

jenaministries – Part 5 Bible Stories

3. King Nebuchadnezzar Lived with Wild Animals

Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon. The kingdom of Babylon was great and powerful.

Arranged by God, Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem (**Scriptures 1. Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem Daniel 1:1-2**) and the Lord delivered the king of Judah into his hands. Some Israelites were exiled to Babylon.

Daniel was among those exiled. God anointed Daniel with the ability to interpret dreams. He was able to interpret dreams that had terrified King Nebuchadnezzar. So, Daniel was favored by the king.

The king had one dream about a tree (**Scriptures 2. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of a Tree Daniel 4:1-18**) that made him very afraid. He called upon his magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners to tell him what the dream meant, but they were all unable. So he then called upon Daniel. Daniel had interpreted dreams before and the king trusted him.

Nebuchadnezzar explained the dream to Daniel. A tree was 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 wild animals found shelter, and the birds lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed. A holy one, a messenger, 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. 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". This dream terrified him.

Daniel interpreted the dream (**Scriptures 3. Daniel Interprets the Dream Daniel 4:19-27**) to the king and explained that the tree was him (Nebuchadnezzar) and his great kingdom. But God will drive him away from people and he will live with the wild animals. He will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by until he acknowledges that the God is sovereign over all kingdoms on Earth.

Even though God had warned him in this dream; twelve months later, Nebuchadnezzar looked at his kingdom and told himself that he had built the great Babylon by his own mighty power and for the glory of his majesty. Immediately, what God warned Nebuchadnezzar in the dream was fulfilled (**Scriptures 4. Nebuchadnezzar Lived With Wild Animals Daniel 4:28-37**). He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew until his hair grew like feathers and his nails like the claws of a bird.

Once Nebuchadnezzar was humbled and glorified God and God's eternal dominion, his sanity was restored. His honor and splendor was returned. He was back on his throne and became even greater than before.

Nebuchadnezzar praised and exalted and glorified the King of Heaven, because everything God does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride, he is able to humble.

That was a hard lesson for Nebuchadnezzar to learn.

God still humbles hearts today. Maybe not as drastically, but when our pride gets too strong, God has a way of bringing us back.

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Scriptures 1. Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem

Daniel 1:1-2 1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

Scriptures 2. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of a Tree

Daniel 4:1-18 King Nebuchadnezzar, To the nations and peoples of every language, who live in all the earth: May you prosper greatly! It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me. How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation. I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in 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. These are the visions I saw while lying in 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 wild animals found shelter, and the birds lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed. "In the visions I saw while lying in bed, I looked, and there before me was a holy one, a messenger, 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. " '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. " '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 all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people.' "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."

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Scriptures 3. Daniel Interprets the Dream

Daniel 4:19-27 Then Daniel (also called Belteshazzar) was greatly perplexed for a time, and his thoughts terrified him. 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! 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 wild animals, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds— Your Majesty, you 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. “Your Majesty saw a holy one, a messenger, 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 with the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.’ “This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, 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 the ox 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 all kingdoms on earth 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. Therefore, Your Majesty, 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.”

Scriptures 4. Nebuchadnezzar Lived With Wild Animals

Daniel 4:28-37 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?” Even as the words were on his lips, 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 the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.” Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. 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. 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 honored 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 honor and splendor 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. 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.