

Another Tree
Can Restore
Nebuchadnezzar

THE TREE THAT YOU SAW
WHICH BECAME LARGE AND GREW STRONG
WHOSE HEIGHT REACHED TO THE SKY
AND WAS VISIBLE TO ALL THE EARTH

IT IS YOU,

○ KING

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.

Daniel

Daniel Interprets the Vision



19 “Then Daniel, whose name is Belshazzar, (In his track, Nebuchadnezzar continues to reflect on what he had done against this young man)

was appalled (yes, Christians, even Filled with the Holy Spirit, can be appalled.)

In the Aramaic this is passive, which means Daniel receives this. the word means to be astonished or appalled – to be taken by surprise; Daniel was astonished into silence!)

for a while as his thoughts alarmed him. (Delivering bad news is

always a difficult thing to do. Daniel is older now, in his eighties, but even though he is stable in his walk with the Lord, he has to point out to Nebuchadnezzar his sins and what is to happen to him. Unfortunately many Christians love to point out peoples sins; it makes them feel so pure about themselves. But not Daniel. Even though **Spiritual Love** is a fruit of Holy Spirit it is still painful to deliver bad news to someone whom you love or respect, and this is what Daniel must do. Daniel is appalled and shocked at all God is going to do to knock Nebuchadnezzar’s arrogance. It should leave each one of us in dismay when we think of the lake of fire, and where humanity would be

without any restraints. What we will see of Nebuchadnezzar is a picture of each of us if it were not up to The grace of God to give us restraints.

Throughout the time of the Gentiles, God does not reveal Himself as He did in the age of Israel — fire, light, direct messages etc. — so it of course is going to shock Daniel when he sees God act so openly. Next time God openly acts at the rapture of the church the whole world of unbelievers will be in shock and alarmed as they will through the whole tribulation, period.)

The King observed this alarm in the now older man and urged him to speak

The king responded and said, ‘Belshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation alarm you.’

Belshazzar replied, ‘My lord, (shows the respect that Daniel has for the King.) *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

(the vastness of his empire, the tree here, represents the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian kingdom.)

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—

(He provided Food and Shelter for everyone [[beast and birds represent people.]])

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. (The reference to the end of the earth, refers

to the known earth and teaches that during the time of the gentiles that gentile nations will rule on the whole earth.)

(What is so bad about this? This sounds great!)

God enters to break down the arrogance of Nebuchadnezzar and bring him to a saving Knowledge of Jesus Christ. Verses 23-25 Nebuchadnezzar's madness declared, and this is a declaration of all humans if it were not for the grace of God

23 'In that the king saw an *angelic* watcher, (reconnaissance angels) a holy one, descending from heaven and saying, "Chop down the tree and destroy it;

NASB, NIV and KJ all translate this Aramaic word "to destroy"

In the Lexicon the first definition is **to ruin, to hurt**, not to destroy.

So since we know that this tree stands for Nebuchadnezzar
Chop down the tree and ruin it!

This is what God has to do with arrogance! Arrogance prevents so many people from simply believing in Jesus Christ as Savior. Their arrogance insist that they must **do** for God, in order for God to save them Arrogance prevents so many from walking by Faith in the Holy Spirit for the

Christian Way of Life. They insist that the Christian Way of Life must be lived by their doing something for God.

And so often the only thing that will get this arrogant person's attention is to
'chop' them down.

Most everyone
knows: Proverbs
16:18.

¹⁸ *Pride goes before destruction,
And a haughty spirit before stumbling.*

But every
Christian needs
to know
1Corinthians 8:1.

¹ *Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all
have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love
edifies.*

Humility is characterized by living by Faith, while arrogance needs to do for God. Here is the love of God for Nebuchadnezzar who knows several things about Daniel's God; Is the highest of all the gods, but he as yet has not recognized Daniel's God as the only true God, as totally sovereign and the monotheistic God. This is a demonstration what God can do to chop down the arrogance of man.

chop down the tree and ruin it

Out of His Grace and Love, God chops Nebuchadnezzar down, destroying not his life, but his pride! Nebuchadnezzar will remain alive while God chops his arrogance away.

yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground (In his life, God still has a purpose for Nebuchadnezzar. As long as you are alive, God has a plan for your life!)

but with a band of iron and bronze around it in the new grass of the field,

In the ancient world a 'hedge' was built around important areas of ground to protect it so that it could grow. This is the Principle of Job 1:10 about the hedge God built around Job.

