

/We will now begin the fifth lecture on the book of Daniel. /The main text is Daniel chapter 4. /The title is “The Large Tree in the Dream.”

/First, God gives the king a revelation through the dream. /Verse 1-5. /Second, the king commands that the dream be interpreted. /Verses 6-9. /Third, the contents of the dream. /Verses 10-17.

/Fourth, Daniel interprets the dream. /Verses 18-26. /Fifth, Daniel advises the king on how to keep prosperity in his kingdom. /Verse 27. /Sixth, the fall of Babylon. /Verses 28-30.

/Seventh, the king of Babylon becomes like a beast. /Verses 31-33. /Eighth, the king looks to heaven and finds God. /Verses 34-35. /Ninth, his kingship is restored. /Verses 36-37. /Verses 36-37.

/Read verse 1. /King Nebuchadnezzar, To the peoples, nations and men of every language, who live in all the world: May you prosper greatly!

/King Nebuchadnezzar made an announcement to the peoples, nations, and men of every language. /Babylon was the strongest nation at the time.

/Babylon conquered the land of Elam to the east, /the land of Media to the west, /and Egypt on the south. /Jeremiah 25:26. /27:5, 6.

/Verse 2. /It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me.

/King Nebuchadnezzar knew God as “the Most High God.” /He knew that God was great in power. /He knew that the kingdom of God is forever.

/How did Nebuchadnezzar know God? /He came to know God through Daniel and his three friends in chapters 2 and 3.

/Here the “miraculous signs” signify “what points to God’s existence and his powers.” /This also signifies the supernatural and what is miraculous. /Next, “wonders” signify “what brings out amazement and awe.”

/In verse 3 it says, “his dominion endures from generation to generation.” /This signifies God’s reign, /and that he will reign forever.

/Verse 4. /It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me.

/Verse 5. /I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in my bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me.

/King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. /This was not an ordinary dream, but was a revelation from God. /Nebuchadnezzar was tormented and agonized over the dream. /He knew what the dream was, but he couldn't figure out the meaning of the dream.

/Verse 5 says, "visions." /This means "to see." /This refers to the "illustration" he saw in his dream.

/Verses 6-7. /So I commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream for me. When the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners came, I told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me.

/King Nebuchadnezzar gathered the wise men, astrologers, and diviners. /He told them his dream and told them to interpret it for him. /However, none of the men were able to interpret the dream.

/In chapter 2, the astrologers said, "Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it." /Yet, here in chapter 4, the king told them the dream but the astrologers were unable to interpret it. /It was because this dream was God's special revelation.

/The wisest men and the fortune tellers on earth cannot know God's special revelation. /God's secret revelation can only be known through the spirit of God. /1 Corinthians 2:14. /Colossians 1:27. /Colossians 2:2. /Thus, the men were unable to interpret the dream.

/Verses 8-9. /Finally, Daniel came into my presence and I told him the dream. (He is called Belteshazzar, after the name of my god, and the spirit of the holy gods is in him.) I said, "Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you. Here is my dream; interpret it for me.

/Then Daniel came before the king. /The magicians were unable to interpret the dream, and so the king called Daniel before him. /King Nebuchadnezzar knew that Daniel could interpret his dream.

/Nebuchadnezzar knew because Daniel had interpreted his dream in chapter 2. /Nebuchadnezzar also believed that Daniel had the spirits of gods inside of him. /He called Daniel, "chief of the magicians."

/Daniel was not a "magician." /This means to be at the head of all wisdom. /The king had many aides with him.

/There were also wise men, magicians, fortune tellers, and astrologers. /At the head of all these intelligent men was Daniel.

/Daniel did not compromise with the wise men or fortune tellers. /He was not a man who served the devil. /He only served God. /2:2. /4:6-7.

/Verse 10. /These are the visions I saw while lying in my bed: I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous.

/King Nebuchadnezzar looked in his dream and saw a tree standing in the middle of the land. /The tree grew tall and it reached the sky. /Then in verse 12 it says, its leaves were beautiful.

/There were beasts under the shade of the tree. /There were birds that lived in its branches. /Then from the tree, every creature was fed.

/Verse 13. /"In the visions I saw while lying in my bed, I looked, and there before me was a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven.

/A messenger, a holy one, came down from heaven. /Then in verse 14, he called out, "Cut down the tree." /"Every creature" in verse 12 refers to mankind, the people.

