

- *One of the most amazing chapters in all of scripture, written as a public affidavit of a Gentile king.*
- *Nebuchadnezzar most likely in his 70's at this time, and nearing the end of his reign, and his life.*
- *Daniel now in Babylon for about 40 years.*
- *A very clear revelation of exactly what God thinks of pride.*
- *There is a very interesting passage in Job that seems like a strange prophecy (Job 33:15-18).*

### NOTES

- The king had been warned about pride, but he did not listen.
- El Elyon is no longer the God of Daniel. He is Nebuchadnezzar's God, and he testifies to what this God has done for him personally. This is what all of us are here to do.
- **Nebuchadnezzar had another dream that made him afraid.** It is about a tree that grew tall to heaven, majestic and full of fruit for all. The beasts and birds found sanctuary here. But then the tree is chopped down. Again, no one could interpret it, except Daniel. The dream is from God.
- **Who, or what is the "watcher?"** Are they angels? We aren't told directly, but they apparently administer the world's affairs, according to God's will, and do indeed "watch" what happens here.
- The "watcher" decrees that this **beautiful tree is to be chopped down and all its branches cut off.** Even the leaves are to be stripped and the fruit scattered. This tree will lose its glory completely and end up as a stump in the field. Although the tree is to be chopped down, **it is NOT to be uprooted.** This stump is to be bound with iron and brass, to remain outside, covered with "the dew of heaven." The tree is no longer an "it." The pronoun "he" indicates this tree is a man.
- **"...seven times..."** Throughout the book of Daniel and other biblical writings, the use of the word "time" always means one year, **times** is two years, and **half a time** is a half of a year. The total time that Nebuchadnezzar suffered under this illness was 7 years. (see also Daniel 7:25, Revelation 12:14)
- **Verse 17 is the key to this chapter.** The main purpose of Nebuchadnezzar's experience was declared to be that men might understand something. *There are 3 things to know from this verse:*
  - 1) **"...the Most High rules in the kingdom of men,...** God has a purpose in the world, and that purpose will be fulfilled. Nations rise and fall to teach men that God rules and overrules the kingdoms of this world. (See Psalm 2) **GOD IS SOVEREIGN. Period.**
  - 2) **He "Gives it to whomever He will,..."** God sets up and manipulates them according to His will.
  - 3) He **"...sets over it the lowest of men."** He puts on the thrones of this world the "basest" (KJV), or lowest, of men. In other words, God gives us the kind of rulers we deserve and the kind we want.
- Daniel **immediately understood the meaning of the king's dream**, and was astonished and troubled by it. It is **probable that he and Nebuchadnezzar have a close relationship.** The first dream that Daniel interpreted for Nebuchadnezzar was one that exalted him. However, this dream is different.
- **The tree in the dream represents Nebuchadnezzar.** He is going down. Not only will he be "chopped down" but he will believe he is a beast, and he will be turned out to pasture with the other beasts. He will live outside and be "wet with the dew of heaven." This condition will last for seven years.
- Daniel tells the king to leave his sins by living righteously. He also tells him to show mercy to the poor. He is hoping to avoid some of the anguish this king will suffer by turning him from his sins.
- We **jump forward one year.** The king's attitude and pride are as big as ever as he surveys his kingdom. God gave him time to change. He didn't.

- Nebuchadnezzar had a great deal to be proud of, but pride is still detestable to God. **This is the whole theme of this chapter – God hates pride.** (see Job 33:17-18, Jer. 9:23-24, Proverbs 6, 16, 1 Corinthians 4:6-7, Philippians 2:3-4, 1 Timothy 6:4-10, 17, James 4:13-17, Proverbs 16:5, 18, 21:24, 26:12, 29:23.)
- **WHY does God hate pride? Pride is how sin entered the world.** (Isaiah 14:3-14).
- This is a very strong reminder that **God always keeps his promises and never goes back on His word.**
- Nebuchadnezzar experienced a **temporary mental illness called “zoanthropy”** where a person believes they are an animal, and lives and acts like one. God brought on this insanity.
- Because of Daniel’s friendship with the king, **many think he became Nebuchadnezzar’s caretaker** during this 7-year period, and may have been the one keeping the empire together.
- The promised 7-year time was fulfilled. God gave Nebuchadnezzar understanding about what had happened to him, and why. He knew to immediately thank and honor the one true God.
- History corroborates this event in the life of Nebuchadnezzar. It is recorded by Josephus.
- Nebuchadnezzar’s testimony **reminds us of Job’s wonder when God finally responded to him** after the many worthless words of his friends. God teaches men that He alone is sovereign, and his response to Job (38:1-7) is classic. And Job’s answer (42:1-3) is also worth remembering.
- **God is also merciful.** He rescued Nebuchadnezzar from certain destruction. God’s mercy in the midst of personal trial is also one to keep in mind when we study the coming Tribulation period. Some ask why would a merciful God allow these things to happen? **God desires that no one die apart from Him** (2 Peter 3:9). There will be a greater soul harvest than any other time in history. Better to suffer the tribulation and find salvation than eternal separation from God. THAT is God’s mercy.
- **Not only did Nebuchadnezzar regain his sanity, he regained his kingdom.** Only God could do this.
- At the end of the story the king makes it clear that despite what God did to him, he is thankful, and will even praise and honor the only King, the “king of heaven.” That is the whole point, to inform everyone that there is another King, one completely true and just. One who is in complete control.
- The final words of this worldwide public declaration underscore the point: **“And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.”** Man’s heart is only changed when he comes to God on his knees.
- Nebuchadnezzar lived about one more year. There is evidence here and other places in scripture that he was saved, that this is a testimony of his conversion.
- **POSSIBLE DOUBLE FULFILLMENT?** Some see this in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, and believe it was literally fulfilled the first time when he went mad, but there is good reason to believe that it **will be fulfilled a 2nd time in the larger sense**, when the Antichrist arrives. Antichrist will be a world leader like Nebuchadnezzar. His deeds will also be like those of a madman. He will be so evil that the Bible calls him a beast (Revelation 13). Nebuchadnezzar went insane for 7 years, and the reign of terror of the Antichrist will be 7 years during the Tribulation. The Tribulation will be a time of insanity and confusion. There are too many **likenesses and similarities found throughout the book of Daniel to the Tribulation and end times periods** not to at least consider them. There are also forthright prophecies about these times. Daniel is a critical to understanding God’s plan for those end times.
- May we always know that God is in control. No matter what we see with our eyes, or feel in our emotions, nothing can change that truth.