This hedge constructed around Nebuchadnezzar is **God's grace** in protecting Nebuchadnezzar while his arrogance is being chopped away.

This is something you never want to have God to have to do to you! Therefore walk by Faith!

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,” (probably seven years.)

24 this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king:

Notice Daniel respects Nebuchadnezzar in earthly authority but Jesus Christ is the most high authority to Daniel.

Wisdom of Daniel **The issue for all history**

God in in control and Jesus Christ rules and this wisdom rules through the time of the Gentiles. No matter what happens in history remember this wisdom of Daniel.

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

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,

(This is described in verse 16) let his mind be changed from that of a Man.

(Nebuchadnezzar has already been thinking and acting like an animal in Daniel 1-3; especially in having people violently killed. The obsession of his pride and arrogance had taken over him.

Satan, himself, because of his arrogance and pride, became a crawling snake in Genesis known as the serpent of old in Revelation 12.)

until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of

mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.

Until: an important and sometimes frightening pronoun: *until I make thine enemies thy footstool; until the day of the Lord etc.*

But here it is used to introduce *wonderful results*.
We all have to recognize what Nebuchadnezzar needs to recognize.

Here is our HOPE, our PEACE, no matter what happens in history.

GOD IS IN CONTROL

Here is the lesson that every leader of every nation or country throughout all the times of the Gentiles, that they are not the ruler but that Jesus Christ is the supreme ruler and they are where they are at His pleasure. And believers, the same is true of every one of us. We are where we are by the grace and pleasure of God as is everyone else. It is amazing how many Christians think that God is using them because they are so great; they are so wonderful; they are so intelligent; have such great charisma or talents.

This is a good look at where humility begins.

Nebuchadnezzar's recovery is also foretold.

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.

That is the God of heaven rules all things and all people.

In verse 23 "but with a band of iron and bronze" designed to protect Nebuchadnezzar from death and to assure him his kingdom will be restored to him after he recognizes that God rules all things. This protected Nebuchadnezzar from being killed – assassinated (which was the custom in ancient times when a ruler went crazy.)

Question:

Who is running this vast empire? Why was he not replaced?

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego were running this empire and kept it prosperous and guarded.

The Gospel Call

This verse is often misunderstood and misinterpreted.
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.’

My advice my counsel What is the counsel of Daniel ?

Wisdom from God!

(Now, there is one of two ways Nebuchadnezzar can come to this wisdom,
one is by HUMILITY—SIMPLY BELIEVING
or
the HARD WAY and go THROUGH ALL THIS MISERY.
—and this is the way he will choose—

Job chose the hard way;
Paul and **Peter** choose the hard way;
And **Nebuchadnezzar** will choose the hard way.)

Be pleasing (this is exactly what the Aramaic word **shephar** means;
“it indicates that something seems right, just, and correct to a person”
Let the gospel be pleasing to you, *good news* to you, so that you will listen and believe it.)

break away now from your sins by *doing* righteousness

It is so important to note that **doing** is in italics and does not appear in original manuscript and the insertion is so wrong.

NIV is so wrong here: **renounce your sins by doing what is right.**

The KJ is correct: **break off your sins by righteousness.**

Here is the heart of the gospel! One cannot express the content of the gospel without speaking of righteousness and that we are made **Righteous by Faith in Jesus Christ** break away
Peal Imperfect of Aramaic for *break away* it is synonymous with repentance

from your sins in righteousness

This calls to mind the question in Job: how can a man be Righteous before God?

And, of course, the answer is **by Faith Alone in Christ Alone.**

This not calling on Nebuchadnezzar to do anything but rest in the coming Messiah.

And from your iniquities by showing mercy to poor

This word is different from the Aramaic word sins; this word, translated **iniquities** does emphasize interaction with others. That is his ruler-ship.

