

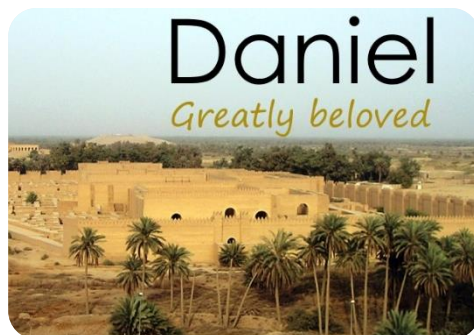
DANIEL 4 vs 1

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The writer of this chapter is Nebuchadnezzar himself, it is an **official government decree**. The king was as daring a rival of Almighty God as any mortal man was; but here he clearly owns himself conquered – Matthew Henry.

This retrospective decree was at the end of the king's life. According to the historian ABYDENEUS 268BC – who confirms comments recorded by Daniel; after the king's conquest and a new palace was built in 15 days, both writers agree this king of Babylon took a stroll on his palace rooftop from where he could see the expansive city he built; then the historian adds: and being seized by some deity, he predicted the Persian conquest of Babylon, adding a prayer that the Persian leader, on his return be taken to where there is no path of men, and where wild beasts graze. But clearly, the God of Daniel had other plans.



¹ King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied to you!

² It seemed good to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me.

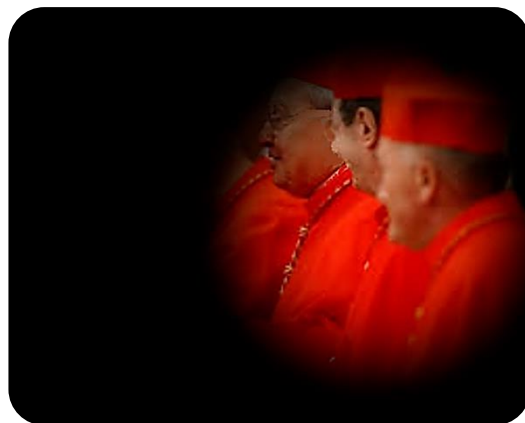
³ How great are His signs! How mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, His dominion endures from generation to generation.

After that declaration lauding the Almighty God; it seems King Nebuchadnezzar offers his people a rare insight into his life: including, what caused his extended absence; and what brought about his restoration; this would answer the many questions circulating among his realm during that time. This is his retrospective:

⁴ I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in my house and flourishing / prospering greatly... in my palace:

⁵ I had a dream that caused me to fear. As I lay on my bed the thoughts and the visions of my head troubled me.

⁶ So, I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me, that they make known to me the interpretation of the dream.



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⁷ Then the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers came in, and I told them the dream, but they could **not** make known to me its interpretation / so he departed from the prior practice of the first vision years earlier, including his threat of death as he saw the same group of ignorant fools and noise-makers gather in response to this decree.

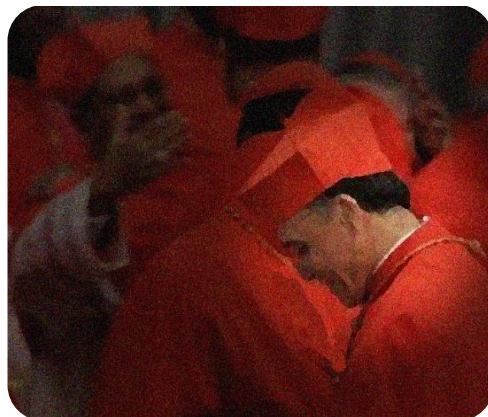
⁸ At last Daniel came in before me who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my God, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods -- / which brought both a relief to the situation and the biggest smile to the king's face... and I told him the dream; saying,

⁹ O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians / in charge of all these sages, counselors, writers, historians, and other learned specialists in the sciences and arts including those mystics who claimed to possess occult – secret knowledge, **because I know that you have the spirit of the holy gods, and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw, and their interpretation.**

¹⁰ The visions of my head as I lay in my bed were these: I looked and saw, **a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great.**

¹¹ **The tree grew and was strong, and its height reached to heaven, and it was seen to the end of all the earth:**

¹² **Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its boughs, and all flesh was fed from it.**



¹³ And Look, I saw in the visions of my head as I lay upon my bed, a watcher, a holy one came down from heaven. ¹⁴ He announced aloud, and said thus: **Cut down the tree**, and cut off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it, and the birds from its branches.

