



# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

## Daniel (Part-8) (4: 27-37)

**Daniel's counsel (27):** What counsel did Daniel give the king to possibly avoid God's wrath?

**Fulfillment of Dream (28-33):** How much time lapsed between Daniel's counsel and fulfillment of dream? What does this time period say about God and about man? What was king doing just before the dream was to be fulfilled? Did king have any reason to be proud? What message did king hear from heaven? What happened soon after to the king?

**Restoration of king (34-36):** What was the turning point in king's life? How long did king's insane beastly behavior last? What happened to king's kingdom during that time? What was restored to the king?

**Acknowledgement (37):** How does king Nebuchadnezzar recognize the King of heaven? Did he have a true conversion of heart?

**Attributes of God & Lessons learnt:** What attributes of God are demonstrated in this chapter? What lessons can we draw for application to our personal life?

**Key verse (II Timothy 3:16-17):** What verse will be good to commit to memory?

# Daniel 4:1-26 (from last week)

king's testimony (1-4)

king's dream (5-18)

Interpretation of dream (19-26)

# Divine Destruction of great tree (14-15)

- Destroyed by the Holy one; Tree represents the king
- Tree cut (king humbled)
- branches trimmed
- Fruits scattered
- Beasts and fowls dispersed from under it
- **stump & roots left, Bound**





What comes  
to mind?



Before and after in Mayfield, Ky. Google Street View, left, The New York Times



God controls  
our life ...  
He can  
change it in a  
heartbeat



Before and after in Mayfield, Ky. Google Street View, left, The New York Times

# Our God can also restore



Before and after in Mayfield, Ky. Google Street View, left, The New York Times



## Daniel's counsel (27)

Break off your sins  
& Show mercy to the  
poor

God may then show  
mercy to the king



# Fulfillment of Dream (28-33)

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1. How much time lapsed between Daniel's counsel and fulfillment of dream?
2. What does this time period say about God and about man?
3. What was king doing just before the dream was to be fulfilled?
4. Did king have any reason to be proud?
5. What message did king hear from heaven?
6. What happened soon after to the king?



# Time

12 months before dream fulfilled

- king had one year to obey Daniel's counsel
- Had he obeyed, the outcome may have been different
- God gives us time and many opportunities, but we continue to be negligent and unrepentant (like the king)



# Why does God wait to execute Justice?

God is merciful and waits so that we may repent

**Delays in second coming ... why?** Where is the promise of his coming? ...

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (II Peter 3:4,9)

**Delayed, but beware as it will happen suddenly**

... But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up (II Peter 3:10)

God does not  
always wait  
to punish

### Uzzah punished immediately for irreverence

- And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth *his hand* to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook *it*. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for *his* error; and there he died by the ark of God. (II Samuel 6:6-7)

### Ananias punished immediately for lying and hypocrisy

- <sup>4</sup> Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."<sup>5</sup> When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened ... Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."<sup>10</sup> At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. (Acts 5:4-10)

# Do not put off salvation decision or depend on God's patience



“But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? **Luke 12:20**

“behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” **II Corinthians 6:2**



God's  
chastisement  
is for our  
benefit

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For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And  
scourges every son whom He receives  
(**Hebrews 12:6**)

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It is good for me that I have been afflicted  
that I may learn thy statutes (**Psalms 119:71**)

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You have chastised me, and I was chastised,  
Like an untrained bull; Restore me, and I will  
return, For You *are* the Lord my God.  
(**Jeremiah 31:18**)

king's reflection  
on his  
accomplishment  
(30)

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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? (30)

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Of course, I am great and it's all about me 😞

I built .... My power ... my majesty

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**Personal Character check:**

Focus on self ==> Sign of pride and independence

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Did king have reason to be proud?

Message to king  
... dream is  
going to be  
fulfilled!  
(31-32)

**Kingdom taken away and king will  
wander like a beast.**

- While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, 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: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, 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 (4:31-32)



Unimaginable  
dream fulfilled  
(33) ... is any  
sin 'trivial'?



# Unimaginable dream fulfilled (33) ... is any sin 'trivial'?

The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws (4:33)

Maybe the king dismissed the dream as an “unlikely event” and his pride as a “trivial sin”... but scripture reminds us that God has performed “unlikely events” and takes sins seriously... **Let us not ignore the warnings from God** (those who ignored Noah’s warning, died in the unimaginable flood)



Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall, **I Corinthians 10:12**  
Before destruction, the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility **Proverbs 18:12**

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# Restoration of king (34-36)

What was the turning point in king's life?

How long did king's insane beastly behavior last?

What happened to king's kingdom during that time?

What was restored to the king?

