



DANIEL

~ Lesson 4 ~

“The Beast Within Me”

WEDNESDAY CONNECT STUDY

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Outline

- The Set-up to the Dream (Daniel 4:1-3)
- The Setting of the Dream (Daniel 4:4)
- The Circumstance of the Dream (Daniel 4:5-9)
- The Substance of the Dream (Daniel 4:10-18)
- The Explanation of the Dream (Daniel 4: 19-27)
- The Execution of the Dream (Daniel 4:28-37)

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The Set-up to the Dream

Who is the narrator?



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What is his message?

- Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. ² I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me. ³ How great are His signs, And how mighty His wonders! His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, And His dominion *is* from generation to generation.

The Set-up to the Dream: The Audience

- Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

Daniel 4:1

Knowing the contents of this chapter, what comes to mind when you hear this introduction?

✓ Universal Proclamation

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The Set-up to the Dream: The Audience

- Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

Daniel 4:1

- Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—⁷ saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

Revelation 14:6-7

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The Set-up to the Dream: The Tri-Fold Claim

- ² I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the **Most High** God has worked for me. ³ How great *are* His signs, And how mighty His wonders! His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, And His dominion *is* from generation to generation.

Daniel 4:2-3

1. Public Proclamation of the Sovereignty of God

- All roads were leading to this
 - God is sovereign over our bodies (ch. 1)
 - God is sovereign over our lives (ch. 3)
 - God is sovereign over kings & kingdoms (ch. 2)

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The Set-up to the Dream: The Tri-Fold Claim

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Daniel 4:2-3

2. Public Proclamation of a Personal Experience with the Sovereign God
- He is humbled by signs & wonders:
 - Pharoah Rejected
 - Israel rejected
 - Saul had rejected
 - Ahab had rejected

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The Set-up to the Dream: The Tri-fold Claim

- ² I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High **God has worked for me.** ³ How great *are* His signs, And how mighty His wonders! His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, And His dominion *is* from generation to generation.

Daniel 4:2-3

3. **Public Proclamation of the Personal Investment of the Sovereign God in the individual lives of men and women.**

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The Set-up to the Dream: The Tri-fold Claim

- ² I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me. ³ How great *are* His signs, And how mighty His wonders! His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, And His dominion *is* from generation to generation.

Daniel 4:2-3

1. Public Proclamation of the Sovereignty of God
2. Public Proclamation of a Personal Experience with the Sovereign God
3. Public Proclamation of the Personal Investment of the Sovereign God in the individual lives of men and women.

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The Setting of the Dream

- I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in my house, and flourishing in my palace. ⁵I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts on my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

Daniel 4:4-5

- Knowing the contents of chapter, what disturbed the king?
 - Another strange dream that could not be understood.
- Based on verse 4, why did it disturb the king?
 - The king was surrounded by peace without, but there was no peace within

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The Circumstance of the Dream: Points of Comparison

Daniel 2	Daniel 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• About a dream that disturbs the king	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• About a dream that disturbs the king
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nebuchadnezzar summoned pagan professionals to tell him his dream and interpret his dream.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nebuchadnezzar summoned pagan professionals, tells them the dream and ask for an interpretation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pagan professionals have no answer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pagan professional have no answer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decree of execution was declared	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No decree of execution mentioned
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daniel comes before the king	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daniel comes before the king

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The Circumstance of the Dream: Points of Comparison

- The the similarities of the dreams points to the reality of who God is and what He has been trying to communicate to the world since the Fall of man. It is...
 - he that hath made us and not we ourselves (Psalms 100:3)
 - it is He that desires to save us more than we want to be save
 - it is He who will work miracles to convince of His sovereignty
 - it is He who is Sovereign over today and tomorrow
 - it is He who is Sovereign alone

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The Substance of the Dream: The Great Tree

Dream Outline

- The Great Tree (v. 10-12)
 - The Tower of Babel (Gen 11)
- The Watcher, the Holy one (v. 13)
 - The Stone of Daniel 2.
- The Cut (v. 14)
 - Both dreams speak of destruction. One more eminent than the other.
- The Stump (v. 15)
 - The best way to get rid of a tree is to uproot it. God is not seeking to get rid of the tree but to offer it another opportunity to grow.
- The Heart (v. 16)
 - From the heart of a man to the heart of the beast.
- The Why (v. 17)
 - God's why is always for the purpose of revelation and redemption

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The Explanation of the Dream

- Daniel finds himself before the king to help the king with both of his dreams, nevertheless, while Daniel's presence is consistent his response here differs. Why?
- Then Daniel, whose name was Belshazzar, was astonished for a time, and his thoughts troubled him. So the king spoke, and said, "Belshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation trouble you." Belshazzar answered and said, "My lord, *may* the dream concern those who hate you, and its interpretation concern your enemies!"

Daniel 4:19

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The Explanation of the Dream

- Notice the tense and yet proper combination of compassion and truthfulness in Daniel. His compassion for the king is clear in verse 19. When he hears the dream, he is *appalled* and his thoughts *terrified* him (the latter is the same verb used of the king in 5b). He does not fear for his own life but for the judgment coming on the king. Daniel could wish what the dream depicts would fall on Nebuchadnezzar's *enemies* (19c). He has a genuine compassion for this pagan monarch and can take no pleasure in this 'severe' word he must pass on to him—and yet he does not hold back from speaking that truth plainly (22–26).

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The Explanation of the Dream

Dream Outline	The Interpretation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Great Tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Represents a king not a kingdom
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A watcher, a holy one	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A messenger from heaven
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A symbol of judgement. Felt but not fatal
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Stump	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The redemption in preservation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Heart	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• God transforms the king to look on the outside what God saw in the inside
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• So that many might come to know who God is.

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The Explanation of the Dream: Unsolicited Advice

- Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by *being* righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to *the* poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity.”
- God is not shifty in His decisions. From the beginning of time, He has consistently relented from judgement in the presence of repentance. Even the vilest of offenders have an opportunity to forgo final judgement.

Daniel 4:27

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The Explanation of the Dream: Unsolicited Advice

- Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by *being* righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to *the* poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity.”

Daniel 4:27

- The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy *it*,⁸ if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.

Jeremiah 18:7-8

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The Execution of the Dream

- Did Nebuchadnezzar take Daniel's Advice?
 - No
 - At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. **30** The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" **31** While the word *was still* in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you!

Daniel 4:29-31



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The Execution of the Dream

We are all a bunch of Nebuchadnezzar clones, wanting to call our own shots, to direct our own show (puny as it is) and seldom—except in a rare moment of sanity—stopping to consider how asinine our passion for self-deification is.

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The Execution of the Dream: God's Desire for Us

- “This decision *is* by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men.’

Daniel 4:17

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The Execution of the Dream: God's Desire for Us

- And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom *is* from generation to generation. ³⁵All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?" ³⁶ At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works *are* truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.

Daniel 4:34-37

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The Execution of the Dream: God's Desire for Us

Nebuchadnezzar's pilgrimage is not different from ours. It is a reality that God wants to save us! He will work miracles to humble us. He wants to shape us and offer us salvation. God will go to the uttermost to save us, and so we take hope in the reality that if God can humble the beast within Nebuchadnezzar, that He too can humble the beast within us.

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Let's Talk

- What are some takeaways for you and how do they apply to the Christian Journey?

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