

THE GREAT TREE

Daniel 4

Introduction

The great king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, was acquainted with many gods, including Daniel's God. But with his acquaintance with all these gods, Nebuchadnezzar was still, in essence, worshipping himself and living in sin. He was a very proud man, so God confronted him with his selfishness and sinfulness. He warned him of impending judgment, gave him an opportunity to repent, and when he refused, God sent His judgment on him. Only then did the proud king submit himself to God's power and authority and testify of it before the world.

Aim of the Lesson

See the immorality and penalty of pride, confess it and submit to God's power and authority over your life. "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer

I. Declaration of Nebuchadnezzar (4:1-3)

1. What did Nebuchadnezzar tell the people in his kingdom about God's works? 4:2-3
2. What did Nebuchadnezzar tell the people about God's kingdom? 4:3

II. Dream of Nebuchadnezzar (4:4-18)

3. What word tells you how much God blessed Nebuchadnezzar? 4:4
4. How did God's dream to Nebuchadnezzar affect him? 4:5
5. When did Daniel come to interpret the dream for the king? 4:6-8
6. What did the king say about Daniel? 4:9
7. Why did the dream trouble the king? 4:10-14
8. What was to be done with the stump of the tree? 4:15
9. What would happen to the "heart of the tree"? 4:16
10. How long would God's judgment last? 4:16
11. What was the purpose of this judgment from God? 4:17

III. Disclosure to Nebuchadnezzar (4:19-27)

12. How did Daniel react to the dream? 4:19
13. Who did the tree represent? 4:20-22
14. What would happen to the king? 4:25
15. What would happen to his kingdom? 4:26
16. What did Daniel tell the king to do? 4:27

IV. Debasing of Nebuchadnezzar (4:28-37)

17. When and why did God judge Nebuchadnezzar? 4:29-31
18. How did God judge Nebuchadnezzar? 4:33
19. What did the king finally do after seven years which allowed God to end His judgment? 4:34
20. What did the king say about God and His will? 4:35
21. What happened to him and his kingdom? 4:36; cf 4:26)
22. What did the king say about God and about those who walk in pride? 4:37
23. Will you crucify every form of pride that the Spirit shows you in your life and give all praise to God?

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