You should recall that in our study of **One Another**, God cares so much about the way we treat one another. This is why Spiritual Love is the New Commandment. **LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

The Vision Fulfilled

Nebuchadnezzar's arrogance is found in verses 28-30.

Nebuchadnezzar did not respond and as a result the dream became reality.

28 *“All this happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king.*

Remember Nebuchadnezzar is writing this, here pointing out that he is king and yet God is bringing his arrogance down. Since he will not *break away from sin* and receive the +R of God, God is going to break him away from his arrogance.

29 *“Twelve months later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon.*

Nebuchadnezzar has been graciously given a year to respond to the wisdom of Daniel and the Gospel from God. It is in this 12 months that Nebuchadnezzar become hardened of heart like Pharaoh of the exodus.

Instead of thinking over the wisdom of Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar not only rejected Daniel's wisdom but became so arrogant that he did not need God, in fact he was god...like Satan of old: Isaiah 14:14 I will make myself like the Most High.

¹⁴ 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.'

(In Daniel 3:26 Nebuchadnezzar referred to God as the)
most High God and

(now like Satan, Nebuchadnezzar thinks he is like the Most High God. And like Satan God is getting ready to take him down!)

As you read Isaiah 14: the **'I wills'** of Satan 12-14;

¹² "How you have fallen from heaven,
O ^[g]star of the morning, son of the dawn!
You have been cut down to the earth,
You who have weakened the nations!

¹³ "But you said in your heart,
'I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne above the stars of God,
And I will sit on the mount of assembly
In the recesses of the north.

¹⁴ 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.'

Note what God does to Satan in verses 15-21

¹⁵ "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol,
To the recesses of the pit.

¹⁶ "Those who see you will gaze at you,

They will ponder over you, *saying*,
'Is this the man who made the earth tremble,
Who shook kingdoms,

¹⁷ Who made the world like a wilderness
And overthrew its cities,
Who did not allow his prisoners to *go home*?'

¹⁸ "All the kings of the nations lie in glory,
Each in his own tomb.

¹⁹ "But you have been cast out of your tomb
Like a rejected branch,
Clothed with the slain who are pierced with a sword,
Who go down to the stones of the pit
Like a trampled corpse.

²⁰ "You will not be united with them in burial,
Because you have ruined your country,
You have slain your people.
May the offspring of evildoers not be mentioned forever.

²¹ "Prepare for his sons a place of slaughter
Because of the iniquity of their fathers.
They must not arise and take possession of the earth
And fill the face of the world with cities."

And then note the **'I wills'** by God in verses 22-32.

²² “**I will** rise up against them,” declares the LORD of hosts, “and **will** cut off from Babylon name and survivors, offspring and posterity,” declares the LORD.

²³ “**I will** also make it a possession for the hedgehog and swamps of water, and **I will** sweep it with the broom of destruction,” declares the LORD of hosts.

²⁴ The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, “Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it **will** stand,

²⁵ to break Assyria in My land, and **I will** trample him on My mountains. Then his yoke **will** be removed from them and his burden removed from their shoulder.

²⁶ This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations.

²⁷ For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate *it*? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?”

²⁸ In the year that King Ahaz died this oracle came:

²⁹ “Do not rejoice, O Philistia, all of you,
Because the rod that struck you is broken;
For from the serpent’s root a viper will come out,
And its fruit will be a flying serpent.

³⁰ “Those who are most helpless will eat,
And the needy will lie down in security;
I will destroy your root with famine,
And it will kill off your survivors.

³¹ “Wail, O gate; cry, O city;
Melt away, O Philistia, all of you;
For smoke comes from the north,
And there is no straggler in his ranks.

³² “How then will one answer the messengers of the nation?
That the LORD has founded Zion,
And the afflicted of His people will seek refuge in it.”

Expression of his Arrogance

Generally all you have to do is to listen to a person talk and you will hear their arrogance or their trusting of God

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?’

Babylon the great: books are written on this great city, one of the **7 wonders** of the **Ancient World** is the hanging gardens of Babylon.



