



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2026 – WEEK 4

DREAMS, VISION, & NIGHTMARES

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble. – Daniel 4:37 ESV

- **Remember Nebuchadnezzar's words**

"Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him....There is no other god who can rescue like this!" – Daniel 3:28, 29 NLT

- He had just witnessed a miracle
 - He had tried to execute God's servants
 - But Yahweh had intervened
 - Displaying His majesty,
power,
and sovereignty
 - But God wasn't done
- Nebuchadnezzar needed further proof
 - He had been **impressed**...
...but was not yet **convinced**
 - He was willing to give God **honor**...
...but struggled to show **humility**
 - After his first dream...
...Nebuchadnezzar honored God

"Truly, your God is the greatest of gods, the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this secret." – Daniel 2:47 NLT

- **A revealer of mysteries**

*"...he who reveals mysteries **made known to you what is to be.**"* – Daniel 2:29 ESV

*"A great **God has made known** to the king what shall be after this."* – Daniel 2:45 ESV

- But what mysteries had God revealed?
 - o "You are the head of gold"
 - o But "your kingdom won't last forever"
 - o Babylon will be replaced
 - o And four more kingdoms will come
- God doesn't tell him...**who, when, or how**
- Even Daniel doesn't know

- **Realities not yet revealed**

- God's revelations are **progressive**...
...but rarely **comprehensive**
- God was revealing "what is to be"
...His plan was **perfect**
...His timeline was **set**
...But the details were still **unfolding**

- **A battle of wills**

- Nebuchadnezzar referred to Yahweh as...
...*"God of gods and Lord of kings"*
 - o He is sovereign over all
 - o He has all authority
- But the monument said otherwise
- Remember what Jesus told His disciples:

So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know." – Acts 1:6-7 NLT

- God doesn't disclose all the details...
...But He does reveal Himself,
...by displaying His power,
...and demonstrating His sovereignty
- But Nebuchadnezzar needed further proof

- **A growing awareness**

- Nebuchadnezzar has a 2nd dream

*I, Nebuchadnezzar, was living in my palace in comfort and prosperity. But one night **I had a dream that frightened me**; I saw visions that terrified me as I lay in my bed.* – Daniel 4:4-5 NLT

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. – Daniel 4:10 ESV

- From the lips of Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 4:4-18
 - This chapter is autobiographical
 - A personal testimony
 - Full of self-revelation
 - Brutally honest
 - Deeply humiliating
 - and amazingly God-honoring

“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. 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.” – Daniel 4:16-17 ESV

- God sent Nebuchadnezzar a message...
 - “that made me afraid” – vs 5
 - and “alarmed me” – vs 5
- No one could explain it
- And the king didn’t know how to take it

“Chop down the tree and lop off its branches.” – Daniel 4:14 ESV

- Nebuchadnezzar wasn’t stupid
 - He knew the tree was about him
 - It’s height was great
 - It grew and became strong
 - It’s top reached to heaven
 - It’s fruit was abundant
 - The beasts found shade
 - The birds built nests
 - All flesh was fed from it

IT WAS A PICTURE OF HIS KINGDOM
BUT ALSO, A REPRESENTATION OF HIM

*“...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. **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**. – Daniel 4:15-16 ESV*

- This just got personal
 - o Nebuchadnezzar was the kingdom
 - o His rage was **pointless**
 - o It was his very identity

...this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. – Daniel 4:24-26 ESV

- **Of kings and kingdoms**

- This entire book is future-focused
- Nebuchadnezzar is not the point
- But his life serves as a foreshadow
 - o He represents every king and kingdom
 - o They are imperfect and impermanent

*And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will **set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed**, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. **It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end**, and it shall stand forever... – Daniel 2:44 ESV*

*Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, **“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”** – Revelation 11:15 ESV*

- **From majesty to madman**

All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 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?” – Daniel 4:28-30 ESV

- He would lose his kingdom
 - power
 - dignity
 - sanity
 - and autonomy
- Until...you know

“...that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.” – Daniel 4:23 ESV

He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws. – Daniel 4:33 ESV

- **A lesson worth learning**

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;
all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
and he does according to **his will** among the host of heaven
and among the inhabitants of the earth;
and none can stay his hand
or say to him, “What have you done?” – Daniel 4:34-35 ESV*

- Nebuchadnezzar changed his pronouns
 - From “me,” “my,” and “I”
 - To “him” and “his”
- He acknowledged God’s sovereignty
 - total dominion
 - supreme authority

*“Surely, as I have planned, **so it will be**, and as I have purposed, **so it will happen**... This is the plan determined for the whole world; this is the hand stretched out over all nations. For the Lord Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?” – Isaiah 14:24, 26-27 NLT*

- From **vanity** to **insanity** to **humility**

“Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven. All his acts are just and true, and he is able to humble the proud.” – Daniel 4:37 NLT

- **Discussion Questions:**

How did Daniel’s friends demonstrate belief in God’s sovereignty? What would this look like in your life?

Nebuchadnezzar was restored. Why would a stable government be important to Daniel and his fellow exiles?

How should this story strengthen our belief that God is in control at all times?



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FALL SERIES 2026 – WEEK 5 HOMEWORK

WEEK 5 – THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

The author now introduces a new king and another disturbing vision from God with a timely message that has both immediate and long-term implications. The seemingly rapid-fire succession of kings is meant to emphasize God's sovereignty. Daniel appears to have recorded these events with little or no concern for providing an accurate chronology. His emphasis is on the revolving door of kings and the ongoing sovereignty of God over their reigns and lives.

One thing to keep in mind while reading this chapter is that a lot of time has passed between the events recorded in the previous chapter and the ones described here. A new king is on the throne of Babylon, but he will prove to be the last. More than six decades have passed since Daniel arrived in Babylon and some aspects of the prophecies God has delivered are about to take place.

- Sometime this week, read pages 65-73 of Ken's Devotional™ on the Book of Daniel.
- Read verses 1-4. Belshazzar isn't actually the king. He serves as a kind of puppet king on behalf of his father, Nabonidus, who rarely set foot in the capital during his reign. This fact may help provide insight into Belshazzar's actions. Write down what he does in these verses and why you think this might have been a bad decision.
- Read Daniel 5:5-12. How does Belshazzar react to this bizarre apparition?

Daniel is in his late 70s or early 80s at this point, and likely retired. But, according to the Queen Mother's testimony, what was his reputation?

- Read Daniel 5:13-23. Notice that Daniel brings up the story recorded in Chapter 4. What does this have to do with Belshazzar's actions?

According to verse 18, who gave King Nebuchadnezzar his "greatness and glory and majesty"?

What as Daniel's accusation against Belshazzar (verses 22-23)?

- Another important fact to consider is that the Medo-Persian army was amassed outside the walls of Babylon as this story took place. But the "king," confident and cocky, was busy throwing a party and celebrating his gods. Read Daniel 5:24-30 and then jot down how Belshazzar's actions reflected his pride and set the tone for what God was about to do.

According to this passage, what was Belshazzar's greatest sin?

Look closely at verse 30. What does it say that supports the theme of God's sovereignty?

Go back and read Daniel 2:36-39. How is this prophecy fulfilled in Chapter 5?