

Church of God Sunday School

GOD HUMBLER NEBUCHADNEZZAR

Daniel 4:1-37

Nebuchadnezzar, the proud king of Babylon, had another strange dream. (Do you remember his first dream of the image that was made of gold, silver, brass, iron, and clay?) This second dream troubled the king and made him afraid.

Just as before, Nebuchadnezzar called for the magicians, astrologers, soothsayers, and Chaldeans (*kal-DEE-ans*) to tell him what the dream meant. (Why didn't the king call for Daniel? Had he forgotten that Daniel was the only one who could tell what his first dream was and what it meant?)

When the king's wise men failed to tell the dream's interpretation, Daniel came before the king. Nebuchadnezzar told Daniel that he dreamed of a tree that was in the middle of the earth. This tree grew so tall that it "reached unto heaven," and it could be seen all over the earth. This tree had so much fruit on it that it provided food for all the animals of the earth and the birds of the air. Its leaves provided shade for the animals, and the birds made their nests in its branches.

Then, in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, he saw "a watcher and an holy one" (angels) come down from Heaven. The command was given to cut the tree down, cut off the branches, shake off the leaves, and scatter the fruit. All the animals and birds were to get away from the tree. Only the stump, bound "with a band of iron and brass," was to be left.

At the end of the dream, the king heard these words: "Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him." The reason was so "that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men."

After Nebuchadnezzar had finished speaking, he commanded Daniel to tell the meaning of this dream. Daniel realized that this dream was a warning from God. For

one hour Daniel did not speak. He was astonished at what this meant, "and his thoughts troubled him."

Finally, Daniel told the king that the tree he had dreamed about was him! He was a strong and mighty king. People all over the earth knew who he was. Just as the tree was cut down, so Nebuchadnezzar was going to be driven out of his palace.

Nebuchadnezzar would become like an animal. For seven years he would live outside in the field, eat grass as an ox does, and be wet "with the dew of heaven." This would continue until Nebuchadnezzar realized that the God of Heaven is the One who rules among men. Then Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom would be restored to him.

After Daniel finished telling the king the meaning of this dream, he told Nebuchadnezzar that he should change his sinful ways and show mercy to the poor. In so doing, God might have mercy on him. But King Nebuchadnezzar did not take heed to Daniel's advice.

One whole year passed. Nebuchadnezzar might have forgotten what Daniel had warned. Then one day as King Nebuchadnezzar was walking in the palace, he proudly said, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?"

While Nebuchadnezzar was still speaking, he heard a voice from Heaven say: "O king Nebuchadnezzar, to

thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee." God's longsuffering with him was over. That very hour judgment fell on Nebuchadnezzar. He became mad and was driven from his palace. God gave him the mind of an animal, so he began to act like an animal. For seven long years he lived as an animal lives. He lived outside in the fields and ate grass. His hair grew long "like eagles' feathers," and his fingernails and toenails grew "like birds' claws."



People looked at Nebuchadnezzar and said, "Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms?" (Isaiah 14:16). The proud, strong king had truly been brought down to a sad, pitiful condition! Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." That is just what happened to King Nebuchadnezzar.

At the end of seven years, God gave Nebuchadnezzar back his right mind. The first thing the king did was to bless God and give God the honor He deserved. He finally realized that God was "the most High" God, the One who rules over everything! People, kings, and kingdoms come and go, but God's kingdom is forever.

When Nebuchadnezzar's counselors and lords saw that he had regained his right mind, they brought him

back to the palace. There he again sat on his throne and ruled as king of Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar realized that he was not as strong and mighty as he once thought. His final words that we read in the Bible are: "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase [or humble]."

