

From God To Goat

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DANIEL 4

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In our study of Daniel chapter 4, Nebuchadnezzar has a powerful encounter with God. Nebuchadnezzar has been given a powerful kingdom to rule over, but he believes it all comes from his work. He is proud of his accomplishments. God steps in and teaches Nebuchadnezzar a lesson that we can all learn from. God is in control. God establishes kings and kingdoms, and God removes kings and kingdoms. Nebuchadnezzar is forced to humble himself and acknowledge God as the one true God of heaven and earth. What areas in your life might God want credit for? Where do we need to humble ourselves and acknowledge God as creator and Lord of all?



① EXAMINE His Word (Observation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read Daniel 4 (NASB)

Nebuchadnezzar the king to all the peoples, nations, and men of every language that live in all the earth: "May your peace abound! ² It has seemed good to me to declare the signs and wonders which the Most High God has done for 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.

⁴ "I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and flourishing in my palace. ⁵ I saw a dream and it made me fearful; and these fantasies as I lay on my bed and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.

⁶ So I gave orders to bring into my presence all the wise men of Babylon, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. ⁷ Then the magicians, the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners came in and I related the dream to them, but they could not make its interpretation known to me. ⁸ But finally Daniel came in before me, whose name is Belteshazzar according to the name of my god, and in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and I related the dream to him, saying, ⁹ 'O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, since I know that a spirit of the holy gods is in you and no mystery baffles you, tell me the visions of my dream which I have seen, along with its interpretation.

¹⁰ 'Now these were the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed: I was looking, and behold, there was a tree in the midst of the earth and its height was great.

¹¹ 'The tree grew large and became strong
And its height reached to the sky,
And it was visible to the end of the whole earth.

¹² 'Its foliage was 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 sky dwelt in its branches,
And all living creatures fed themselves from it.

¹³ 'I was looking in the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed, and behold, an angelic watcher, a holy one, descended from heaven.

¹⁴ 'He shouted out and spoke as follows:
Chop down the tree and cut off its branches,
Strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit;
Let the beasts flee from under it

And the birds from its branches.

¹⁵ "Yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground,
But with a band of iron and bronze around it
In the new grass of the field;
And let him be drenched with the dew of heaven,
And let him share with the beasts in the grass of the earth.

¹⁶ "Let his mind be changed from that of a man
And let a beast's mind be given to him,
And let seven periods of time pass over him.

¹⁷ "This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers
And the decision is a command of the holy ones,
In order that the living may know
That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind,
And bestows it on whom He wishes
And sets over it the lowliest of men."

¹⁸ This is the dream which I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, tell me its interpretation, inasmuch as none of the wise men of my kingdom is able to make known to me the interpretation; but you are able, for a spirit of the holy gods is in you.'

¹⁹ "Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was appalled for a while as his thoughts alarmed him. The king responded and said, 'Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation alarm you.'

Belteshazzar replied, 'My lord, if only the dream applied to those who hate you and its interpretation to your adversaries! ²⁰ The tree that you saw, which became large and grew strong, whose height reached to the sky and was visible to all the earth

²¹ and whose foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt and in whose branches the birds of the sky lodged— ²² it is you, O king; for you have become great and grown strong, and your majesty has become great and reached to the sky and your dominion to the end of the earth.

²³ In that the king saw an angelic watcher, a holy one, descending from heaven and saying, "Chop down the tree and destroy it; yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze around it in the new grass of the field, and let him be drenched with the dew of heaven,

and let him share with the beasts of the field until seven periods of time pass over him,"²⁴ this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king:²⁵ that you be driven away from mankind and your dwelling place be with the beasts of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.²⁶ And in that it was commanded to leave the stump with the roots of the tree, your kingdom will be assured to you after you recognize that it is Heaven that rules.²⁷ Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you: break away now from your sins by doing righteousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.'

²⁸ "All this happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king.

²⁹ Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon.³⁰ The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?'

³¹ While the word was in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you,³² and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler

over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.'³³ Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

³⁴ "But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason 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 endures from generation to generation.

³⁵ "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
But He does according to His will in the host of heaven

And among the inhabitants of earth;

And no one can ward off His hand

Or say to Him, 'What have You done?'

³⁶ At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me.³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride."

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.

2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.

3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.

4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in this passage that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)

What does God MEAN?

1. Why is Daniel alarmed at the dream?

2. Why was Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom taken away?

3. Why do you think that Nebuchadnezzar turns to God in the end?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)**

Why does this MATTER to me?

4. Nebuchadnezzar is punished for his pride. When are you tempted to be prideful?

5. How does our pride affect the people around us?

6. If we are to boast, what does God tell us to boast in? (Read Jeremiah 9:23-24)

7. How does the boasting permitted in Jerimiah 9 affect the people around us?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES