

The Love and Grace of our God!



**We know that God sent His Son
to die on The Cross
to provide
the Way of Salvation:**

- 1 Removal of all sins (We are still minus the Righteousness of Christ);
- 2 Provide Imputation of God's Perfect Righteousness

The condition for our Salvation

The minus

**Sins must be
taken care of,
which we
cannot do,**

The plus

**So, therefore, Jesus Christ bore
the judgment of sins on the cross.**

But even with SINS REMOVED it does not mean that anyone is saved.

<p>There must be the PLUS, we must possess the same <u>perfect</u> <u>Righteousness</u> as God</p>	<p>and this happens by Faith in Jesus Christ.</p>
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But God also does so much to bring every human being to saving Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST:

- 1 Sends the Holy Spirit –John 16: sending of HOLY SPIRIT to convict
- 2 Makes Himself known to everyone Romans 1:19
- 3 Takes every individual through whatever it takes to come to the point of believing in JESUS CHRIST...but multitudes still resist

Compare all God did to Pharaoh of the Exodus
and

all God did to Nebuchadnezzar

to bring both of these men to saving knowledge of JESUS CHRIST

The difference was not (*as Calvinist would say*) that God chose Nebuchadnezzar, but did not choose Pharaoh.

The difference was that Nebuchadnezzar did not fight God all the way through as Pharaoh did.

Through each one of the 10 plagues, Pharaoh, kept **saying 'no' to God** and over a period of time of saying 'no' **he harden his own heart.** God is said to have hardened Pharaoh's heart by continuing to give him opportunities to respond to the grace of God .

On the other hand Nebuchadnezzar did not harden his heart as seen in Daniel 2:47 and Daniel 3:28.

Nebuchadnezzar did not respond so as to believe but **he did not harden his heart** against God.

Nebuchadnezzar is not unlike multitude of people today
who just do not take JESUS CHRIST all that seriously.

He believes in so many gods
that to believe in **one and only one** is simply beyond his comprehension.

But God will break through Nebuchadnezzar resistance and chapter 4 is about how
Nebuchadnezzar will come to believe in the coming of the Messiah of Daniel and Shadrach,
Meshach and Abed-nego.

There are not many stories in the entire bible
dealing with **how someone came to believe in JESUS CHRIST.**

Paul's conversion on the Damascus road is probably one of the more well-known
and the criminal on the cross next to JESUS CHRIST.

Most of the Bible is about the journey and experiences of believers
but **chapter 4 describes the journey of coming to believe in JESUS CHRIST.**

**What did the Love and Grace of God do,
to bring YOU
to a saving knowledge of JESUS CHRIST?**

Give thanks to God for His Love and Grace!

Chapter 4 of Daniel is a track written by Nebuchadnezzar after his Salvation.

Chapter 4 tells of what God did to finally bring Nebuchadnezzar to faith in JESUS CHRIST.

Nebuchadnezzar salvation track written **AFTER** these things had taken place:

(This was probably written near the end of his reign. He reigned from 605 to 562 bc. This declaration was written ca. 571 to 570 bc.)

The first part of his salvation track (**verses 1-3**) reveals a changed man, with changed values.

¹ Nebuchadnezzar the king to all the peoples, nations, and *men of every language* that live in all the earth: “May your peace abound!

Nebuchadnezzar is the 1st King of the time of the Gentiles and is a pattern for every king and/or president throughout history to believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.

What is important here is that **This Declaration of Salvation is from a king of the greatest empire and therefore the gospel will be read by everyone on earth!**

The entire world was evangelized by 4 teenagers who were brought up in homes where the learning of Scripture was a priority!

Not sports,

Not music,

Not activities;

but **GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF WORD OF GOD.**

This was true of Mary the mother of JESUS CHRIST and we are told that the humanity of JESUS CHRIST grew in the knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures.

If there was ever a time in American history when our young people needed the Word of God and **how to live in HOLY SPIRIT by faith**, it is today!

It is most interesting that, as we study the time of the Gentiles as per the Statue in Daniel 2, that the great evangelization took place in the first Kingdom, the Babylonian Kingdom; then after Cyrus and the Medo-Persian empire, very little great evangelization took place. And as the quality of material weakened in the Statue, so the empires response to the gospel weakened.

This is why God allowed Nebuchadnezzar to come against Judah and take it captive and bring these 4 young men back to Babylon.

To all the peoples, nations, and every tongue on earth

(Nebuchadnezzar desired that everyone know of his salvation. How many people do you want to know of your Salvation? Well, when you go through all that Nebuchadnezzar went through you want everyone to know. And this is the pattern for every one of us—to cherish our salvation and desire everyone to know about it.)

May your peace {shelam} abound

(This is not economic peace, nor is he speaking of peace from war; he is speaking of the peace that comes from knowing that you are saved forever.)

To **abound** = referring to the increase of this peace throughout his empire; and in every area of your life as you find that peace that only **THE ONE AND TRUE GOD** can give.

Put these two together –**peace abound** refers to an inner peace regardless of circumstances in life. Nebuchadnezzar used to find a peace that was only temporary but now he has a peace all the time into eternity.

² *It has seemed good to me to declare the signs and wonders which the Most High God has done for me.*

Here is the wonderful motivation of Nebuchadnezzar to write this track on his Salvation.

When you have **good news**---*gospel*—it just seems good to tell everyone!

When you think of the peace that you have knowing that you have Eternal Salvation...

it just seems good to tell others.

Signs and wonders

are used by God all through Scripture to demonstrate who God is and all that He can do. In fact it is through signs and wonders that God revealed His Son.

Acts 2:22-23. ²² *“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—*

²³ *this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.*

Notice that Nebuchadnezzar is no longer talking about himself and all he has done—*I made the golden statue, my gods etc.*

No, he is speaking about the **Great God of Israel.**

In his personal life...these signs and wonders include the revealing and interpretation of his dream; the delivery of the 3 young men he had thrown into the fiery furnace and then, of course, what is going to happen to him in Chapter 4.

the Most high God

(the God of these 4 young men...your God!)

Don't miss the phrase:

has done for me!

How often do you **think** of all that God has done for you?

How often do you **thank** God for all He has done for you?

How often do you **tell** others
of all that God has done for you?

I am not talking about being some kind of weirdo,
going around shouting and startling others,

but in personal conversations, at appropriate times...
do you tell others what God has done for you?

For me

Salvation is personal! *This is my body which is for you*

³ "How great are His signs

And how mighty are His wonders!

HIS DREAMS AND FIERY FURNACE AND WHAT IS COMING UP

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom

When Nebuchadnezzar says this he is acknowledging that his own kingdom which he thought would last forever, is destined to fall and other kingdoms will come and go but the future Kingdom of the Messiah will be everlasting. This Nebuchadnezzar has grasp so much on eschatology and it greatly influences his own life. This is just another reason why what we know about future events will or should affect our daily lives.

Referring to the eternal kingdom of JESUS CHRIST. This is important throughout JESUS CHRIST'S public ministry and in the 4th trial of JESUS CHRIST before Pilate.

And His dominion is from generation to generation.

He knows his kingdom will soon fall and other kingdoms will rise in power, but the kingdom of the coming Messiah, Savior, is an Eternal Kingdom.

This refers to the rule of JESUS CHRIST over all believers.

How insecure is worldly security

⁴ “I, Nebuchadnezzar, (the king is writing this salvation track) was at ease in my house and flourishing in my palace.

Was at ease

A rich Aramaic word referring to being in a state of safety and contentment and security.

It is amazing how many people try find security in this world!

In his genius he had established a kingdom of military security and economic prosperity

and flourishing

In the Hebrew Lexicon “to be green” “a verb indicating to grow luxurious” and refers to prosperity. ‘flourishing like a tree’

Why does this man need with a Savior?

He has everything!

And this is one of the problems in American history, where people enjoyed ***‘the American dream’*** and were working hard, playing hard and had neither time nor need of JESUS CHRIST or of the Word of God.

Just like today, so busy in so many things...for themselves and their children.

One more point to remember: that while Nebuchadnezzar was a genius in so many areas like administration, and military strategy; {but remember this kingdom that has been prospering for some 25 years under the administration of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego!}

God caused this prosperity that Nebuchadnezzar was enjoying!

But Nebuchadnezzar had his **eyes on the prosperity, not the source.**

WISDOM OF DANIEL

keep your eyes on the SOURCE of all blessings,
not on the blessings.

Enters God!

and when God enters things change,
for the better or for the worse.

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.

Fearful – God caused a dream as in Chapter 2 – **DREAM OF THE STATUE**, now God causes another dream and this dream causes Nebuchadnezzar to be afraid!

You see, he is not in control of his dreams and this disturbs him.
People who have to be in control, become disturbed when they are not in control.

Fantasies

this Aramaic word refers to the images he had in his dream. We will see this is an image of a great tree!

God is beginning to work once again on Nebuchadnezzar to bring him to saving knowledge of JESUS CHRIST

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.

Where is Daniel?

Although his great staff and their gods could not help him in the dream of the statue Nebuchadnezzar by passes coming to the true God of Daniel and he calls on them once again, and once again they cannot interpret the dream. Nebuchadnezzar purposefully bypassed Daniel.

Multitudes of unbelievers bypass God,
reject the bible and search for solutions for understanding,
in multitude of ways, but not in the Bible.

It is amazing how many Christians try many other solutions to their problems before they rely completely on the Lord and on His Word and the leading of His Spirit.

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*,

Wisdom of Daniel

Daniel waited for leading of the HOLY SPIRIT to come to the King. In his wisdom he gave the kings staff time to once again reveal their inadequacy to solve the Kings problem.

The *wisdom of Daniel* is to **Wait on the Lord; wait for the Lord's timing.**

Joshua waited 40 years under Moses, he waited for the Lord to promote him.

Psalm 27:14; ¹⁴ Wait for the LORD;

Be strong and let your heart take courage;

Yes, wait for the LORD.

Psalm 62:5; ⁵ My soul, wait in silence for God only,

For my hope is from Him.

Psalm 130:5; ⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait,

And in His word do I hope.

