

# **Daniel; Watchers**

2-1-15

God moves by speaking to the King of Babylon in a dream. The King moves by requesting Daniel to interpret the dream. God uses Daniel, a believer, to reveal to the King, a nonbeliever, the warning and purposes of the dream. As we read this account, we will discern principles of the Kingdom of God and make current day applications.

Daniel 4:4–18 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace. <sup>5</sup> I **saw a dream** that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me. <sup>6</sup> So I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, that they might make known to me the **interpretation** of the dream. <sup>7</sup> Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not make known to me its interpretation. <sup>8</sup> At last **Daniel** came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream, saying, <sup>9</sup> “O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation. <sup>10</sup> The visions of my head as I lay in bed were these: I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. <sup>11</sup> The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth.

<sup>12</sup> Its leaves were 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 heavens lived in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it.

<sup>13</sup> **“I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven. <sup>14</sup> He proclaimed aloud and said thus: ‘Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. <sup>15</sup> But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth. <sup>16</sup> Let his mind be changed from a man’s, and let a beast’s mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him.**

**(Note: He is going to lose his mind for a period of time.)**

<sup>17</sup> **The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.’ <sup>18</sup> This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, **because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is in you.**”**

## **Daniel Interprets the Dream:**

Daniel 4:22–25 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> **It is you, O king, ... ..** And because the king saw a **watcher**, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Chop down the tree and destroy it – *all this stuff is going to happen to you Nebuchadnezzar* – **till you know** that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.

**Basically the interpretation is that Nebuchadnezzar will lose his mind until he acknowledges God rules the world and gives kingdoms to whomever HE wants to. There is some ancient evidence that Nebuchadnezzar did in fact lose his mind and was restored as recorded here.**

**However, Nebuchadnezzar does not take this warning to heart:**

Daniel 4:29–30 (ESV)

<sup>29</sup> At the end of twelve months Nebuchadnezzar was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon,  
<sup>30</sup> and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, **which I have built by my mighty power** as a royal residence and **for the glory of my majesty?**”

**The prominent sin here and the one most offensive to God is that the King does not honor God and does not give God the glory for all his accomplishments.**

Daniel 4:31–33 (ESV)

While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you – and – *everything happens to Nebuchadnezzar just as Daniel said.*

**The self-glorification is so offensive to God that Nebuchadnezzar doesn't even get the words completely out of his mouth before God acts.**

**NT Example:**

Acts 12:21–23 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. <sup>22</sup> And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" <sup>23</sup> **Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.**

**God is working with an out of control, self-focused, arrogant world. As believers we need to recognize that fact as Daniel did so we can better understand our assignment in God's operation.**

**In this world there are "Watchers" from heaven:**

Daniel 4:13 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> "I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, **a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven.**

This term “watchers” is only used here in the Bible and refers to angels. Angels are ministers of God. They have a purpose and they carry out orders in the spirit world that impacts the physical world. Things are happening that we cannot see.

**These “Watchers” have authority and a purpose:**

Daniel 4:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> The sentence is by **the decree of the watchers**, the decision by the word of the holy ones, **to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men** and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.

**Fact: God want us to be aware of the things of the Spirit and to be aware of the spiritual world round us.**

**These “Watchers” warn those of this world:**

Daniel 4:23 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup> And because the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ... ..

**These “Watchers” can give relief when a change of heart occurs:**

Daniel 4:25 (ESV)

<sup>25</sup> (The situation will change when) you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.

**In Daniel we see God focusing on and working with unbelievers.** Angels or watchers are active. We should be in awe. **However, God is going to do what God only God can do.** Believers need to pay attention and **cooperate with God and do what only we can do.** God moved and Daniel was a constant avenue to reflect God's purposes. **Look at an every day example.** These verses are really the **central theme** to the message:

Titus 2:9–10 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, <sup>10</sup> not pilfering, but showing all good faith, **so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.**

**By doing this we place ourselves in position to be used by God.** The work force is a wonderful opportunity. All the connections in our neighborhood are wonderful opportunities. **God has us here to bring sanity into confusion; hope into hopelessness; power into powerlessness.**

Matt.5:14-16

**You are the light of the world.** A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> **In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**

**To be a light, Spiritual power can't be neglected:**

1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV)

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

**If we love people** we will earnestly desire the spiritual gifts. With love and power, the higher purpose in this world is to share the saving knowledge of Christ with people. **Let us go back to Daniel and see his witness.**

Daniel 4:34–35 (ESV)

<sup>34</sup> At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to 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.

**Because of Daniel's witness, I believe we will see Nebuchadnezzar in heaven. We have a similar witness today as salt, light, love, hope and power. It all starts deep commitment to one foundation.**

John 3:16–17 (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.