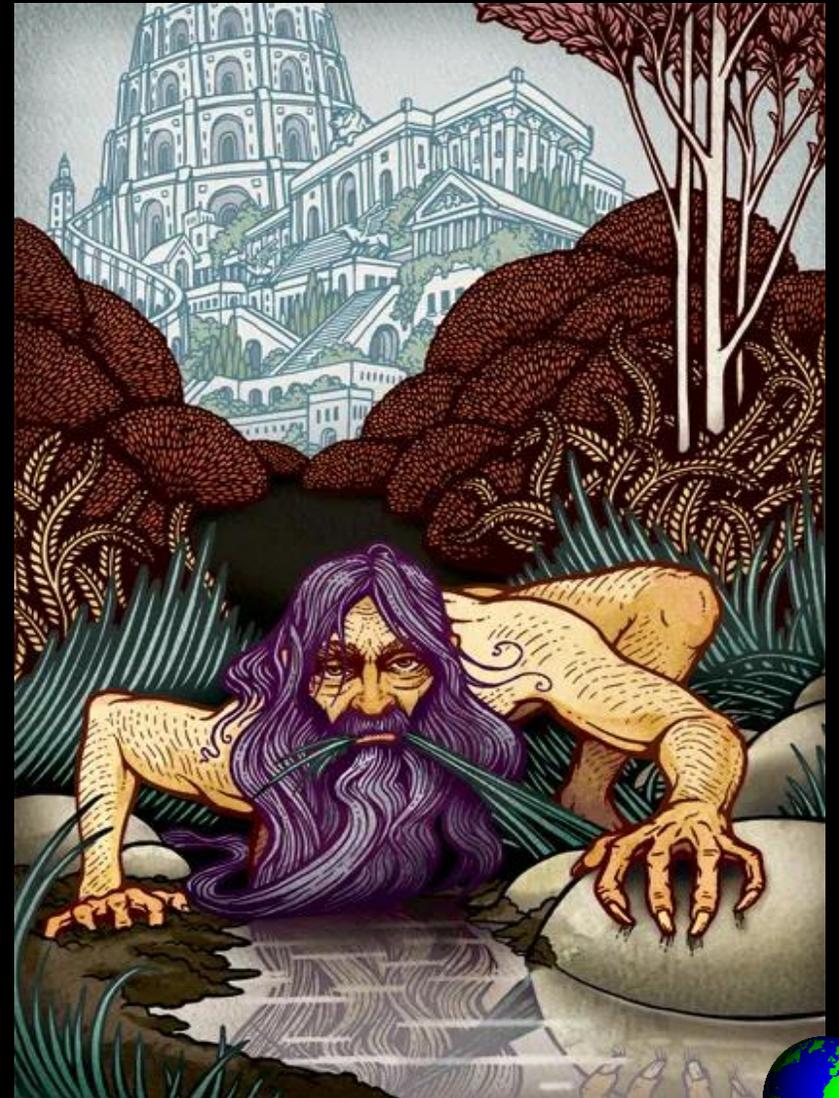
Let his heart be changed - The stumps heart was to be changed from a man's to a beasts. This seems rather odd but the interpretation of the dream will bring clear understanding of the matter.

Seven times - The word time here comes from the Chaldean word 'iddan', which means a year. So seven years were to pass over the stump.

Decree of the watchers, and the demand of the holy ones - In this statement we find a repeat showing that the watcher and the holy one is the same person. Both words refer to an angel in the original language.

- So it was the ever watchful recording angel that brought the decree down from heaven.

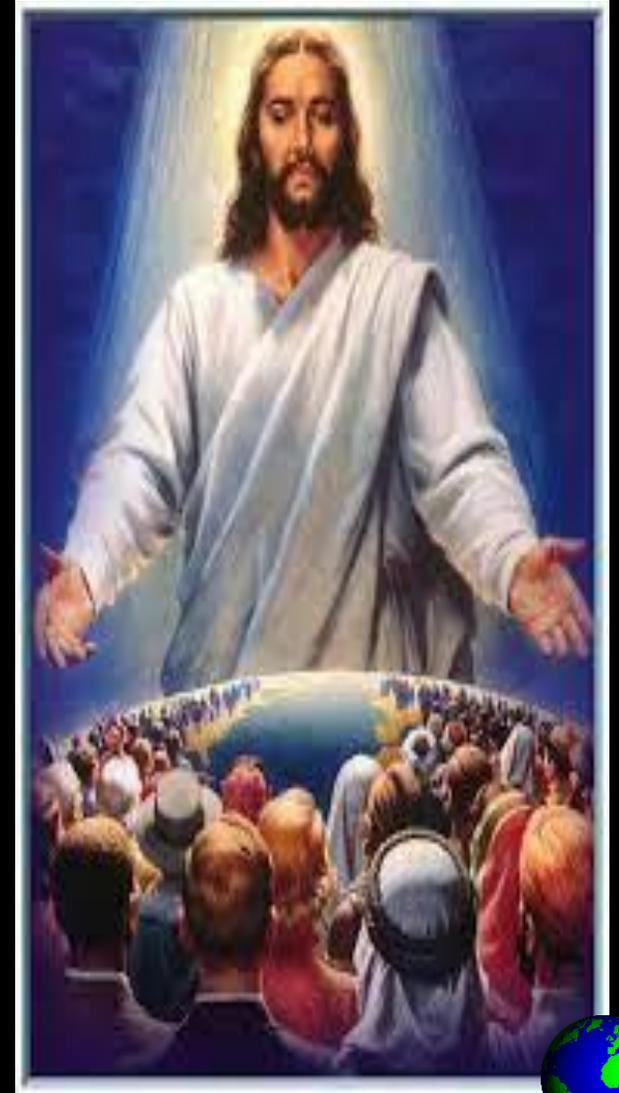
The intent that the living may know that the Most High... - This was all for the intention that the living may know that it is God that sets up kingdoms and rules in them, and sets over these kingdoms the basest/humblest of men.



