

Church of God Sunday School

GOD HUMBLER NEBUCHADNEZZAR

Daniel 4

King Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, had conquered many nations. He had done many great things. He thought he had done it all because he was such a powerful ruler. Because he had accomplished so much as a king, he was very proud of himself. His pride made him short tempered if his will was crossed. At those times, he could become quite angry and act in a very harsh way. The people of the land were much afraid of him!

The memory verse for this lesson says that pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit goes before a fall. That is what happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. He fell from his lofty position as a great king because of the very proud, haughty spirit he possessed. He was not a humble man.

Once Nebuchadnezzar had a dream about a golden image. It troubled him. He called for his wise men, to see if they could interpret the meaning of that dream. They could not. It had been Daniel, God's man, a captive taken from Judah, who had been the one to tell Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of that dream.

Now, Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed another troublesome dream. He was sure this dream meant something. King Nebuchadnezzar called for his wise men again, but they could not tell him the meaning of this dream either. Finally, Daniel (Beltshazzar) came before Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar knew that Daniel had a godly spirit. (Why then hadn't he called for Daniel first instead of last?)



King Nebuchadnezzar told Daniel his dream. He said he had seen a great, tall tree in this dream. The great tree grew and grew until it reached to the sky. It could be seen all over the earth. This tree had so much fruit on it that it provided food for all the animals and the birds of the earth. Its leaves provided shade for the animals, and the birds made their nests in its branches.

But then, in the dream, one of God's angels came from Heaven. He said to cut the tree down, cut off the branches, shake off the leaves, scatter the fruit, make the animals and birds go away, and leave only the stump, bound with a band of iron

and brass.

The angel said: "Let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth: Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let

seven times pass over him. . . . to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest [lowest] of men." That was Nebuchadnezzar's second dream.

Daniel was quiet and thoughtful for one hour. His thoughts troubled him. He knew Nebuchadnezzar was not going to like the meaning of this dream. This dream had been sent from God as a warning to him.

Finally, Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar, "The tree that thou sawest . . . is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy



greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth."

Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that what the angel had said about cutting down the tree, destroying its leaves and branches but leaving the stump, bound with a band of iron and brass, meant that the kingdom would be taken from Nebuchadnezzar—but it would still be kept for him. The people would drive Nebuchadnezzar from the palace.

Nebuchadnezzar's heart (or mind) would be changed to an animal's mind; and for seven years he would live in the field, eat grass as an ox does, and be wet with the dew from the grass. But, whenever Nebuchadnezzar would come to the place where he would humble himself before God and realize that God is the One who rules among men, then his kingdom would be restored to him.

After Daniel finished telling King Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of this dream, he said, "O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity [peace]." In other words, Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that he should change his sinful ways or else all that he had seen in his dream would happen to him, because he was so terribly proud and arrogant.

King Nebuchadnezzar took no heed to Daniel's advice though. One whole year passed, and nothing unusual happened. Nebuchadnezzar might have even put Daniel's words out of his mind. Then one day King Nebuchadnezzar was walking in the palace. He was thinking of the city of Babylon. He was filled with so much pride that he spoke out loud, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?"

Right then, Nebuchadnezzar heard a voice say: "O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field . . . and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will."

The second dream Nebuchadnezzar had was about to be fulfilled. God's longsuffering with him was over. Nebuchadnezzar was driven from his palace. God gave him the mind of an animal, so he began to act like an animal. For seven long years he lived as an animal lives. His body got wet from the dew. He ate grass. He did not take care of himself. His hair grew long, and his fingernails and toenails grew to look like the claws of birds.

