



SIM

Serving in Mission

Daniel 4:1-37

Introduction:

- Similar to other chapters with a dream and an interpretation but different because it is the word of the king for his subjects

1:1-2 To the peoples, nations and men of every language, who live in all the world: It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me.

Daniel 4:3 *How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation.*

- It took a lot to bring the king to this point, 3 encounters with God
- CH2 – 3 years after Daniel arrived in Babylon
- CH3 – 20 years later 3 are preserved in the fiery furnace

Daniel 4

20 more years have passed since chapter 3

- Catastrophe takes place
- This is a story of pride being brought down by disaster and the person humbling himself and bowing the knee to God.
- Some call this the chapter conversion Nebuchadnezzar
His last words are Praise to God

Daniel 4:4 The Kings Pride

I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous.

-He comments V30 about his works

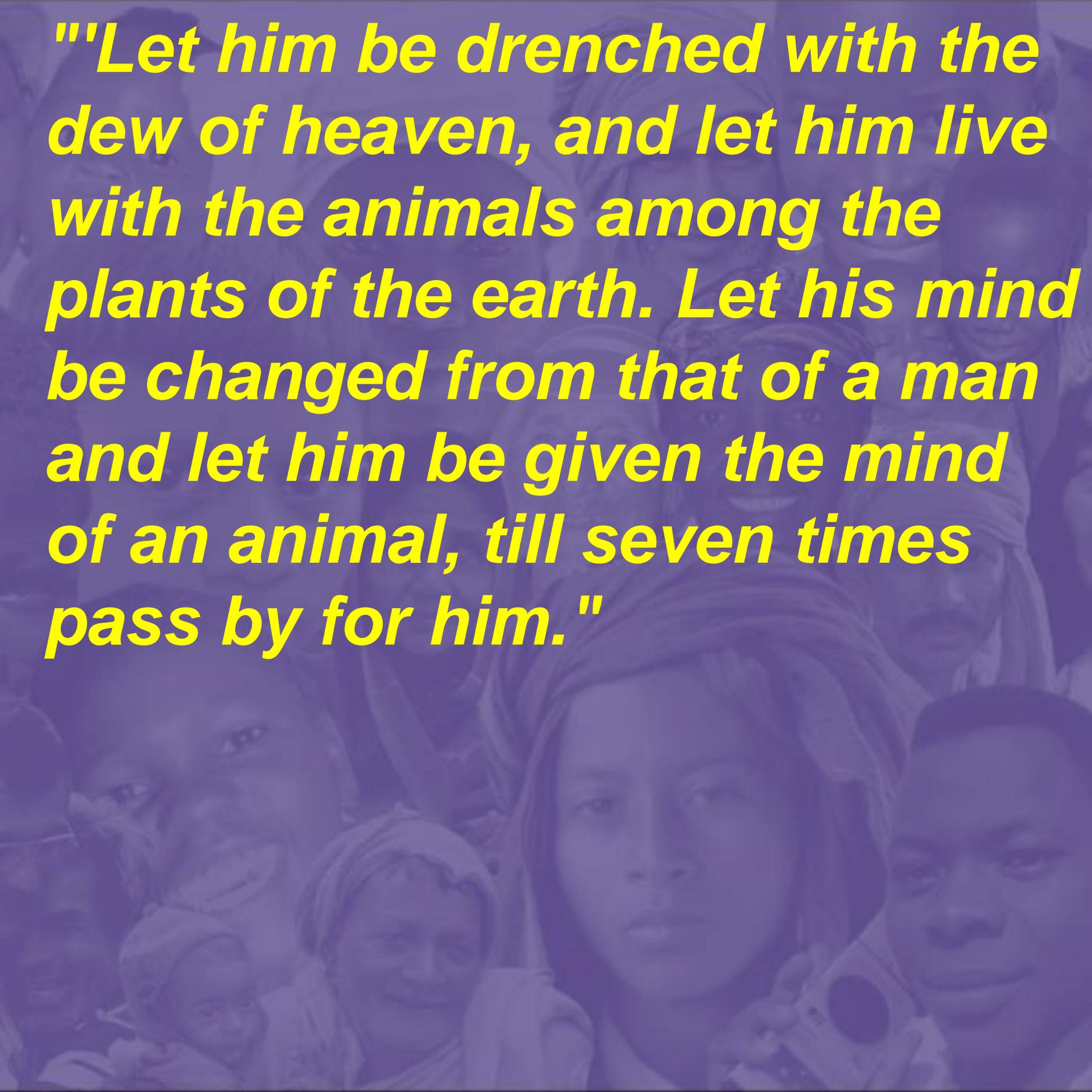
"Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

Daniel 4:6-9 *I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in my bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me. So I commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream for me. When the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners came, I told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me.*