Proverbs 20:22; ²² Do not say, "I will repay evil";
Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.

Isaiah 25:9 ⁹ And it will be said in that day,
"Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that
He might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."

It is sound wisdom to wait on the Lord and never advance yourself

⁸ But finally Daniel came in before me, whose name is
Belteshazzar according to the name of my god,
(you will recall from Chapter 1 that
Daniel was renamed after the Babylonian god Bel)

(May Bel protect his life.

Nebuchadnezzar is still trying to give his gods some credit.)
and in whom is a spirit (*ruach*) of the holy gods; (Elohim) the
Spirit of God---God the Holy Spirit.

Vision of a great Tree

⁹ 'O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, (Daniel was the head of the
sciences and astrology) since I know that a spirit of the holy gods
(the Spirit of the Holy God) is in you and no mystery baffles you,
tell *me* the visions of my dream which I have seen, along with
its interpretation.

If he knew all this, why didn't he call for Daniel right off?
Again, he wanted to find solutions without depending on the Most High God of Daniel . Like so many people, he wanted to bypass God.

¹⁰ *Now these were the visions in my mind*

(uh oh, even in the Babylonian times they knew about the brain! The function of the brain)

as / lay on my bed: I was looking, and behold, there was a tree in the midst of the earth and its height was great.

Doctrine of Trees

Throughout the bible (Genesis to Revelation) there is mention of various trees, by title or by type of wood. There are 4 prominent trees in the bible.

- 1 Three trees in the garden:
tree of Life, this is God's tree;
tree of knowledge of Good and Evil, this is Satan's tree and Fig tree. Which is man's tree, or the tree of works.
- 2 Tree of most importance, of course, is the tree upon which JESUS CHRIST died in bearing the judgment for the sins of the world.
This is to be a curse to die on the tree Galations 3:13
¹³ *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"—*
It was by a tree in the garden that man originally sinned and fell, and it will be by a future tree, the cross, by which man will be saved.
- 3 The tree of life will be in the center of the New Jerusalem for all eternity.
Revelation 22:1-2
¹ Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,
² in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve *kinds of* fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

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.

Up to this point his dream has been pleasing. It has described the prosperity of Nebuchadnezzar kingdom—ran by 4 Jews!

But things are about to change. **God Is About To Enter.**

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

Nebuchadnezzar draws from his own military knowledge. These angels MOS (*Military Occupation Specialties*) was to be a *watcher*! That is they simply watched all that was going on and reported any change or disturbance or even good things.

This was very important in the military, and in the running of an empire, economic watchers, production watchers etc.

But in the Spiritual realm this refers to a very important aspect of the Invisible Warfare that centers on the angels. Angels are watching everything we do. Zechariah 1:10-11 (¹⁰ And the man who was standing among the myrtle trees answered and said, “These are those whom the LORD has sent to patrol the earth.”

¹¹ So they answered the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtle trees and said, “We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth is peaceful and quiet.”) where the Pre-incarnate Christ is seen taking reports from angelic **watchers**.

Satan, himself prowls about watching, looking for whom he may devour!

¹⁴ He shouted out and spoke as follows:

Throughout the book of Revelation, we have angels shouting out in the plan of God. It means to shout out with authority and a voice that is heard all over.

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;

From a tree to a man—

Here is the part that no one on his brilliant staff could understand and that frightened Nebuchadnezzar.

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.

Here is another area in which critics of the Bible have challenged the authenticity of the Book of Daniel, claiming this just did not happen. Then in the 19th-20th century, as doctors did more observation, this condition was diagnosed and is called *zoanthropy*. (*zoanthropy* = a monomania in which a person believes himself changed into an animal and acts like one)

Seven periods of time (seems to have been seven years.)

¹⁷ “This sentence is by the decree of the *angelic* watchers
And the decision is a command of the holy ones,

Holy One this is a refer. to the Almighty God.

This is seen throughout the study of Revelation.

Now, why did God cause Nebuchadnezzar to go through zoanthropy?

In order that the living may know

this is knowledge by observation. Unbelieving mankind is an expert at observation, where they fail is in interpretation. As man studies history he observes the rise and fall of nations, but that is about all he learns. In the words of George Bernard Shaw—“*we learn from history that we learn nothing from history*”

That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind,

We should learn that God is over all mankind, God controls all history. Therefore trust in the Lord as things happen in history.

And bestows it on whom He wishes

And sets over it the lowliest of men.”

This is good as in the case of 4 lowly Jewish men named Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego. And this is bad as in the case of Hitler.

¹⁸ This is the dream *which* I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen.

Caused by God. Remember there are various stimuli for dreams: ones emotional state, drugs and God

Now you, Belshazzar, tell *me* its interpretation, inasmuch as none of the wise men of my kingdom is able to make known to me the interpretation;

Once again, Nebuchadnezzar realizes the inabilities of his own staff.

but you are able,

Nebuchadnezzar has learned something here—he knows why Daniel is able, not because of anything special about Daniel, but

for a spirit of the holy gods (Spirit of the holy God) is in you.'

**We know that God sent His Son
to die on The Cross
to provide
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