# ***Need to always remember God is in control***

How few bear in mind that the tempter was once a covering cherub, a being whom God created for His own name's glory. Satan fell from his high position through self-exaltation; he misused the high capabilities with which God had so richly endowed him. He fell for the same reason that thousands are falling today, because of an ambition to be first, an unwillingness to be under restraint. The Lord would teach man the lesson that, though united in church capacity, he is not saved until the seal of God is placed upon him.

There is no position so lofty that God cannot cut down those occupying it. There is no humiliation so great that God cannot raise up humble men to enjoy the richest blessings. The Lord works to humble human pride in whomever it is found, that men may learn to develop a spirit of true submission to His will. He cannot work with men who counteract His purposes. Those who use their perceptive powers to create an order of things which turns aside God's purposes will lose the powers, which if exercised aright would have increased and strengthened. God honours those who seek Him in sincerity, humbling self and exalting Him. But when men will not consent to walk in the counsel of God, their wisdom is removed from them. They become incapable of knowing God and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent. —Letter 35, 1900.



# The Gigantic Tree is cut down

God gives Nebuchadnezzar a second dream.

This time, the king does not forget the dream. But because the Babylonian experts fail again, the king summons Daniel to provide the interpretation of the dream. In the dream, the king sees a big tree reaching up to heaven and a heavenly being commanding that the tree be chopped down.

Only the stump and roots would be left in the earth and would be wet with the dew of heaven. But what must have troubled Nebuchadnezzar was the part of the dream in which the heavenly being said, *“Let his heart be changed from that of a man, let him be given the heart of a beast, and let seven times pass over him”* (Daniel 4:16). Recognizing the seriousness of the dream, Daniel politely expresses the wish that the dream would refer to the enemies of the king. However, faithful to the message conveyed by the dream, Daniel says that in fact the dream refers to the king himself.



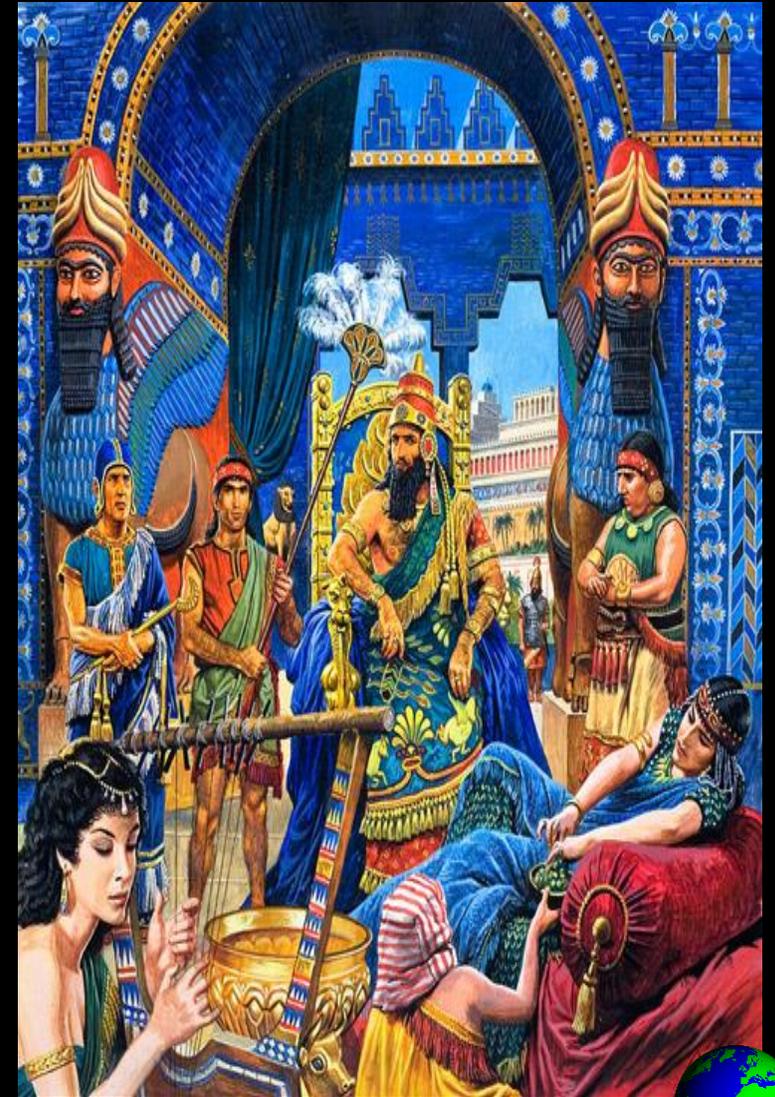
# What is the big Tree?

Trees are commonly used in the Bible as symbols of kings, nations, and empires (Ezekiel 17:1-24; Ezekiel 31:1-18; Hosea 14:1-9; Zechariah 11:1-2; Luke 23:31). **So, the big tree is a fitting representation of an arrogant king.** God gives Nebuchadnezzar dominion and power; nevertheless, he persistently fails to recognize that everything he possesses comes from God.

Perhaps what's so dangerous about pride is that it can lead us to forget just how dependent we are upon God for everything. And once we forget that, we are on dangerous spiritual ground.

**What things have you accomplished in your life? Can you take pride in them without being proud? If so, how so?**

The Lord has a work for us all to do. And if the truth is not rooted in the heart, if the natural traits of character are not transformed by the Holy Spirit, we can never be colaborers with Jesus Christ. **Self will constantly appear, and the character of Christ will not be manifested in our lives.**—The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 969.