The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Nebuchadnezzar takes full credit for it all. He is at the point of egomania and at this point does not need God, Jesus Christ or the Gospel.

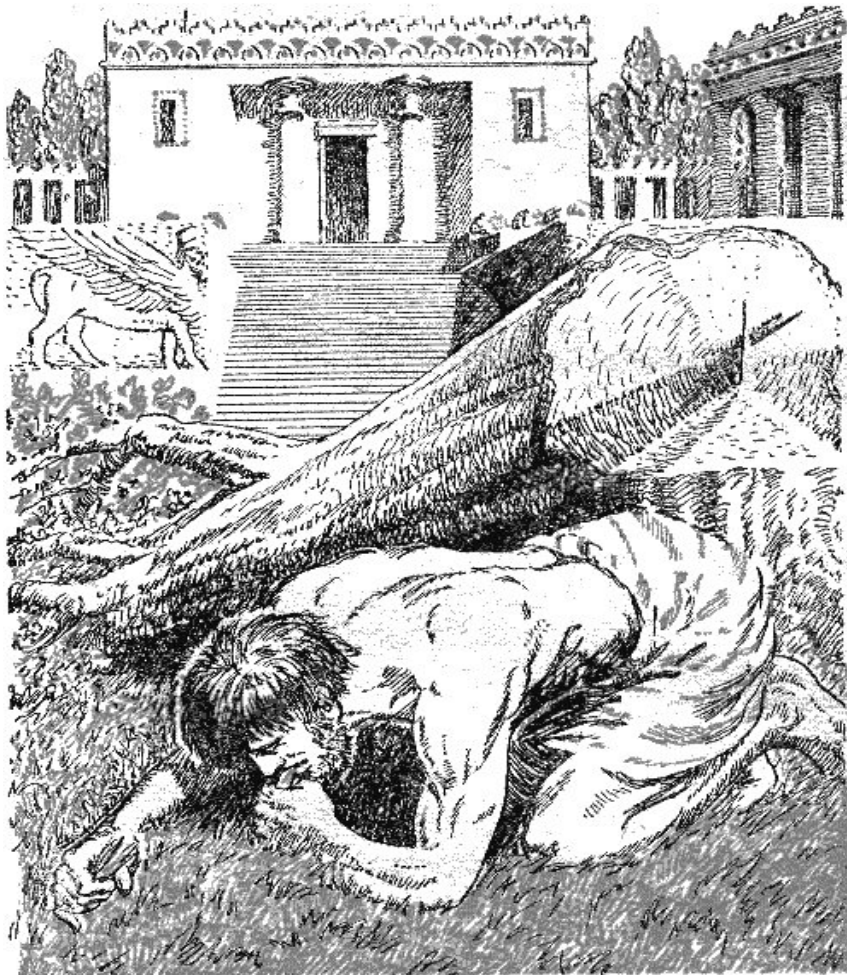
So God is going to have to get his attention.

Nebuchadnezzar represents all mankind in his madness. Verses 31-33.

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,

He did not respond to the call of the gospel, so God is going to show Nebuchadnezzar all that God can do to him.

32 and you will be driven away from mankind, (this is worse than solitary confinement) 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.’



Nebuchadnezzar was given 12 months to respond to God's gracious gospel call, but he used that time to harden his heart and increased his own arrogance. But he is given *seven periods of time* perhaps 7 years to respond to God's grace

33 "Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled;

immediate prophecy fulfilled-God keeps His Word,
The Faithfulness of God is often seen as a blessing,
but it can also serve as a warning in regard to not believing Him.

and he was driven away from mankind and began
eating grass like cattle, gone are the banquet tables he ate from
and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair
had grown like eagles' *feathers* and his nails like birds' *claws*.

Note back to verse 16 mankind is different in design from animals; Genesis records the creation of animals but man's creation is set apart.

We are not an evolutionary development from animals.

At one time the beast of the field and the birds that fly in the heavens ate from his kingdom, but now he has joined them.

Dew of heaven (this has been mentioned in verses 15, 23, 25 and here. Everywhere the dew of heaven is seen as a blessing from God.)