- **Eyes looking up ...** “I  
Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes  
unto heaven” (34)

**Heavenly perspective changes everything** ... that is why we are exhorted “set your mind on things above, non on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:2) “do not lay up treasures on earth ... but in heaven ... for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Mathew 6:19-21)



The turning point



New perspective  
with eyes  
looking up  
(34-37)

Understanding  
returned (after  
seven years or  
fulfillment of time)

Blessed The most  
high

Praised and  
honored the  
eternal God

Recognized the  
everlasting  
kingdom

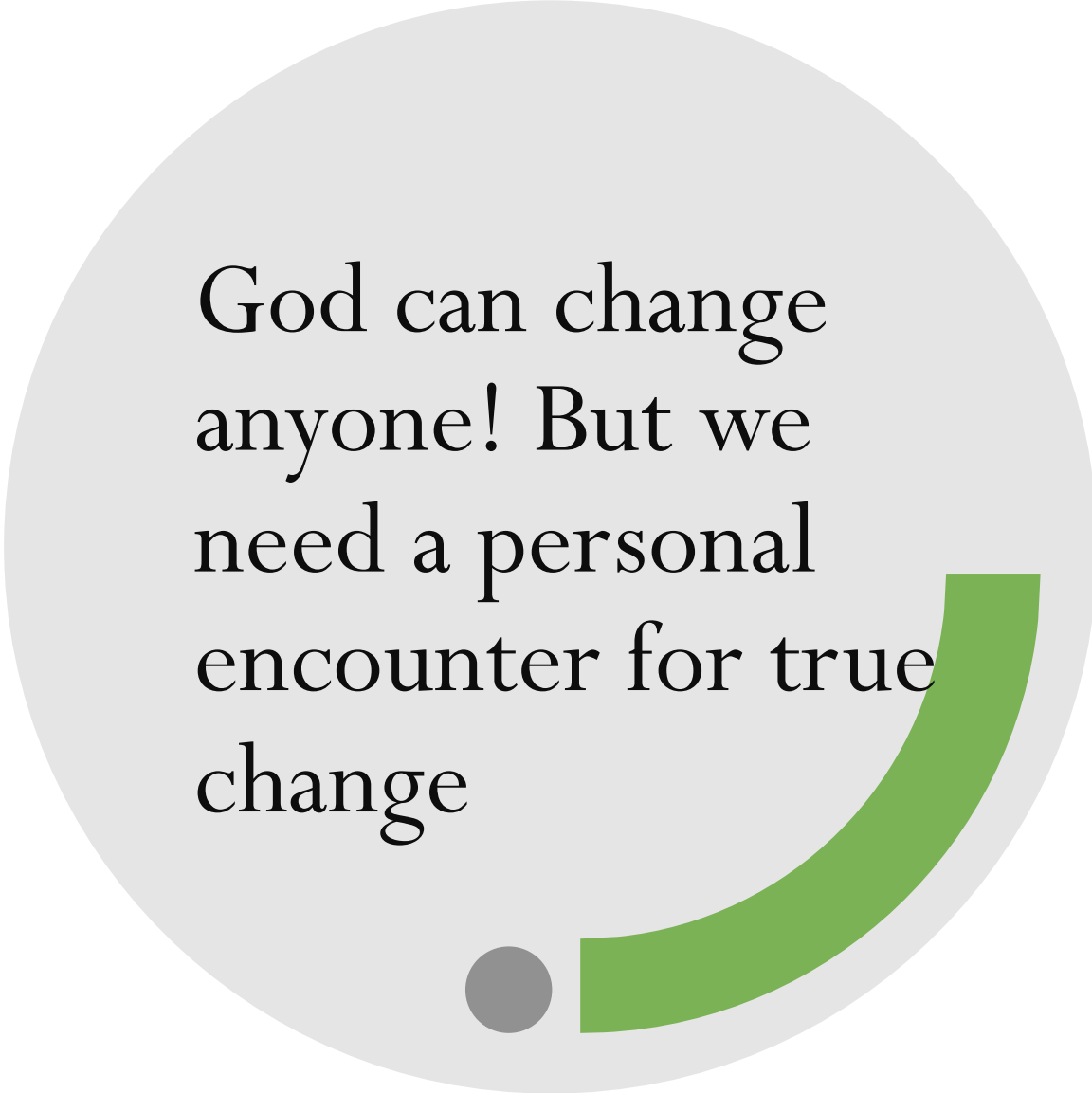
Recognized the  
sovereignty of God

Acknowledged  
nothingness of  
man

- Reasoning capacity
  - Honor and brightness
  - Counsellors
  - Established in kingdom
  - Excellent majesty added
- 
- God's purpose was to restore the king ... not to destroy the king or his kingdom!