# Some Key Points to Consider

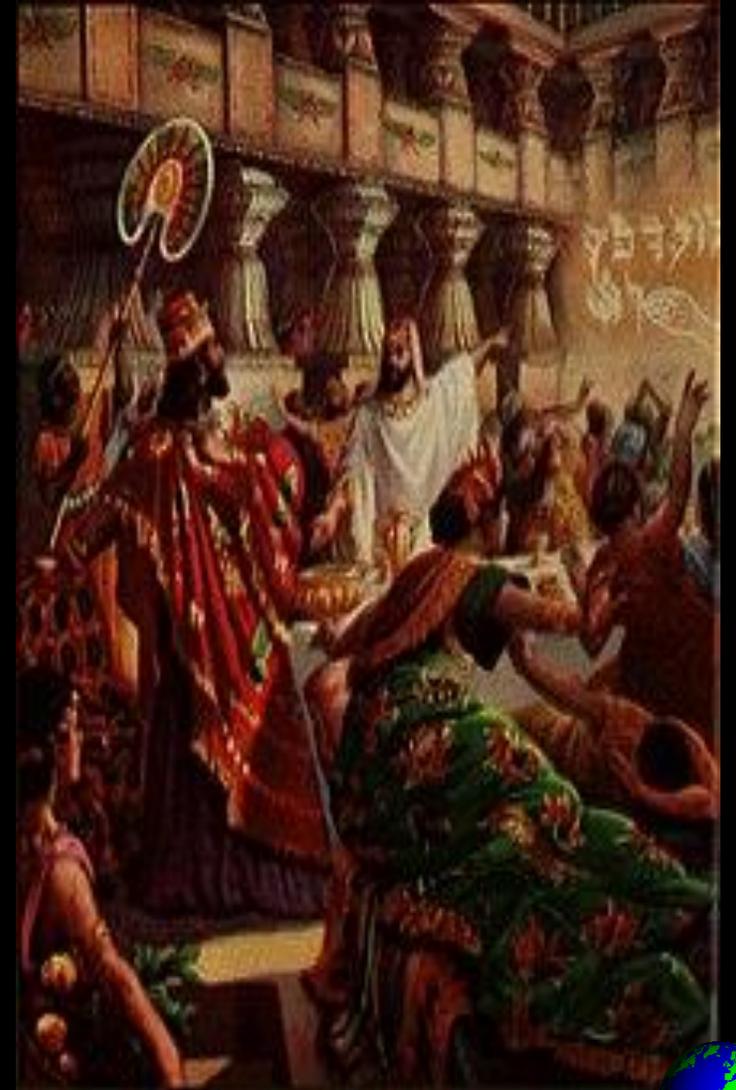
1. In verse 16, the word translated “Time,” comes from the Aramaic word “iddan,” meaning a year. Therefore, this describes Nebuchadnezzar’s experience with losing his mind (going insane) for seven years.

2. In verse 17, the investigative activity of the “watchers” culminates in the judgment or “decree” which comes from the assembly or counsel of the “Holy Ones.” This is a foretaste of the investigative heavenly judgment in Daniel 7:9, 10 when the books are opened at the end of time.

*Daniel 7:9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.*

*10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.*

- Just like king Belshazzar faced God’s judgment, we too will face God in the judgment.



# ***Satan the originator of Pride***

Speaking of Satan, the Lord declares that he abode not in the truth. **Once he was beautiful, radiant in light. But God's Word declares of him, "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty."**

**Satan instigated others to rebel, and after they were cast out of heaven he bound them together in a confederacy to do all the evil possible to man, as the only means of striking God. Excluded from heaven, he resolved to be avenged by injuring the workmanship of God... .**

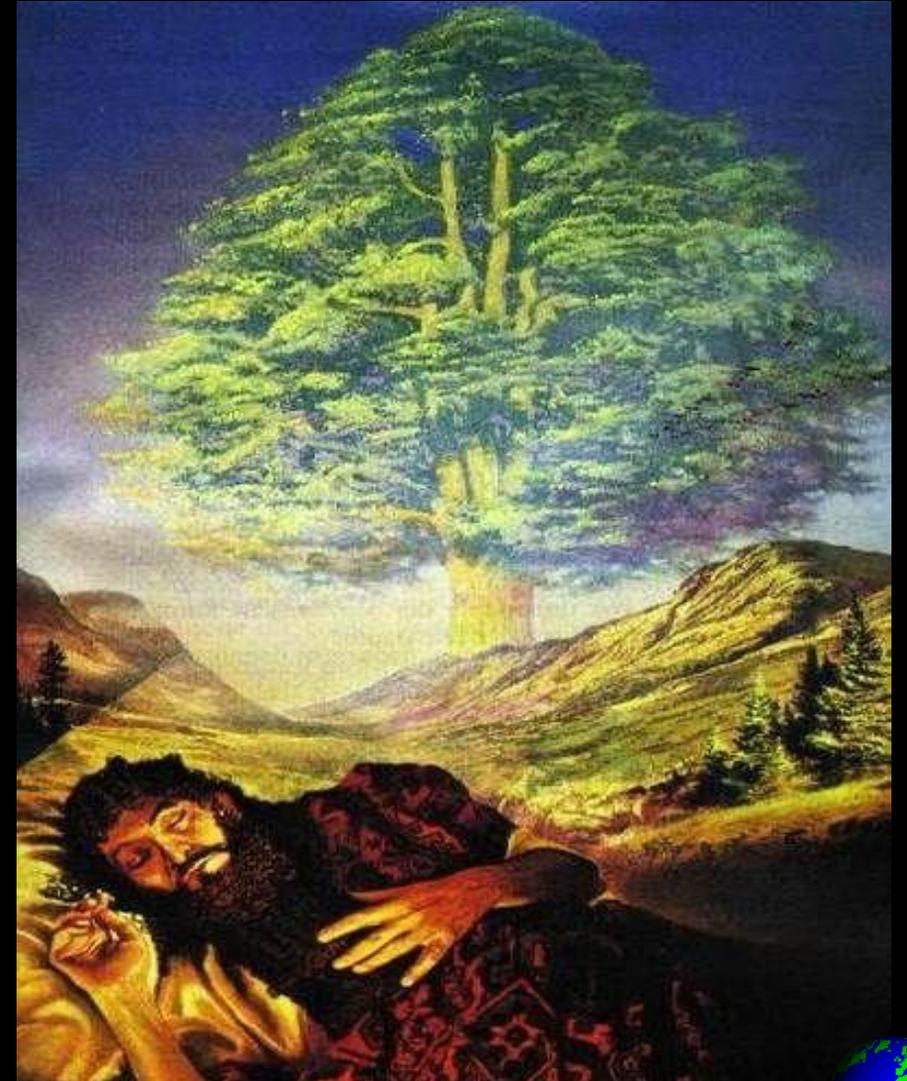
**Satan's aim had been to reproduce his own character in human beings. No sooner was man created than Satan resolved to efface in him the image of God, and to place his stamp where God's should be. And he has succeeded in instilling into the heart of man the spirit of envy, of hatred, of ambition. In this world he has set up a kingdom of darkness, of which he, the leader in guilt, is prince. He desired to usurp the throne of God. Failing in this, he has worked in darkness, in crookedness, in deception, to usurp his place in the hearts of men. He has set up his throne between God and man, to appropriate the adoration that belongs to God alone.—The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 6, p. 1911.**