MEMORY VERSE:

"I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of heaven . . . those that walk in pride he is able to abase."
—Daniel 4:37

King Nebuchadnezzar's First Dream

Fill in the Blanks

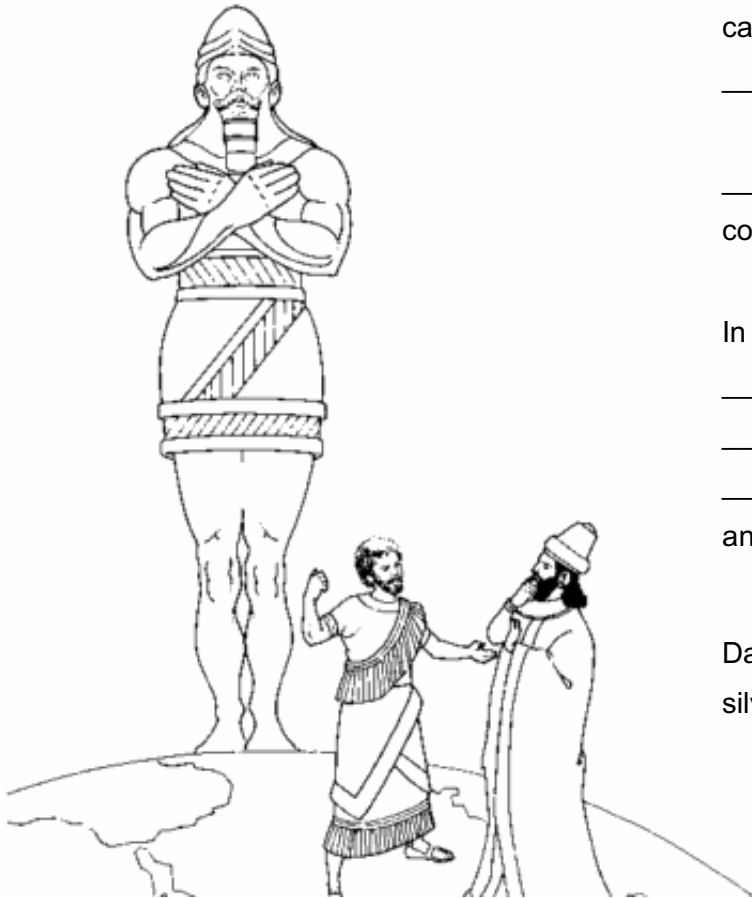
To interpret his first dream, Nebuchadnezzar called _____, _____, _____, and _____.

_____ was the only one who could tell the king the dream and its meaning.

In his first dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw an _____ that was made of _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.

Word Bank

- Daniel gold soothsayers magicians
- silver iron Chaldeans clay brass
- astrologers image



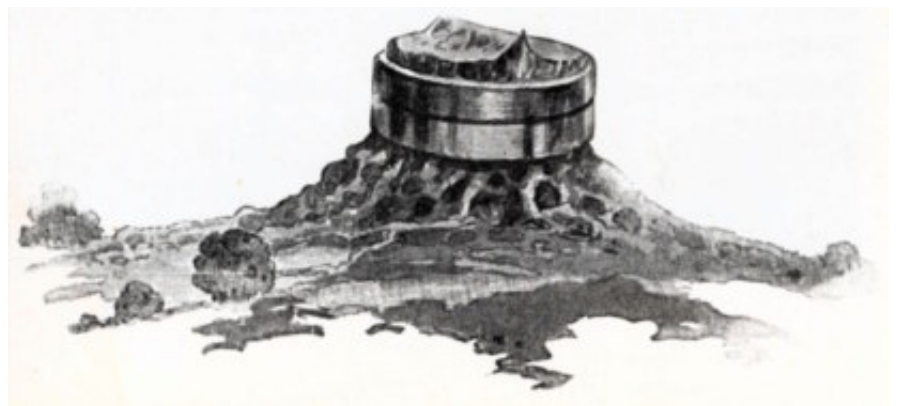
King Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream



**Complete the story
by filling in the blanks**

Nebuchadnezzar dreamed _____
troublesome dream. He was sure this dream meant
_____. He told _____ about his
dream. He dreamed of a tree so tall that it
_____ to the sky. It provided food for all
the _____ and _____ of the
earth. But then one of God's _____ came and
said to _____ the tree down and to leave only a
_____ with a _____ of iron and
_____.

The dream was _____ from God as a
warning to King _____. But he
did not take the warning.





King Nebuchadnezzar