

5 – NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S SECOND DREAM (DANIEL 4:1-37)

- I. The King's Proclamation (4:1-3)
 - A. The recipients (4:1)
 - The writer records a royal proclamation which was sent throughout his kingdom.
 - B. The declaration (4:2-3)
 1. The purpose (4:2)
 - The king wanted to declare the wonders that God has done for him.
 2. The praise (4:3)
 - The king declares the greatness of God's work and his sovereignty forever.
- II. The Second Dream (4:4-18)
 - A. The setting for the dream (4:4)
 - This section of scripture is written from the perspective of Nebuchadnezzar.
 - He describes himself as resting in his palace.
 - B. The dream (4:5)
 - The king had a dream that terrified and troubled him.
 - C. The decree (4:6-7)
 - The king decreed that all of the wise men come before him to interpret the dream.
 - After the king told them the dream, the wise men could not interpret it.
 - D. Daniel told the dream (4:8-18)
 1. Daniel appears before the king (4:8)
 - Daniel was the last advisor to appear before the king.
 2. Confidence in Daniel (4:9)
 - The king asked to Daniel to interpret because the Spirit of God indwelt Daniel.
 3. The dream presented (4:10-17)

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- There was a great tree in the midst of the earth.
- The tree has abundant fruit and it provided for all living things.
- A holy one called for the tree to be chopped down.
- A stump remained, bound with a band of iron and bronze.
- It will dwell with the cattle in the field and he will have the mind of a beast.
- This will occur for a period of seven times.
- This decree is sure and given for a purpose of declaring God's sovereignty.

4. The command to interpret (4:18)

- Daniel is called to interpret what others cannot since he has the Spirit of God.

III. Daniel's Interpretation (4:19-27)

A. Daniel is troubled (4:19a)

- Daniel was astonished and troubled by the dream for a time period.
- The king reassured Daniel not to be troubled.

B. Daniel's wish (4:19b)

- Daniel proclaimed that he wished the fulfillment of the dream on the king's enemies.

C. The interpretation (4:20-26)

- The great tree is the king and his greatness has reach to ends of the earth.
- The decree of the holy one is against the king.
- The king will be driven from men and will dwell with the animals of the field.
- He will eat grass and sleep outside for a period of seven times.
- This will occur until the king knows that God is sovereign over the kingdoms of the earth.
- The stump represents that the king will be returned to his throne.

D. Daniel's advice (4:27)

- Daniel calls the king to cease from his sins and thus prolong his prosperity.

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IV. The Fulfillment (4:28-37)

A. The timing (4:28-29)

- The prophecy was fulfilled in the king's life twelve months later.

B. The king's pride (4:30)

- In his pride, the king claimed for himself the glory of building his kingdom.

C. The proclamation of heaven (4:31-32)

- A voice from heaven proclaims the judgment of the prophecy shall be executed on him.

D. The prophecy fulfilled (4:33)

- The king immediately lost his mind and lived like an animal in a field.
- He did not take care of his physical appearance.

E. The king's acknowledgment (4:34-35)

- The king came to his senses and acknowledged the sovereignty of God.

F. The king's restoration (4:36)

- The king was immediately restored to his kingdom.

G. The king's praise (4:37)

- The king acknowledged the power of God and his ability to bring low the proud.