# *Pride in Heaven & on Earth*

How foolish was it for Satan to be proud of himself? Or was he so smart, so clever, so creative that it was only logical for him to have a strong sense of pride about himself? Do you think that Satan has carried with him a sense of pride for the power he has over us and the dominion he has exercised down through the ages? Is he proud even today? Is this not Babylon the Great?

**Wait a minute.** The king couldn't remember anything about the first dream he had (about the head of gold and the statue), but this dream is clear except for its meaning. King Nebuchadnezzar summoned his wise men counting on an immediate explanation. Did the fact that this dream ended up with the central figure being reduced from a human being to a wild grass-eating beast help Daniel come up with a good illustration of the dream's meaning? **What was the king's problem understanding it?**



# God's servants need to be humble

God's work of refining and purifying must go on until His servants are so humbled, so dead to self, that, when called into active service, their eye will be single to His glory. He will then accept their efforts; they will not move rashly, from impulse; they will not rush on and imperil the Lord's cause, being slaves to temptations and passions and followers of their own carnal minds set on fire by Satan. Oh, how fearfully is the cause of God marred by man's perverse will and unsubdued temper! How much suffering he brings upon himself by following his own headstrong passions! God brings men over the ground again and again, increasing the pressure until perfect humility and a transformation of character bring them into harmony with Christ and the spirit of heaven, and they are victors over themselves.—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 86.

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up"  
James 4:10



# ***Nebuchadnezzar did humble himself***

Nebuchadnezzar did not heed the heaven-sent message. One year after he had been thus warned, as he walked in his palace, he said within himself, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built ... ?” The God of heaven read the heart of the king, and heard its whisperings of self-congratulation... . “There fell a voice from heaven, saying, ... The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar.” —*Conflict and Courage*, p. 253.

The strength of nations and of individuals is not found in the opportunities and facilities that appear to make them invincible; it is not found in their boasted greatness. That which alone can make them great or strong is the power and purpose of God. They themselves, by their attitude toward His purpose, decide their own destiny.

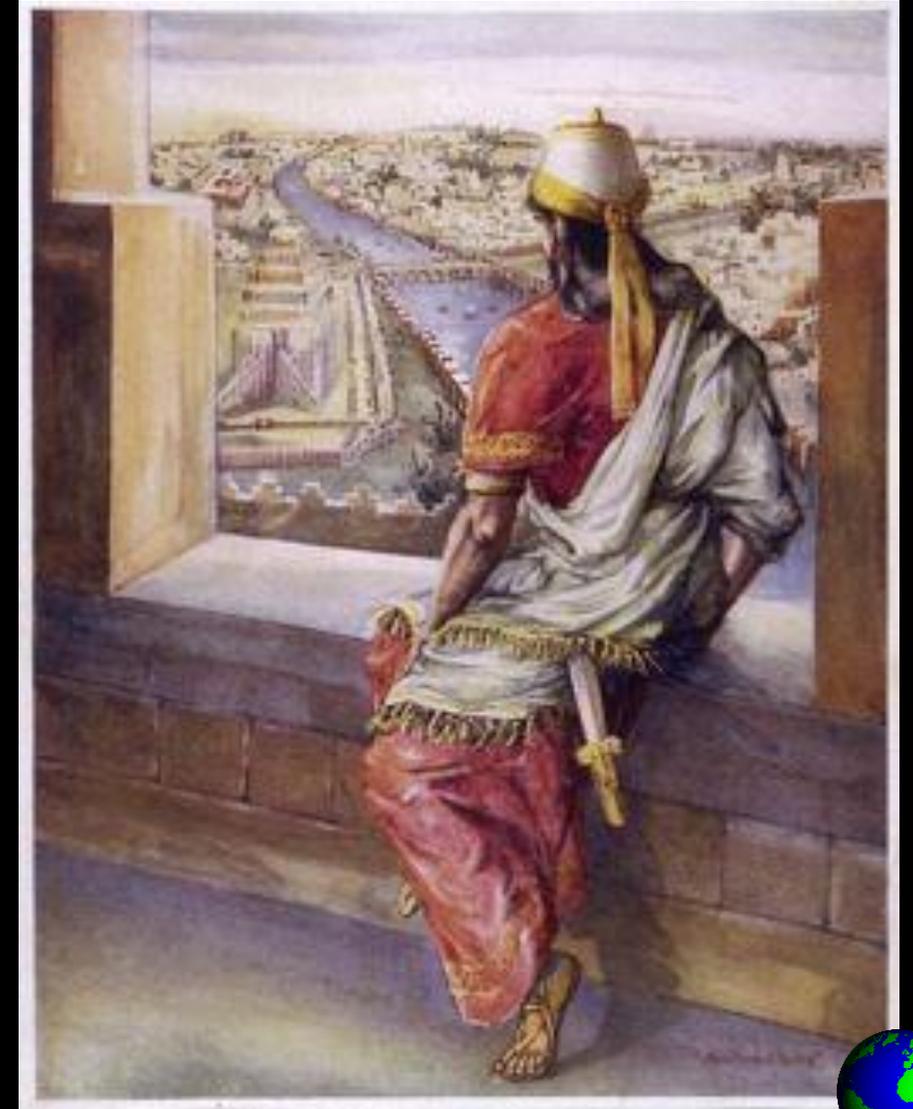


# When did this all in Daniel 4 happen?

We know that Nebuchadnezzar ruled for 43 years (605-562 BC). Was he converted toward the beginning, at the middle or toward the end of his reign? There can be little doubt that the events of Daniel 4 took place toward the end of the king's life.

