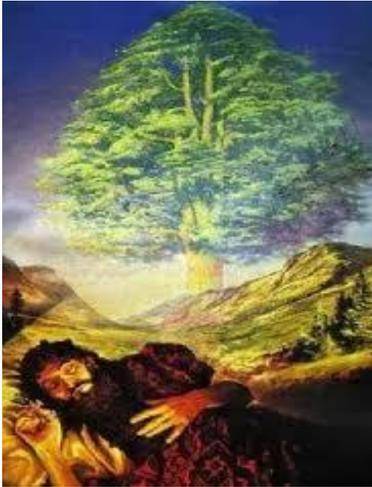


DANIEL - The Tree Cut Down (King Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd Dream) – Daniel 4

DN-05

Daniel 4— The Dream of the Great Tree that Reached to Heaven...Cut Down the Tree!



Exalted to the pinnacle of worldly honor, and acknowledged even by Inspiration as "a king of kings" (Ezekiel 26:7). Nebuchadnezzar nevertheless **at times had ascribed to the favor of Jehovah the glory of his kingdom and the splendor of his reign**. Such had been the case after his dream of the great image. His mind had been profoundly influenced by this vision and by the thought that the Babylonian Empire, universal though it was, was finally to fall, and other kingdoms were to bear sway, until at last all earthly powers were to be superseded by a kingdom set up by the God of heaven, which kingdom was never to be destroyed. {PK 514.1}

Nebuchadnezzar's noble conception of God's purpose concerning the nations was lost sight of later in his experience; yet when his proud spirit was humbled before the multitude on the plain of Dura, he once more had acknowledged that God's kingdom is "an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation." An idolater by birth and training, and at the head of an idolatrous people, he had nevertheless an innate sense of justice and right, and God was able to use him as an instrument for the punishment of the rebellious and for the fulfillment of the divine purpose. "The terrible of the nations" (Ezekiel 28:7), it was given Nebuchadnezzar, after years of patient and wearing labor, to conquer Tyre; Egypt also fell a prey to his victorious armies; and as he added nation after nation to the Babylonian realm, he added more and more to his fame as the greatest ruler of the age. {PK 514-515}

In the providence of God, **Nebuchadnezzar was given ample opportunity** to ascribe to the Lord the glory for the splendor of his reign. And for a time after the vision of the great image, he acknowledged God as supreme. Falling back into idolatrous habits, he was again, by the miraculous deliverance of the three Hebrews from the fiery furnace, led to acknowledge that God's "kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation." **But once more the king perverted the warnings God had given him, and turned aside from the path of humility to follow the imaginations of his naturally proud heart.** {YI Oc.11, 1904 par. 5}

It is not surprising that the successful monarch, so ambitious and so proud-spirited, should be tempted to turn aside **from the path of humility**, which alone leads to true greatness... His passion as a builder, and his signal success in making Babylon one of the wonders of the world, **ministered to his pride**, until **he was in grave danger of spoiling his record** as a wise ruler whom God could continue to use as an instrument for the carrying out of the divine purpose. (PK 515.1)

In mercy God gave the king another dream, to warn him of his peril and of the snare that had been laid for his ruin. ... Greatly troubled by the dream, which was evidently a prediction of adversity, the king repeated it to "the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers;" but although the dream was very explicit, none of the wise men could interpret it. {PK 516.3}

Once more in this idolatrous nation, **testimony was to be borne to the fact that only those who love and fear God can understand the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.** The king in his perplexity sent for his servant Daniel, a man esteemed for his integrity and constancy and for his unrivaled wisdom. ... To Daniel the meaning of the dream was plain, and its significance startled him. ... Then Daniel made known the mandate of the Almighty. "The tree that thou sawest," he said, "which grew, and was strong, ...O king, that art grown and become strong and ... thy greatness reacheth unto heaven. ...Having faithfully interpreted the dream, **Daniel urged the proud monarch to repent and turn to God, that by rightdoing he might avert the threatened calamity.** "O king," the prophet pleaded, "let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquility." {PK 516-518.2}

