

Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4:1-3

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. 2 I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me. 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.

INFORMATION

Daniel chapters 2 - 4 tell a story of a man, Nebuchadnezzar, who was the king of Babylon. During the process of God's conviction, the Lord worked in Nebuchadnezzar's life. In chapters 2 and 3, we find that Nebuchadnezzar was proud of himself, proud of his achievements, and even fantasized that he was a god, demanding that people worship a statue of him. Yet, the very first verse in which Nebuchadnezzar is introduced, Chapter 2 verse 1, we find Nebuchadnezzar asleep and having troubling dreams. A man who thought himself to be a god, was troubled. That does not sound like the God we know.

God was providing a prophetic dream to Nebuchadnezzar. However, Nebuchadnezzar could not interpret his own dream and sought others to do it. When no man could tell him the meaning of his dream, he called for the death of all astrologers and soothsayers because he knew they were all frauds. Yet, at this point we see Daniel brought into the picture. Daniel tells the meaning of the king's dream and gives God the credit for his interpretation.

Nebuchadnezzar believed the validity of Daniel's interpretation and even tried to worship Daniel. In the next chapter however, we find that the king has built a statue to himself in similar fashion to the one in his dream. Again, God appeared to him in a dream and showed him that he will become like an animal, eating grass and sleeping outside on the ground. Nebuchadnezzar initially reacted in a positive manner, but before long returned to his normal ways. God fulfilled the dream's prophecy. In chapter 4 we see the king's final end where he was a changed man.

WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR FAMILY

When Nebuchadnezzar was redeemed by the Lord he was exuberant and zealous for God. He felt so strong that he penned a document that ultimately became part of the Bible. His chapter extols the greatness of God and his supremacy over all mankind.

Often, when we are first saved, we also feel a great zeal for the Lord. Sadly, that zeal usually fades as time passes. This is most unfortunate but nevertheless common. When we feel that our zeal is gone, return to this great chapter of the Bible and read about the salvation of a wicked king, read about how God dealt with him, yet preserved him. Read how Nebuchadnezzar turned from his ways and worshipped the Almighty God! Read how the Lord can redeem the most wicked of men and restore the most lost and broken!

Relevant Passages

John 16:7-11

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

2 Corinthians 9:2

For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many.

Galatians 4:18

But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.

Titus 2:14

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Revelation 3:19

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.