First, Daniel 4:4 explains that the king was at peace in his house and flourishing in the palace. This is a common expression which means that he was enjoying the fruits of his conquests. In other words, the wars of conquest were over. It is at the time when things go best that we forget God the most.

We know that the last military campaign that the king undertook was in his 37th regnal year (568 BC) when he conquered Egypt. Ellen White explained that Egypt was given by God into the king's hand as a reward for his long and somewhat fruitless siege of Tyre which lasted some 13 years - *The Youth's Instructor*, October 11, 1904.



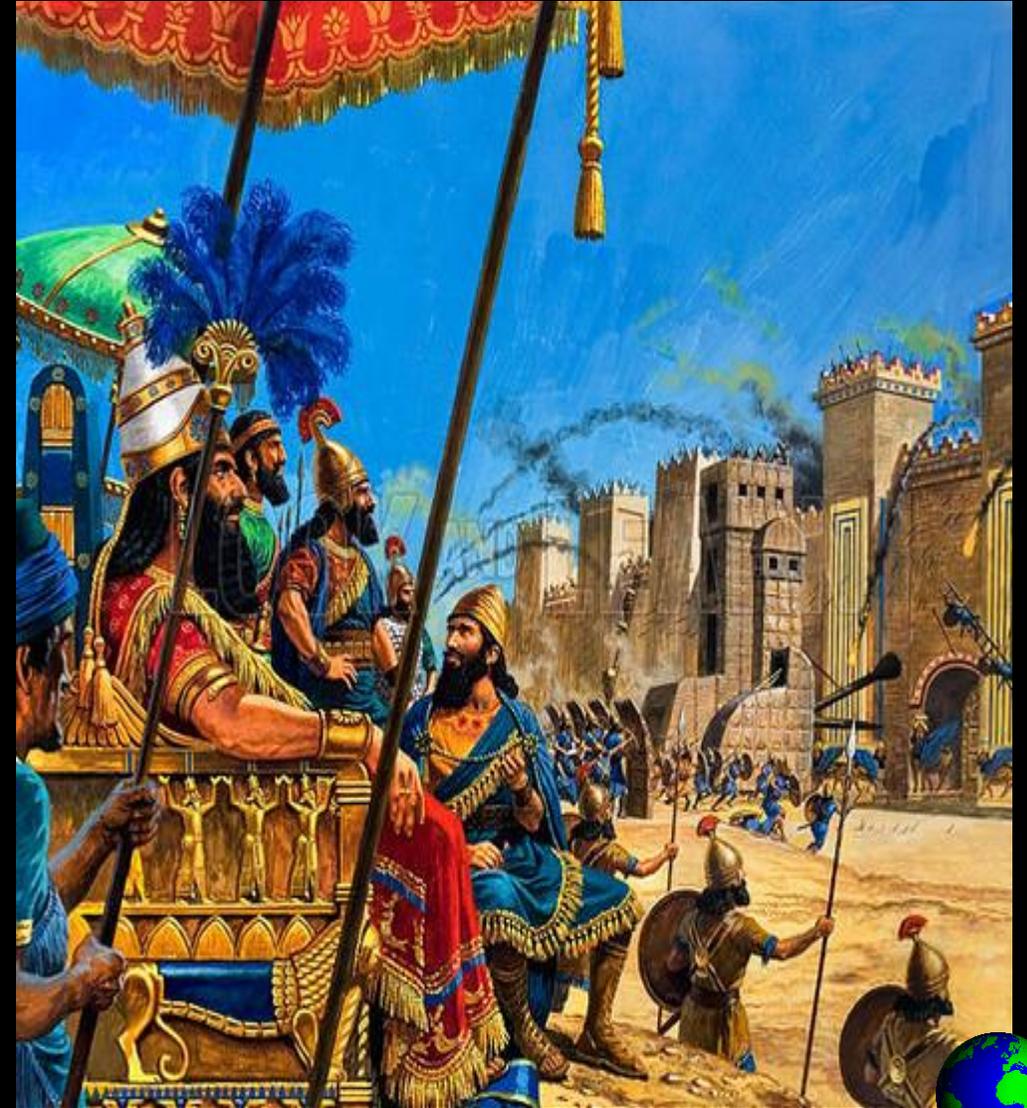
# **When did this all in Daniel 4 happen (cont'd)...**

We have quite a bit of information about Nebuchadnezzar throughout most of his life except for the last seven years (568-562 BC, inclusive reckoning).

Why is there this period of historical silence in Nebuchadnezzar's record? Probably the king was enjoying his good 'vegetarian cuisine' along with the beasts of the field. This means that the king was most likely converted in the 37th year of his reign. It surely did take God a long time to prevail over the proud ruler!

