

# Daniel Chapter Four

- King Nebuchadnezzar was enjoying the good life [4:4] when he began having another dream [4:5].
- He relied upon his old unbelieving ways by calling for his “cabinet” to interpret the dream [4:6-7].
  - As a brand new believer he should have “unbound” himself from these unbelievers [2 Cor 6:14-18].
  - By handling this situation just as he would have before he was saved, Nebuchadnezzar effectively “returned to his own vomit” [2 Pet 2:20-22].
- Eventually Daniel came to the king, heard about his dream and was asked for an interpretation [4:8-9].
  - Nebuchadnezzar still referred to Marduk as “my god” even though he now knew God Himself.
  - The king astutely recognized that the Spirit of the Holy God was in Daniel.
  - These things indicate that Nebuchadnezzar had experienced some spiritual growth, but he had allowed his temporal prosperity to make him feel “satisfied” which had limited his growth.
- Nebuchadnezzar’s dream centered around a tree of amazing size and productivity [4:10-12].
  - The tree was tall and expansive [4:11].
  - The tree provided food and shelter for all [4:12].
- The king then saw an angel (עֵיִר, ‘iyr - a watcher) descend from heaven [4:13].
- The angel proclaimed that the great tree was to be chopped down [4:14] and banded [4:15].
- The angel then spoke of one who would spend seven period of time living out in the field with the mind of a beast [4:15-16].
- The angel declared that his pronouncement came from the Most High through the angels [4:17].
- Nebuchadnezzar had confidence that Daniel would be able to interpret the dream because the Spirit of the Holy God was upon him [4:18].

- Even though the king tried to comfort him, Daniel was deeply disturbed by Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its interpretation [4:19].
- Daniel gave the interpretation to the king [4:20-26].
  - The great tree was King Nebuchadnezzar [4:20-22].
  - The tree being chopped down meant that the king would be placed under divine discipline [4:23-25].
  - The stump and its roots signified that God would preserve the kingdom until the king repented [4:26].
- After interpreting the dream Daniel pleaded with the king to humbly repent in order to avoid the divine discipline before it came about [4:27].
- Twelve months later Nebuchadnezzar made a boast which triggered the divine discipline [4:28-33].
  - Either the king failed to heed Daniel's advice or he forgot about the dream and its interpretation.
  - The king was filled with arrogance and failed to acknowledge all that God had done for him.
- The divine discipline produced the desired results when Nebuchadnezzar's "reason returned to him" and he gave praise and honor to God [4:34-35].
- After God restored Nebuchadnezzar to his previous glory [4:36] he remained humble and continued to praise, honor and exalt the King of heaven [4:37].
- Related verses: Matt 23:12; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5