

Read Daniel 4:18-27

18 “Beltshazzar, that was the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now tell me what it means, for none of the wise men of my kingdom can do so. But you can tell me because the spirit of the holy gods is in you.’

19 “Upon hearing this, Daniel (also known as Beltshazzar) was overcome for a time, frightened by the meaning of the dream. Then the king said to him, ‘Beltshazzar, don’t be alarmed by the dream and what it means.’

“Beltshazzar replied, ‘I wish the events foreshadowed in this dream would happen to your enemies, my lord, and not to you!’

20 The tree you saw was growing very tall and strong, reaching high into the heavens for all the world to see. **21** It had fresh green leaves and was loaded with fruit for all to eat. Wild animals lived in its shade, and birds nested in its branches. **22** That tree, Your Majesty, is you. For you have grown strong and great; your greatness reaches up to heaven, and your rule to the ends of the earth.

23 ““Then you saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, “Cut down the tree and destroy it. But leave the stump and the roots in the ground, bound with a band of iron and bronze and surrounded by tender grass. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven. Let him live with the animals of the field for seven periods of time.”

24 ““This is what the dream means, Your Majesty, and what the Most High has declared will happen to my lord the king. **25** You will be driven from human society, and you will live in the fields with the wild animals. You will eat grass like a cow, and you will be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses.

26 But the stump and roots of the tree were left in the ground. This means that you will receive your kingdom back again when you have learned that heaven rules. **27** ““King Nebuchadnezzar, please accept my advice. Stop sinning and do what is right. Break from your wicked past and be merciful to the poor. Perhaps then you will continue to prosper.’

What did the king ask Daniel to do (v. 18)? Tell him what his dream meant. **How did he know that Daniel could interpret his dream?** Daniel had done it once before. He knew there was a special spirit about Daniel.

How did Daniel react when he realized the meaning of the dreams (v. 19)? He was scared to tell the king. He was probably afraid of how the king would react. **What did the king tell Daniel?** Don’t be afraid to tell me even if it’s bad news. **How did Daniel answer the king?** I wish this dream would happen to your enemies and not to you.

How did Daniel describe the meaning of the tree (v. 22)? The tree was King Nebuchadnezzar who had grown strong and great just like the tree.

What did Daniel say would happen to the king (v. 25)? He would lose his mind, become like a wild animal and eat grass like a cow. He would live out in the open fields and it would rain on him -- for seven years.

What was the purpose of the King’s experience? To humble King Nebuchadnezzar so he would acknowledge that the Most High God rules over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone He wants to.

What did Daniel say would happen to the king after seven years (v. 26)? He would become a man again and his kingdom (the stump and roots) would be given back to him and he would be a king again.

What did Daniel advise the king to do (v. 27)? Change your ways. Quit sinning so much and do the right thing. Repent of your sinful pride. Be kind to the poor people. Maybe things will go well for you if you do these things.