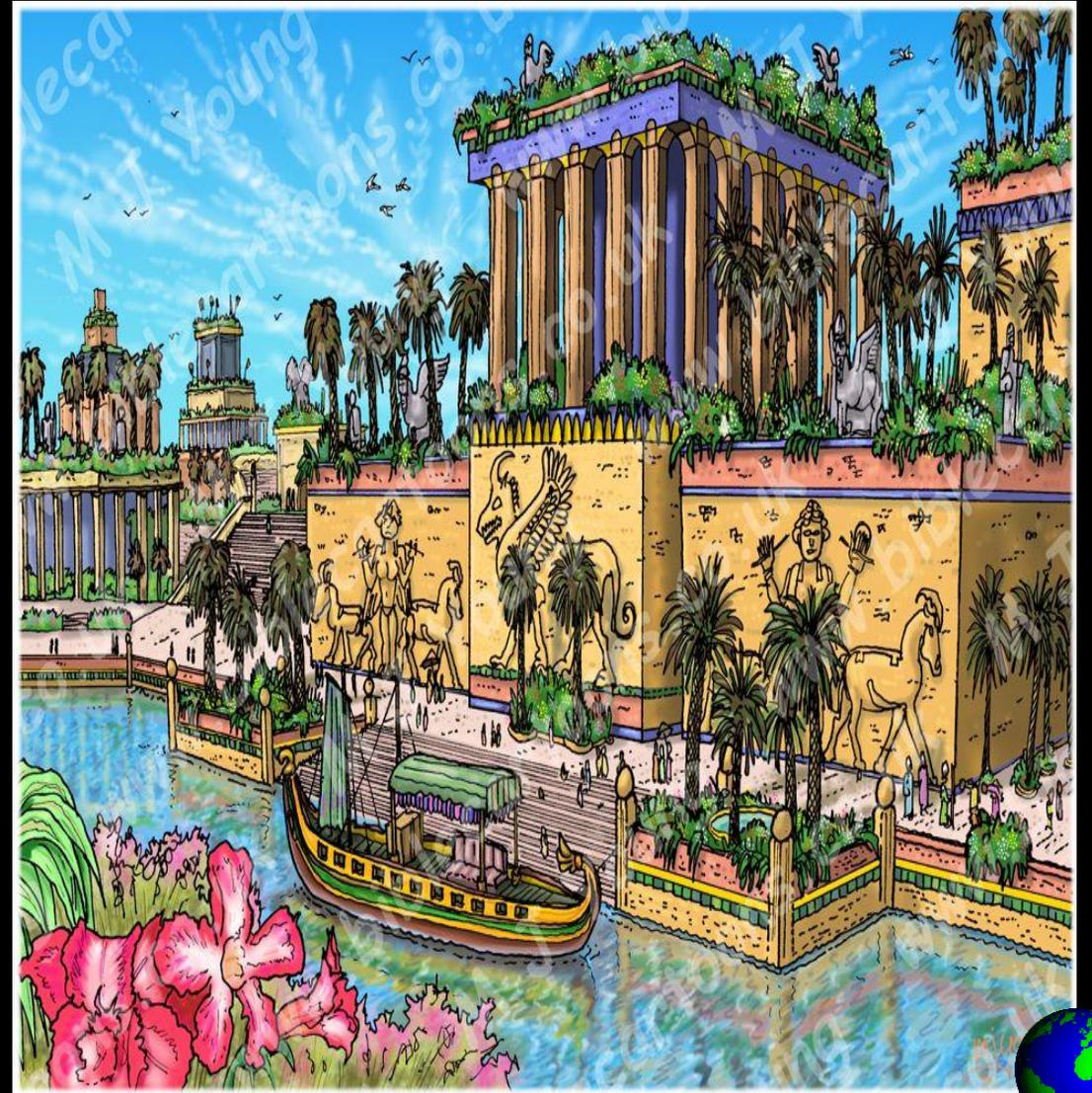
Ellen White confirms that his insanity came late in his life:

"In the early part of his acquaintance with Daniel, the king had found that he was the only one who could give him relief in his perplexity, and now at a later period, when another perplexing vision is given him, he remembers Daniel." [Manuscript Releases, volume 13, p. 63](#)



# Summary

Nebuchadnezzar performs a massive work of building in Babylon. The gardens, a system of canals, and hundreds of temples and other building projects turn the city into one of the wonders of the ancient world. But such splendour and beauty, at least in part, is accomplished through exploitation of slave manpower and neglect of the poor. Furthermore, the wealth of the empire is used to gratify the pleasures of the king and his entourage. Thus, the pride of Nebuchadnezzar not only prevents him from acknowledging God, but as a consequence also makes him oblivious to the hardships of those in need. Given the special care that God shows for the poor, it is not surprising that from the other possible sins that Daniel could have highlighted before the king, he singles out the sin of neglecting the poor.



# Summary (cont'd)

The last dream which God gave to Nebuchadnezzar, and the experience of the king in connection with it, contain lessons of vital importance to all those who are connected with the work of God. The king was troubled with his dream; for it was evidently a prediction of adversity, and none of his wise men would attempt to interpret it. The faithful Daniel stood before the king, not to flatter, not to misinterpret in order to secure favour. **A solemn duty rested upon him to tell the king of Babylon the truth.**—Conflict and Courage, p. 253.

The power exercised by every ruler on the earth is Heaven-imparted; and upon his use of the power thus bestowed, his success depends. To each the word of the divine Watcher is, "I girded thee, though thou hast not known Me." [Isaiah 45:5](#). And to each the words spoken to Nebuchadnezzar of old are the lesson of life: "Break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor: if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity." [Daniel 4:27](#).



# Summary (cont'd)

To understand these things,—to understand that “righteousness exalteth a nation;” that “the throne is established by righteousness,” and “upholden by mercy;” to recognize the outworking of these principles in the manifestation of His power who “removeth kings, and setteth up kings,”—this is to understand the philosophy of history. Proverbs 14:34; 16:12; Proverbs 20:28; Daniel 2:21.

