

1. Last week I finished the exegesis and analysis of Daniel chapter three verses two and three; when time ran out I was about to begin the teaching of verse four.
2. Before resuming I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 1:1-3.

Expanded Translation

Dan 4:1 Nebuchadnezzar, the regenerate ruler of the Chaldean Empire, unto all the racial, geographical and linguistic divisions in Babylon, peace from Jehovah, my God, be multiplied unto you.

Dan 4:2 As a result of my conversion, I thought it good to give my testimony and reveal the wonders that my Father has bestowed upon me.

Dan 4:3 How great are His revelations! How mighty is His salvation! God's kingdom is everlasting, and His rule extends to every generation.

3. Now let's see what we can learn from verse four.

Dan 4:4 I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace.

1. Verse 4 is a summary of temporal security. The king was not taking a nap or reclining. "Was at rest" means "to be prosperous," and is a reference to human security.
2. It simply meant the king was enjoying a great period of peace, relaxation and well-being. Nebuchadnezzar was not only a military genius who had conquered a large portion of the world. He was also an excellent administrator.
3. The empire had been consolidated, and at this point no hostile power was threatening its security. He had wisely delegated authority in all areas and, therefore, he was able to "rest" and "flourish."
4. The Chaldean word RAAN actually means to "grow green," or "to be covered with leaves," and is an idiom for prosperity as an analogy to the vigorous growth of a tree.
5. Although Nebuchadnezzar, humanly speaking, had everything to make him happy but his possessions could not protect him from fear.
6. Now we are ready for verse five where the King writes of the details of his experience. He begins with the dream and the subsequent visions which troubled him:

Dan 4:5 I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

1. The king seemed not to realize that his dream and subsequent visions were a divine revelation from God.
 2. Nebuchadnezzar admits that what he saw made him afraid [Piel perfect of Dachal] meaning "to fear, to be afraid, to be terrified".
 3. God's Word and God's power often frightens the unbeliever or a believer devoid of doctrine.
 4. There is however no true or permanent security or peace apart from regeneration; the king derived little comfort from his position; he was lost, without hope, without Christ and without eternal life.
- Mar 8:35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.
- Mar 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?
- Mar 8:37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?
5. "Thoughts" in verse five is a translation from HARHORIN and refers to the images of the imagination; in this case, the central image is a tree!
 - 5.1 Faced with divine revelation which he could not grasp the king became restless and troubled in his mind.
 6. This was the intent of both the dream and the vision. The trouble was designed for a definite purpose - Nebuchadnezzar's eventual salvation!
 7. Several years were to pass before Nebuchadnezzar would learn the meaning of the great lesson from the Book of Ecclesiastes: "there is no substitute for fellowship with God."
 8. In the meantime the old adage "misery loves company" applies, so the powerful monarch, immobilized by fear, calls his "State Department" for help.
 9. Let me give you an expanded translation of verses four through seven. I think such a preview will help prepare us for the Doctrine of Trees:
- "I was enjoying a time of prosperity, when suddenly I had a horrifying dream and several terrifying visions. Then I commanded every wise man in Babylon to appear in my court, so they could explain the meaning. After they arrived I described the revelation but they could not interpret its meaning."

10. To prepare us for the substance of the dream, let's review the *Doctrine of Trees*.

Doctrine of Trees

1. There are many references to trees in the Bible.
2. The most important is the tree on which our Lord died.
3. Just as man's fall was related to a tree so also man's salvation is related to a tree.
4. The Bible states that everyone who hangs on a tree is cursed.

Deu 21:22 If a man guilty of a capital offense is put to death and his body is hung on a tree,

Deu 21:23 you must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse...

Gal 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

5. Jesus came under this curse to free the world forever from the problem of sin and make possible our salvation.

Heb 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who instead of the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1Pe 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1Jo 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

6. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit writers of the Scriptures have compared man to a tree.

6.1 The mature believer is compared with a tree.

Psa 1:1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

Psa 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Psa 1:3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Psa 1:4 Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

7. The believer is likened to a tree.

Pro 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.

8. A faith resting believer is compared to a tree.

Jer 17:7 "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.

Jer 17:8 He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

9. The strong tree in the King's dream was cut down at the peak of its usefulness but this same tree is later restored. So it will be with the King and his kingdom.

10. Nebuchadnezzar in Chapters 2 and 3 had seen the power of God in the lives of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

11. Although the King had seen the miracles, he had not committed the "unpardonable sin".

12. God will continue to work with the great King and his salvation will come but only after a loss of part of his Kingdom and after a bout with insanity.

End Lesson Taught 6-3-2001