

## Daniel Chapter 4

The topic for this program is chapter four of that great Old Testament prophet, Daniel. In this chapter, King Nebuchadnezzar tells the story of his dream of a great tree that is beautiful and bountiful, but which is chopped down by orders of heaven itself. The wise men in King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom are not able to analyze the dream. But Daniel, of course, with the help of Our Lord, is able to explain the dream to King Nebuchadnezzar. This great tree which is beautiful and bountiful stands for King Nebuchadnezzar himself and it will be cut down for seven years, at which time, the king will go insane and live like an animal.

But, there is also an End Times interpretation for this great dream that the king has. This tree which is beautiful and bountiful, also represents Western Civilization in these End Times. Our culture will also be destroyed for seven years, and the entire world will go insane. This is called the Great Tribulation.

Now, let's take a look at chapter 4 of Daniel. In verse number 7, Daniel writes, 'then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, the soothsayers, and I told them the dream', that is, King Nebuchadnezzar told them his dream, 'but they could not tell me the interpretation'. Notice there are four groups of wise men, astrologers, Chaldeans, soothsayers and magicians. 'Four', of course, is an End Times number. This is Daniel's way of saying that we should interpret this for the End Times. These four groups of wise men symbolize the false prophets in these latter days. They will also be unable to interpret Daniel or any End Times prophecy. Please do not listen to the many false prophets out there.

In verse number 11, Daniel writes, 'the tree grew great and strong and the height reached unto heaven and the sight thereof reached even to the ends of the earth.' Notice four more adjectives describing the tree in this verse; 'great, strong, height' and the 'sight thereof'; again, an End Times number. In the next verse, we will see the number 7 appear, which is another End Times number. In verse number 12, Daniel writes, 'the tree's leaves were fair', number 1, 'the fruit exceedingly much', number 2, and in it was meat for all', number 3, 'under it dwelt cattle', number 4, 'and beasts', number 5; 'then the birds of heaven dwelled in its

branches', number 6, 'and all flesh ate of the tree', number 7. This tree, of course, refers to King Nebuchadnezzar, as the great leader of Babylon. It also refers to our own Western Civilization.

In verse number 13, King Nebuchadnezzar sees a watcher and angel come down from heaven and pronounce a verdict on the king himself. 'The watcher cries out loud: Cut down the tree', number 1, 'cut off its branches', number 2, 'shake off its leaves', number 3, 'scatter its fruits', number 4, 'let the beasts fly away from under it', number 5, 'and the birds away from its branches', number 6. There are only six items in this verse because this cutting down of the tree is an evil pronouncement on the king. But, it's also an evil pronouncement on our own decadent culture. This number 6 refers to the Antichrist. The other important thing to know is that, although this is evil and will be carried out by the Antichrist, God Himself wills it. That's what is meant by 'the watcher coming down from heaven'.

However, there should be some consolation for those of us living in these End Times, this tree will not be cut down permanently. Let's read what Daniel writes in verse number 15. 'Nevertheless leave the stump of its roots in the earth, and let it be tied with a band of iron, and of brass'. Notice there are two bands tied around this trunk. Those symbolize the One World government, which is the iron, and the One World religion which is brass. Those are the two constraints on Western Civilization which will enslave all of us into the One World system.

The two bands also symbolize mankind, that is a man and a woman, as opposed to three, which symbolizes the Trinity. In other words, this last One World government and One World religion, both will be a concoction of man. We will be one world under man, and ultimately one world under Satan. We will degenerate from one nation under God to one world ruled by the lowest of human beings, the Antichrist.

In verse number 16, Daniel describes how the king goes insane. 'Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given to him'. This beast in the End Times refers to the False Prophet. He is not the head of the One World government, but he is the heart of it and, of course, it is a false heart. And then Daniel adds, 'and let seven times pass over him'. The seven times refer to the seven years of Great Tribulation. And Daniel repeats that

phrase four times. Both 4 and 7 are very significant End Times numbers.

In verse number 17, Daniel makes clear that it is Almighty God who allows this cutting down of the tree. 'This is the decree of the watchers, till the living know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men. He will give it to whomsoever it shall please him, and he will appoint the basest man over it.' This 'basest man' is the Antichrist! It's becoming clear, that this great tree which is cut down, is Western Culture and the seven years when it is cut down, refers to the seven years of insanity and tribulation that we all must go through.

Next, in verse number 36, the kingdom is restored to Nebuchadnezzar. Let's count the items in this passage: 'At the same time my reason', number 1, 'returned to me. I came to the glory', number 2, 'and honor of my kingdom', number 3, 'and my brightness returned', number 4, 'and my nobles and magistrates', 5 and 6, 'sought for me and I was re-established in my kingdom'; number 7, and number 8, 'greater majesty was added to me'. Now 8 means that we are beyond the 7 years of Tribulation at this point. Number 8 is the biblical number for new beginnings. Therefore Daniel chooses 8 descriptions here, when he says that King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom is restored.

In these End Times, the kingdom will also be restored, but it will be a Millennial kingdom. It will be the thousand-year reign of peace, where Jesus Himself will rule men's hearts with a rod of iron. That is what we can look forward to, provided we are one of the four groups, who will reign with Christ, the raptured Protestants, the protected Catholics, the Holy Martyrs and the converted Jews. Let's pray that you and I will belong to one of those four privileged groups.