- **king's** witness of miraculous deliverance of Jewish youth from fire did not change him ...interpretation of dream by Daniel did not change him
- **Paul** was not changed from Saul to Paul by witnessing the courage & conviction of persecuted church ... but by a personal encounter on the road to Damascus
- **You** may have witnessed many miracles and met many great men/women of God ... but **Have you had a personal encounter with Lord Jesus Christ?**



God can change  
anyone! But we  
need a personal  
encounter for true  
change

# GOD RESTORED the king ...

## He can restore us also!



### I John 1:9

If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins

### I Peter 5:6

**Humble** yourself therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time



What Attributes of God  
are seen in this chapter?

# God's unchanging Attributes

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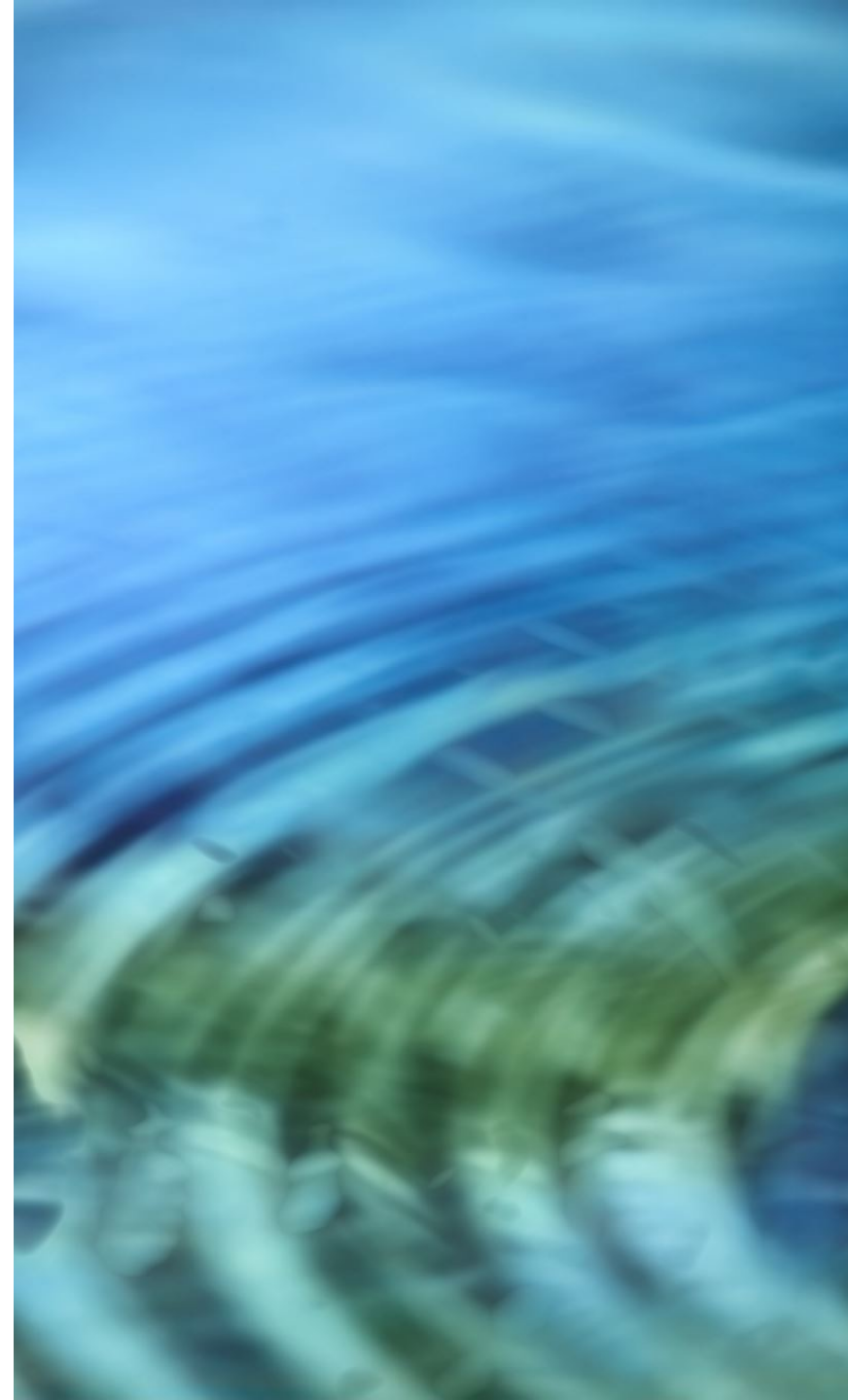
**God is God of Love  
and God of Justice**

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**God is Sovereign  
(He is in absolute  
control)**

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# memory verse: Chapter 4

1:8a

2:22

3:17-18

4:

May **Peace** be multiplied  
unto you ...and may you  
experience His **Wonders**  
(Daniel 4:1,2)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**





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