¹⁵ **But leave the stump** with its roots in the **earth**, bound by iron and brass, amid the tender grass of the field. Let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let its 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 to him; and let **seven times** pass over him. / **3 & ½ years**: in Babylon they had 2 seasons each year – summer or winter

¹⁷ **This sentence is by decree of the watchers, and the decision by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whom He will, and sets up over it the lowest of men / so this decree came from the Most High.**

¹⁸ **This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar saw.**

Now you, O Belteshazzar, tell me its interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are **not able to make known to me the interpretation: but you are able; for the spirit of the holy gods is in you.**

¹⁹ Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was speechless for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him/ and after about an hour of prayer, Daniel reappeared downcast; The king answered and said, Belteshazzar, do **not** let the dream or its interpretation trouble you / it was obvious to Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel was given understanding of the vision.

Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, oh that the dream was to those who hate you, and its interpretation to your enemies!

²⁰ The tree you saw which grew and became strong, so its top reached to heaven, and it was seen by all the earth;

²¹ its leaves were beautiful, and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all; under it the beasts of the field lived, and on its branches the birds of heaven had their dwelling –

²² it is you, O king, you have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and even reaches to heaven, and your dominion extends to the end of the earth.

²³ And the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, Cut down the tree and destroy it; yet leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field, and let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven iddan pass over him: / an Aramaic = a period of time, so for 7 seasons.

²⁴ this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High that has come to my lord the king, ²⁵ you will be driven from among men, and your dwelling will be with the beasts of the field. You will eat grass like an ox, and be drenched with the dew of heaven, for seven iddan to pass, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men, and gives it to whom He will. / 7 periods of time; dry wet, dry wet, dry wet, dry = 3 & ½ years. The Lord's decree + don't forget the king's wait for it to occur = 4 years.

²⁶ The command to leave the stump with its roots: your kingdom will be assured to you from when you know that Heaven rules.

²⁷ For this, O king, let my counsel be acceptable: end your sins by doing right, and your crimes by showing mercy to the oppressed; it may extend your prosperity.

And having seen what he saw, and now hearing what Daniel interpreted, we can well imagine that the king's court and all those in attendance went into battle mode and were ordered into strict secrecy; there would be rumors, and lots of fake news, but the citizens of Babylon would not know for this space of time what really occurred, until Nebuchadnezzar was restored.

²⁸ And all this finally came upon King Nebuchadnezzar, ²⁹ at the end of twelve months as he was walking through the upper courtyard of the royal palace in Babylon.

³⁰ and the king sizing up the situation, shouted, Is not this Babylon the great, which I built by my mighty power as a royal residence, and for my majestic glory? ³¹ While the words were still in the king's mouth, a Voice came from heaven: King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: the kingdom has departed from you.

³² You will be driven from the people, and live with the wild animals of the field, and you will feed on grass like cattle for seven iddan / 7 periods of time... until you acknowledge the Most High rules the kingdom of men, and gives it to whom He will.

³³ Then and there, the message was fulfilled on Nebuchadnezzar.

He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was soaked with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails like the talons of birds.

³⁴ At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I praised the Most High, and gladly honored Him who lives forever, for His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation:



³⁵ all the inhabitants of the earth are counted as nothing: and He does whatever He desires with the host of heaven, and the inhabitants of the earth: and none can slap His hand, or say to Him, What are You doing?

From the Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary we read, A cuneiform inscription in the East India Company's Museum describes the period of Nebuchadnezzar's insanity. In the standard inscription read by Sir H. Rawlinson, Nebuchadnezzar relates that during 4 years he ceased to lay out buildings, or to furnish with victims Merodach's altar, or to clear out the canals for irrigation. No other case in the cuneiform inscriptions occurs of a king recording his own inaction. Nebuchadnezzar's own cuneiform inscription translated by Rawlinson says: **For 4 years my kingdom did not rejoice my heart.**

Bible scholars remind us: Babylon annually has 2 seasons: wet and dry; the Aramaic word **iddan** means... a period of time, not necessarily a year, 7 seasons could be counted as 4 full years **if the king included when he anxiously waited for it to begin.** Dr. Adam Rutherford wrote: Nebuchadnezzar was at the zenith of his power in the 37th year of his reign; and he died in the 43rd year -- he died 6 years later. So, after 4 years of insanity, he was restored by God for 2 years.

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 my lords sought me; and I was established in my kingdom, and still more excellence was added to me. ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true, and His ways are right: and those who walk in pride He is able to humble.

For more about King Nebuchadnezzar, visit: [THE BIBLE HISTORY NET](http://THEBIBLEHISTORYNET) [Bible Movie: Daniel](#)