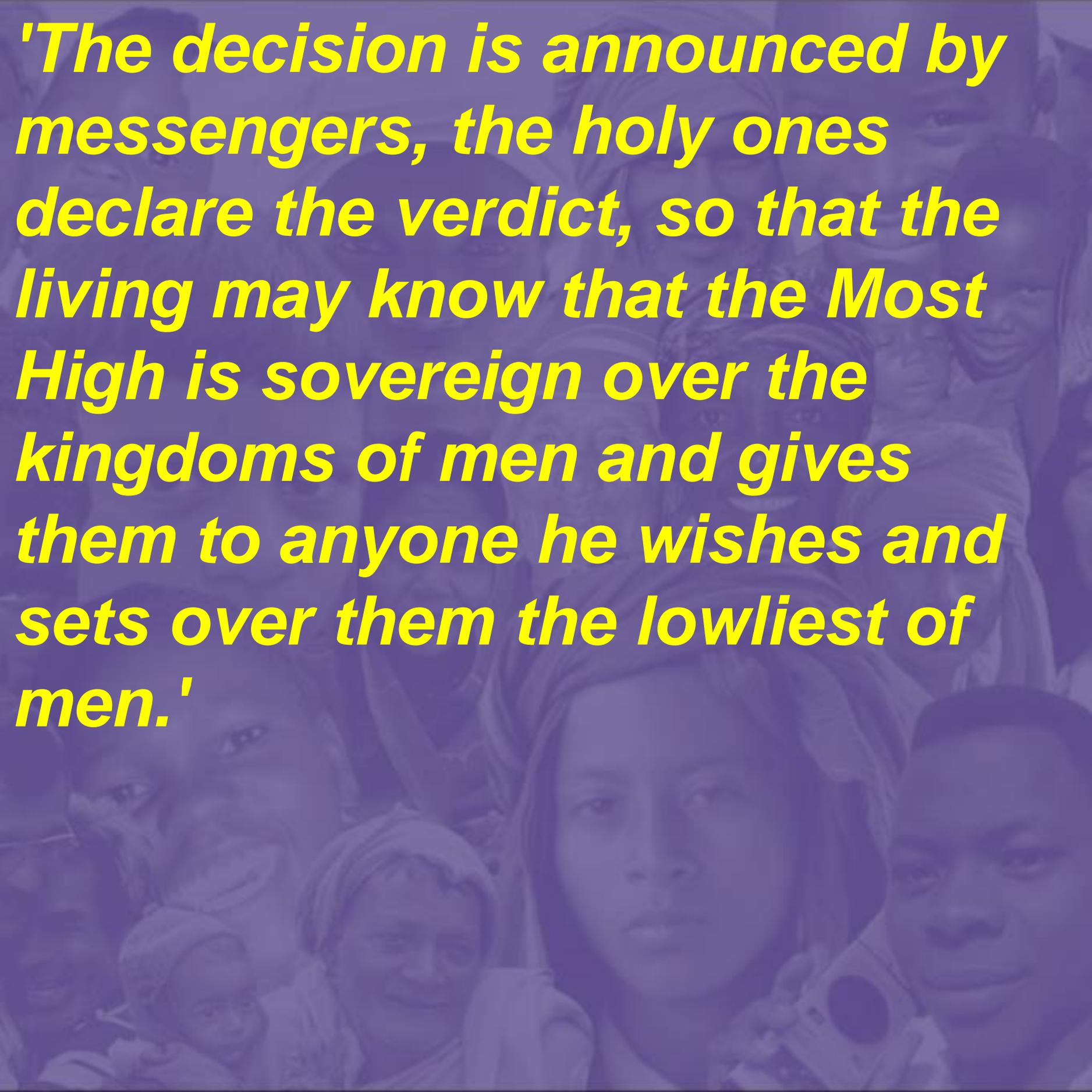
Finally, Daniel came into my presence and I told him the dream. He is called Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and the spirit of the holy gods is in him. I said, "Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you. Here is my dream; interpret it for me.

Daniel 4:10-17 *These are the visions I saw while lying in my bed: I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous. The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth. Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit abundant, and on it was food for all. Under it the beasts of the field found shelter, and the birds of the air lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed.*

"In the visions I saw while lying in my bed, I looked, and there before me was a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven. He called in a loud voice: 'Cut down the tree and trim off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches. But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field."

A large crowd of diverse people is shown from the chest up, filling the background. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text is centered and written in a bold, italicized, yellow font.

"Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth. Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him."

A background image showing a diverse crowd of people, including men, women, and children, with a semi-transparent blue overlay. The text is overlaid on this image.

'The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men.'

Daniel 4:18-26 The Interpretation

This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now, Belteshazzar, tell me what it means, for none of the wise men in my kingdom can interpret it for me. But you can, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you."
Then Daniel (also called Belteshazzar) was greatly perplexed for a time, and his thoughts terrified him. to your adversaries!

So the King said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its meaning alarm you."

Belteshazzar answered, "My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries!"

Daniel was direct but he shared God's message to Nebuchadnezzar compassionately and without ambiguity.

V20 The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth, with beautiful leaves and abundant fruit, providing food for all, giving shelter to the beasts of the field, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds of the air-you, O king, are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth

"You, O king, saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live like the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.'"

"This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.

The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules.

-The king's fate could have been avoided if he humbled himself

E. 4:27 Daniel's application:

Therefore, O king, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue."

-The right reaction judgment is a humble repentance.

F 4:28-33 Dream's Fulfillment.

All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?" The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven,

"This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes."

-God gave him time to change
V33 *immediately what had
been said about
Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled.
He was driven away from
people and ate grass like
cattle. His body was drenched
with the dew of heaven until
his hair grew like the feathers
of an eagle and his nails like
the claws of a bird.*

•No historical records for Babylon
between 582-587BC

4:34-37 A repentant King

At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honoured and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing.

He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honour and splendour were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before.

***V37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar,
praise and exalt and glorify the
King of heaven, because
everything he does is right and
all his ways are just. And those
who walk in pride he is able to
humble.***

**The goal wasn't to bring him low,
but to bring him to his proper
place before God & men by
acknowledging God**

Application Points

1. Are we in danger of being proud in our lives or ministries
2. Are we patient enough to let God bring about conversions at his pace and speed
3. Are we praying for those things that bother our sense of justice



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