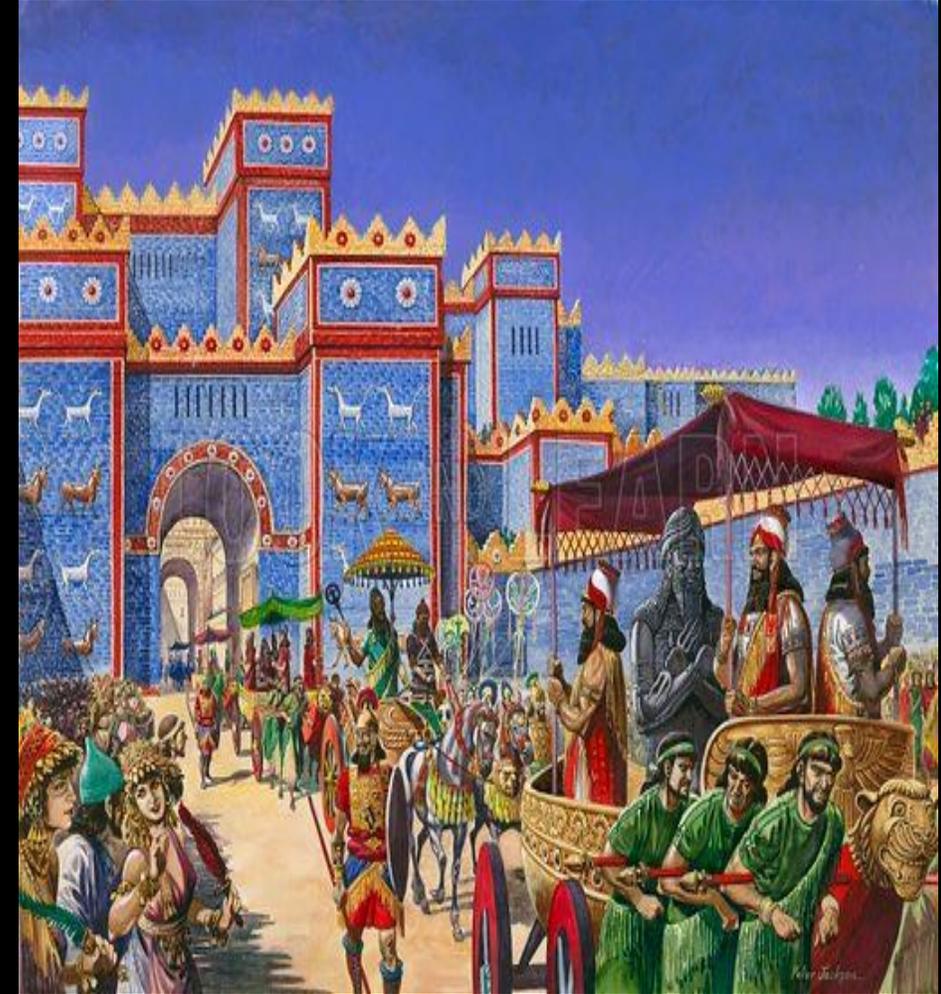
In the word of God only is this clearly set forth. Here it is shown that the strength of nations, as of individuals, is not found in the opportunities or facilities that appear to make them invincible; it is not found in their boasted greatness. It is measured by the fidelity with which they fulfill God’s purpose.—Prophets and Kings, p. 502.



# Conclusion

The message to Nebuchadnezzar is by no means something new. The Old Testament prophets often warn God's people against oppressing the poor. Indeed, prominent among the sins that bring about the king's exile is neglect of the needy. After all, compassion for the poor is the highest expression of Christian charity; conversely, exploitation and neglect of the poor constitutes an attack on God Himself. In caring for the needy, we recognize that God owns everything, which means that we are not owners but merely stewards of God's property.

By serving others with our possessions, we honor God and recognize His Lordship. It is God's ownership that should ultimately determine the value and function of material possessions. This is where Nebuchadnezzar fails, and we risk failing too, unless we recognize God's sovereignty over our accomplishments and manifest our recognition of this reality by helping those in need.



# An appeal to one and all

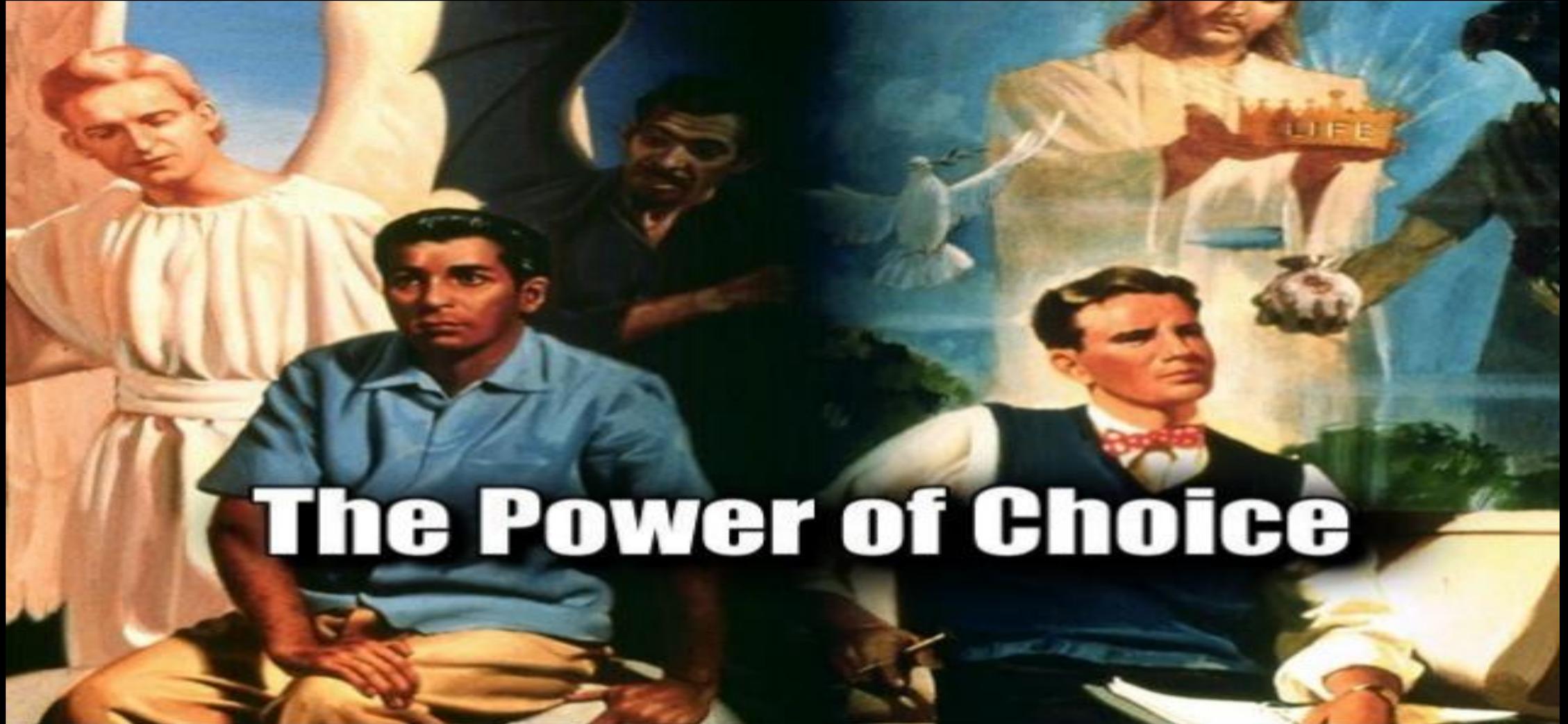
Humble, gracious, tender-hearted, pitiful, [Christ] went about doing good, feeding the hungry, lifting up the bowed down, comforting the sorrowing. None who came to Him for aid went away unrelieved. Not a thread of selfishness was woven into the pattern He has left for His children to follow... . To all who came to Him for help He brought faith and hope and life. Wherever He went He carried blessing.