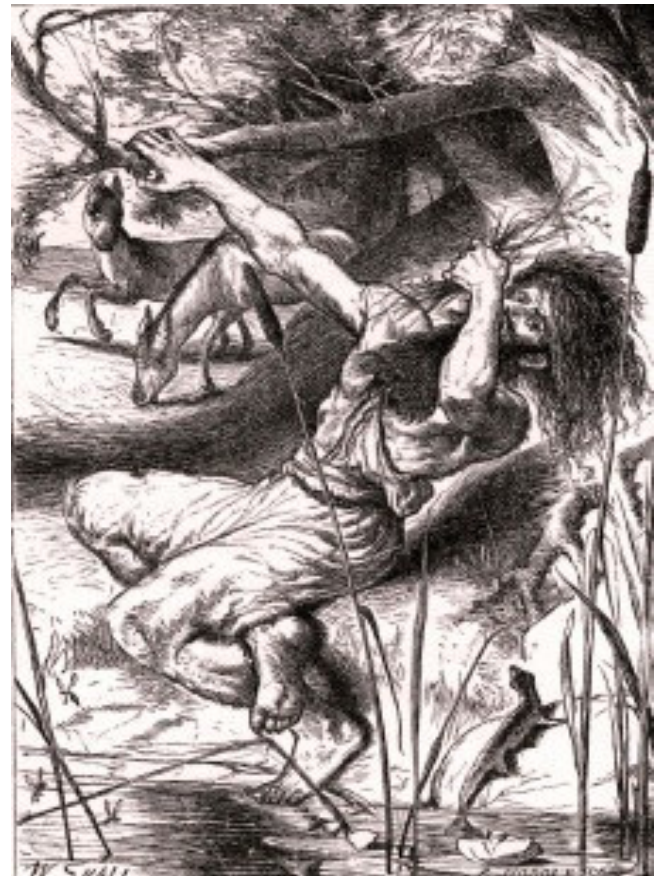
At the end of the seven years, Nebuchadnezzar's right mind returned to him. He realized how low he had lived during those seven years. He began to bless God and give God the honor He deserved. Nebuchadnezzar could not praise God enough.

Nebuchadnezzar's counselors and lords came to him. They restored his kingship to him when they saw that he was in his right mind and was thinking as a king should think.

From that time on, King Nebuchadnezzar always praised, honored, and glorified God. Nebuchadnezzar no longer felt that he was so high and mighty in his own strength. His own words were: "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase [or humble]."

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."  
—Proverbs 16:18*



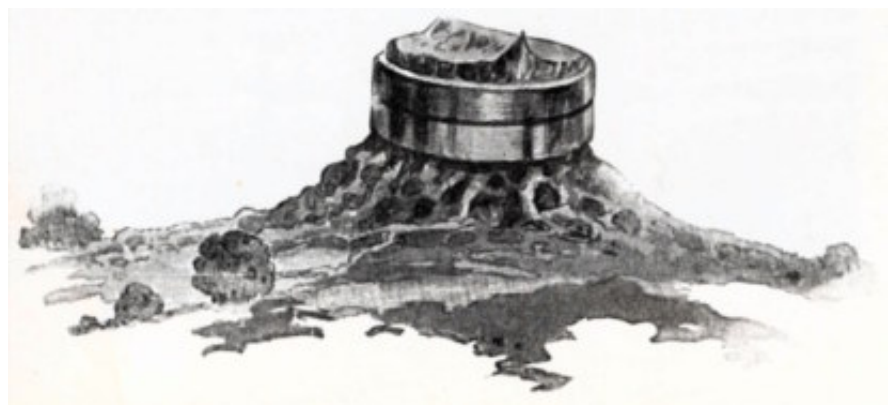
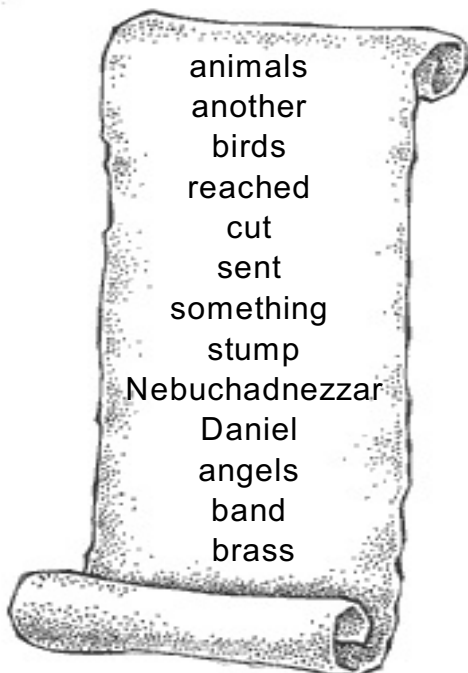
# King Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream



**Complete the story  
by filling in the blanks**

Nebuchadnezzar dreamed \_\_\_\_\_  
troublesome dream. He was sure this dream meant  
\_\_\_\_\_. He told \_\_\_\_\_ about  
his dream. He dreamed of a tree so tall that it  
\_\_\_\_\_ to the sky. It provided food for all  
the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
earth. But then one of God's \_\_\_\_\_ came  
and said to \_\_\_\_\_ the tree down and to leave  
only a \_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_ of iron  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

The dream was \_\_\_\_\_ from God as a  
warning to King \_\_\_\_\_. But he  
did not take the warning.





## King Nebuchadnezzar's First Dream