Genesis 27:28 Now may God give you of the dew of heaven,
And of the fatness of the earth,
And an abundance of grain and new wine;

So what is going on here in Daniel 4? This is a daily reminder to Nebuchadnezzar that from God above, God of heaven supplies all his needs.

Summary

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| First | <p>What is all this that was placed upon Nebuchadnezzar about? It is a picture, and a reminder of all of us. Without God, this is what we would all be... like animals, but not animals. We think we are so smart, so wise that we become fools.</p> |
| Jeremiah 17:9 | <p>⁹ “The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?</p> |
| Ecclesiastes. 9:3 | <p>³ This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that there is one fate for all men. Furthermore, the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives. Afterwards they go to the dead.</p> <p>Without God we are each one deceitful, incurably sick, full of evil and insane—not unlike Nebuchadnezzar This is why each and every human beings needs the saving work of God.</p> |
| Second | <p>What about his kingdom? Who was running Babylon? Four Jews who responded to God’s Word, and God’s grace. The four men Nebuchadnezzar appointed to oversee his kingdom, kept the kingdom in its glamour and power while he was on a journey to find Jesus Christ</p> |

From Darkness to Light

Why God took Nebuchadnezzar through all this darkness. Verses 34-37.

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.

(What a beautiful way of expressing salvation)

But at the end of that period, (time in darkness, time living in the flesh nature)
I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven

(a picture of seeing the light, seeing the truth;
a picture of his faith that resulting in his salvation and ability to see.)

and as a result my reason returned to me, (Aramaic *manda* meaning intelligence,
power of knowing the truth!)

This is what separates man from the animal kingdom.

Man can come to faith in Jesus Christ.

How you understand the first 3 chapters of Genesis determines you view, theologically and politically.

Faith opens our eyes to the light. The late Hank Williams Sr. wrote a hymn *'I saw the light –no more darkness, no more night* how perfectly this describes what is happening to Nebuchadnezzar.

Faith is the only way we come to see the light and come to the truth.

And how perfect is John 8:32 ...*the truth will set you free.* Nebuchadnezzar is now set free of his sinful nature, of his bondage to sin. What we have just studied is a picture of what happens to every one of us, at the point of faith in Jesus Christ. We see the light, we see the truth and we are set free: set free of the bondage and darkness of sin, we are set free of the bondage of the Law, and we see clearly the glory of God and of Jesus Christ.

**What did God have to do to you,
for you,
to being you to a saving awareness of Jesus Christ?**

Note the first thing he does as a believer:

and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever;

blessed-Aramaic word means to kneel in prayer;

note Daniel 6:10 praised to praise in prayer, expression of adoration; again he learned this from Daniel.

Daniel 2:23 **honored** Aramaic word meaning to glorify, to magnified. It was the way of Nebuchadnezzar to honor those he respected, like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego, and so he honored Jesus Christ. And one way he honored Jesus Christ was to write this salvation pamphlet and spread it throughout his kingdom. Nebuchadnezzar wants all people to learn the easy way, the truth that he had to learn the hard way. This is his thanksgiving to God for taking him through all he had just experienced for seven periods of time or seven years. Seven, the number of the grace of God.

Him who lives forever (and therefore qualified to give Eternal Life to anyone who believes in Him as Savior)

For His dominion is an everlasting dominion,

And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.

Now that he sees the light, he sees so much...even of the future.

He sees and understands that the Sanhedrin and Pilate did not see, and that is that the kingdom of Jesus Christ is an everlasting kingdom, in which He will rule over all who believe in Him.

More of the Truth he Sees

35 “All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,

This is what we just saw—that all that Nebuchadnezzar went through is a picture of each of us as unbelievers. Before God we are accounted as animals who are not animals. We are nothing and we deserve nothing from God.

And don't be offended by this, when we realize what we are, the love of God shouts all the more, that He would send His son for those who are as nothing! Think what He will do for you now that you are in His Son!

But He does according to His will in the host of heaven

Nebuchadnezzar grasp what few understand today, Spiritual Warfare (especially in the heavenly realm) that involves angels.