For a time the impression of the warning and the counsel of the prophet **was strong** upon Nebuchadnezzar; *but the heart that is not transformed by the grace of God soon loses the impressions of the Holy Spirit.* Self-indulgence and ambition had not yet been eradicated from the king's heart, and later on these traits reappeared. Notwithstanding the instruction so graciously given him, and the warnings of past experience, Nebuchadnezzar *again allowed himself to be controlled by a spirit of jealousy* against the kingdoms that were to follow. **His rule, which heretofore had been to a great degree just and merciful, became oppressive.** Hardening his heart, he used his God-given talents for self-glorification, **exalting himself** above the God who had given him life and power. {PK 519.1}

For months the judgment of God lingered. But instead of being **led to repentance by this forbearance,** the king indulged his pride until he lost confidence in the interpretation of the dream, and jested at his former fears. {PK 519.2}

A year from the time he had received the warning, Nebuchadnezzar, walking in his palace and thinking with pride of his power as a ruler and of his success as a builder, exclaimed, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built ... While the proud boast was yet on the king's lips, **a voice from heaven announced that God's appointed time of judgment had come.** ... In a moment the reason that God had given him was taken away; the judgment that the king thought perfect, the wisdom on which he prided himself, was removed, and the once mighty ruler was a maniac. His hand could no longer sway the scepter. ...The messages of warning had been unheeded; now, stripped of the power his Creator had given him, and driven from men, Nebuchadnezzar "did eat grass as oxen . . . {PK 520.1}



2nd DEATH DECREE

The World

Review Questions:

1. From chapters 2 & 3 clearly state the reasons why Daniel and his associates were facing the two death decrees. Can this be associated with last day events regarding the people of God and is so, how?
2. What is a powerful element in the preparation for worship which was used as preparation for worship of the golden image?
3. If the legs of iron on the image in Daniel 2 represent the two phrases of Rome, first pagan then papal, what does the ten toes on the fee represent for the last days?

Daniel 4— The Dream of the Great Tree

This is one of the great chapters in the Bible on the power of God to convert a heathen king. But the way the Most High does this is through the “process of Judgment”, from what we’ve already come to understand from last week’s study. In today’s lesson, we will look at how to apply these principles and view yet again, how merciful and long-suffering our God is in dealing with frail erring human beings, whether in high positions or low.

1. Who is the author of Daniel 4? {Hint: note the first 6 verses} _____.
What can we learn from 2 Peter 1:20,21 re. the author of Daniel 4. _____

_____.
2. Based on the chart, “Process of Conversion” what can we learn from this regarding Nebuchadnezzar’s life? _____ . Does it work the same way with all people? _____ .

*“The perception and appreciation of truth, He said, depends less upon the mind than upon the heart. Truth must be received into the soul; it claims the homage of the will. If truth could be submitted to the reason alone, pride would be no hindrance in the way of its reception. But it is to be received through the work of grace in the heart; and its reception depends upon the renunciation of every sin that the Spirit of God reveals.
(DA 455.3)*

3. Since Daniel was given the ability to interpret dreams and visions (Dan.1:17), what does this implicate for the people of God right before Jesus returns? _____
 - a) Since the Holy Spirit is the Author of all spiritual gifts, what gift would interpreting dreams and visions fall under? _____.

4. What does the tree being cut down imply concerning Nebuchadnezzar's rule over the kingdom of Babylon?
- a) What is used to symbolize that his kingdom would "be sure unto thee." _____.
 - b) What are the two metals seen in the dream and where are they? _____.
 - c) THOUGHT QUESTION. Note where the two metals are in the dream and determine what they could imply concerning Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom while he is not ruling.
5. What two things if heeded by Nebuchadnezzar would have prevented him living with the beasts of the field?
- a) _____
 - b) _____

IN SUMMARY

The Three Aspects of Judgment are clearly denoted in this chapter. Can you point to the verses where each of these aspects can be recognized and how the "Watchers", "the Holy Ones" conducted this Judgment?

INVESTIGATION: _____ . How? _____
_____ .

VERDICT: _____ . How? _____
_____ .

EXECUTION: _____ . How? _____
_____ .

What have you learned which you can apply in your own life from this unique chapter--Daniel 4?