

HOW GREAT ARE HIS SIGNS

DANIEL 4

Text: Daniel 4:3

Daniel 4:3

³ *How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.*

Introduction:

As we read these words it interesting to consider who it is speaking.

It is not Daniel speaking or writing nor is it the three Hebrew boys, but it is Nebuchadnezzar. Notice the changes we see in him following the fiery furnace.

- Before if he was not satisfied it would be death, now he is wishing peace to be multiplied (vs. 1)

Daniel 4:1

¹ *Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.*

- Before it was look at what I have done, now he wants to show what God has done for him. (vs. 2)

Daniel 4:2

² I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me.

- Before he was receiving the praise, now he is giving the praise. (vs. 3)

Daniel 4:3

³ How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.

What brought about these changes in Nebuchadnezzar?

1. THE DREAM OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR

This was the first time God has spoken to Nebuchadnezzar.

- He spoke in a dream that couldn't be recalled. (Chapter 2)
- He spoke through the Son of God in the fiery furnace (Chapter 3)

- He spoke in a dream that is remembered (Chapter 4)

All three occasions troubled him. (vs. 5)

Daniel 4:5

⁵ I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

2. THE INTERPRETATION OF DANIEL (VS. 19-27)

Daniel 4:19-27

¹⁹ Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies. ²⁰ The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth; ²¹ Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation: ²² It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth. ²³ And whereas the king saw a

watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him; ²⁴ This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: ²⁵ That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. ²⁶ And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. ²⁷

Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.

Note Daniel's counsel:

- Repent
- Do right

The results:

Lengthening of tranquility

3. THE FULFILLMENT OF THE INTERPRETATION

Note:

- The Pride of Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4:30

³⁰ The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

- The Judgment of Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4:31-33

³¹ While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. ³² And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. ³³ The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

Note also:

- The Grace of God

Daniel 4:34

³⁴ *And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:*

Close:

May we learn the danger of pride.

Daniel 4:37

³⁷ *Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: **and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.***