Host of heaven refers to angelic realm in heaven. In heaven there is ONLY ONE WILL, that is the WILL OF GOD. Where there are two wills there is conflict.

In the pre-historic world—angels on earth, there was the will of God, then at some point Satan declared: ‘I will’ **Two wills collided!**

And conflict broke out between the angels. Those who submitted to the will of God and those who followed after Satan. After every angel made up his mind which he would follow, God closed off the free will of angels, and there is now but one will in heaven. By the way, once a believer dies his volition is locked into agreement with God; so that for all eternity there is one will, the will of God. Therefore no more conflict!

And among the inhabitants of earth;

Throughout the time of the Gentiles man most often pits his will against The Will of God. God does according to his Plan here in on earth, and the sooner we understand this and accept this, the sooner SAD (Sadness, Anxiety and Depression) moves out of our lives.

And no one can ward off His hand—strike His hand (so as to prevent Him from doing His Will. Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges that God is the only God and there is none over Him.)

Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’

Isaiah 43:13 ¹³ “Even from eternity I am He,
And there is none who can deliver out of My hand;
I act and who can reverse it?”

Isaiah 45:9 ⁹ “Woe to *the one* who quarrels with his ^[g]Maker—
An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth!
Will the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you doing?’
Or the thing you are making *say*, ‘He has no hands’?”

Romans 9:20 ²⁰ On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, “Why did you make me like this,” will it?

36 “At that time my reason returned to me. (Result of God’s response to our faith) And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, (You will note now it was restored to him, for his kingdom, not for him. the reason his kingdom is still in the same stable condition is because of God’s grace extended to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego and their running the empire.)

and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out;

When you are in the Plan of God, and living by Grace, others are attracted to you

so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, (as ruler;)

Remember, God is not in the scrapping business, He is in the restoring business.

Mankind (Christians) prefer to scrap one another; God prefers to restore man;)

and surpassing greatness was added to me. (Nebuchadnezzar is known as one of the great monarchs of all human history.)

This is a picture of the 34 things given to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Savior

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.”

Praised this is what everyone saved by grace should continually do throughout their life—render praise to God and His Plan and His Son.

Exalt the Aramaic word means to lift up; to exalt; Instead of lifting himself up, he now lifts up JC. This is what we should do throughout our lives...lift up Jesus Christ to others.

Honor as in verse 34 to glorify, or magnify; For so long Nebuchadnezzar had magnified himself, but after seeing who he was without God, he now magnifies Jesus Christ. And he does this by sending out this decree of his Salvation.

I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true

- 1 His works in creation
- 2 His works throughout human history
- 3 His works on the cross...His works of redemption.

Remember Religion is what man does for God, Christianity is what God does for man! God does all the work, and we receive the blessings of His work by faith.

and His ways just,

His saving of everyone, anyone, who believes in Jesus Christ as Savior; His casting into eternal lake of fire all who refuse to believe in Him; All that He does in your life!

and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.”

Remember **pride** or **arrogance** is that you can do for God.

The humble walk by faith.

The humble are saved from the penalty of sin by faith and they are restored from the power of sin by faith.

The arrogant always have to **DO** for God.

They have to invite Jesus into their heart.

They have to make Him Lord.

They have to go to church, etc.

They have to do **something for God** for God to do for them;

while the humble simple trust Him to do all things!

The leaven of arrogance is the most destructive of all leavens in the bible and is part of all leavens in the Bible.

You will recall that it was a tree in the garden that brought about man's fall and it was another tree in the future that will restore mankind, that is THE TREE OF THE CROSS.

The madness of Nebuchadnezzar is a picture of how God sees the Gentile nations and indeed of all mankind who are without Christ. The pride of Gentile nations is reflected in Nebuchadnezzar's words in verse 30; is not Babylon, is this not the nation, the world which I myself have built by the might of my power and for my glory"?

The boast of man,
the pride of man
of what he has built!
Is an abomination to God.

This pride causes man to ignore God,
reject Jesus Christ
and be confident in himself.

"being wise they became fools"