The tender sympathies of our Saviour were aroused for fallen and suffering humanity. If you would be His followers, you must cultivate compassion and sympathy. Indifference to human woes must give place to lively interest in the sufferings of others. The widow, the orphan, the sick and the dying, will always need help. Here is an opportunity to proclaim the gospel—to hold up Jesus, the hope and consolation of all men. When the suffering body has been relieved, and you have shown a lively interest in the afflicted, the heart is opened, and you can pour in the heavenly balm. If you are looking to Jesus, and drawing from Him knowledge and strength and grace, you can impart His consolation to others, because the Comforter is with you.—*My Life Today*, p. 230.

10 MIRACLES	
01	ANGELS AT JESUS' BIRTH
02	WATER TO WINE
03	FEEDING THE MULTITUDE
04	CALMING THE STORM
05	PARALYTIC ON THE PALATE
06	HEALING THE 10 LEPERS
07	RAISING LAZARUS
08	HEALING SOLDIER'S EAR AT THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE
09	RESURRECTION
10	PHILIP SPEAKING TO THE ETHIOPIAN

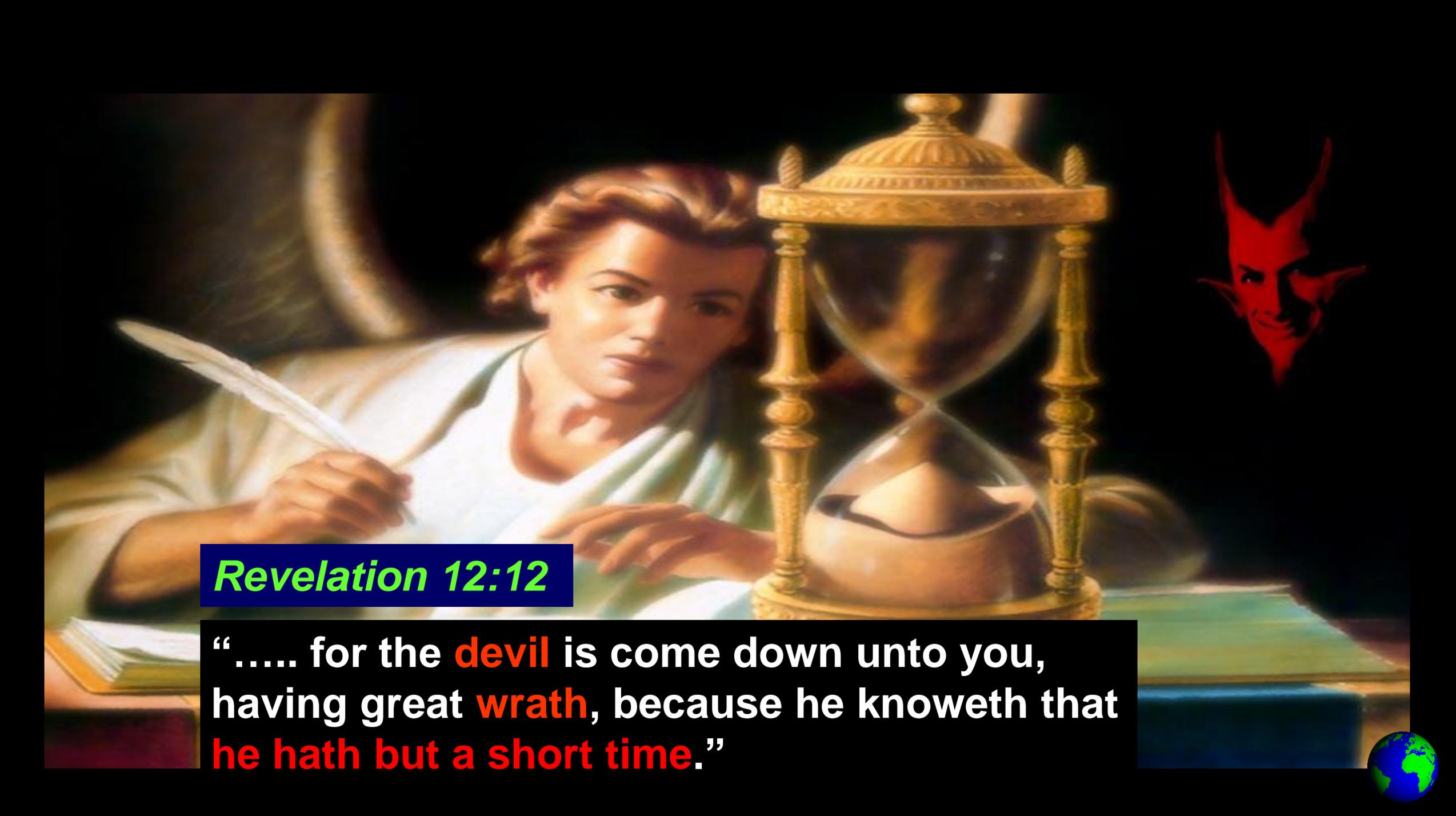


*God has given all:*



**The Power of Choice**





*Revelation 12:12*

“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you, having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that **he hath but a short time.**”



# Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



**Psalms 77:13**

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. –  
Revelation 3:20





**THE END**



**ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?**