/Then in verse 13, the "messenger" signifies a holy angel. /Isaiah 62:6. /This signifies an angel. /Deuteronomy 33:2. /Job 5:1. /Psalm 89:6, 7. /Zechariah 14:5. /In verse 14 it says, "trim off its branches."

/Verse 15. /But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field. "Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth.

/It says, "But let the stump and its roots remain in the ground." /It also says, to "bound with iron and bronze." /This symbolizes the mental illness that King Nebuchadnezzar will suffer from in the future. /Psalm 107:10, 11. /Job 36:8, 9.

/Verse 16. /Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times pass by for him.

/It says that he will be given the mind of an animal. /This means that Nebuchadnezzar will be like an animal in the future.

/It says that he will live with the animals. /Even today, there are many cases in psychiatric hospitals where patients are bound with metal wires.

/Verse 17. /"The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men.'

/King Nebuchadnezzar said that he knew "that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes." /Later, Nebuchadnezzar would be healed of his illness.

/He knew then that God is the King who rules over the nations of man. /He knew that

God gave to anyone according to his will. /Nebuchadnezzar revered God. /Then he was healed.

/Verse 18. /"This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now, Belteshazzar, tell me what it means, for none of the wise men in my kingdom can interpret it for me. But you can, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you."

/King Nebuchadnezzar told Daniel to interpret his dream. /He said, "the spirit of the holy gods is in you." /This refers to God living inside of Daniel.

/However, Nebuchadnezzar was incorrect in the way he said this. /He said, "the spirit of the holy gods." /He used the plural form of "god."

/This means that the king believed in polytheism. /However, Daniel had the Holy Spirit with him.

/Verse 19. /Then Daniel (also called Belteshazzar) was greatly perplexed for a time, and his thoughts terrified him. So the king said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its meaning alarm you." Belteshazzar answered, "My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries!

/Daniel heard the contents of the king's dream./ Then Daniel said, "if only the dream applied to your enemies." /Then what does "Babylon" here signify?

/"Babylon" signifies the humanistic world. /Babylon existed from ancient times. /Babylon will continue to exist until the end of times. /The ancient times existed in Genesis chapter 11. /The people built the Tower of Babel. /Babylon existed then.

/Then Babylon in the Last Days appears in Revelation chapter 18. /Ultimately, the humanistic world will be destroyed.

/Verse 20. /The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth,

/It says, "its top touched the sky."

/Verse 22. /you, O king, are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth.

/The tree that touched the sky symbolizes King Nebuchadnezzar. /It also not only symbolizes Nebuchadnezzar, but also the kingdom of Babylon that he ruled over. /It symbolizes today's humanistic world.

/Verse 23. /"You, O king, saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched

with the dew of heaven; let him live like the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.'

/Verse 21 says that its leaves were beautiful. /The humanistic world is outwardly beautiful and extravagantly adorned. /Revelation 17:1-4. /There was an abundance of fruit, and it provided food for all of creation.

/This signifies the temporary abundance of food through the development of a material civilization. /Verse 23 says, "leave the stump." /This means that the nation won't completely perish, but a little of it will remain. /This is mentioned in verse 26.

/Verse 23 says, "seven times pass by for him." /What was the reason for the fall of Babylon? /The reason is mentioned in verse 30.

/Verse 25. /You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.

/This means that King Nebuchadnezzar will become ill and become pitiful. /He will be chased out by people, /live with the wild animals, /eat grass like cattle, /and be drenched with the dew of heaven. /This is the illness of the king.

/He was healed of his illness when he acknowledged that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men.

/Verse 26. /The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules.

/The kingdom would be restored to the king once he acknowledges that God rules over all things.

/Verse 27. /Therefore, O king, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue."

/Daniel advised the king on how to live a long life. /Daniel taught the king how to prosper. /Daniel told the king to do what is right. /He advised the king to be kind to the oppressed.

/Then the kingdom would be at peace and will prosper. /However, it will not be saved by doing good.

/When the king turns away from wickedness and does good, the time period of his prosperity will continue. /This does not mean that his judgment will be delayed.

/Verse 28 goes into detail about “the sins of Babylon, and the sins of Nebuchadnezzar.”

/Verses 28-29. /All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon,

/After twelve months had passed, Babylon was ruined. /Nebuchadnezzar was ruined. /He became ill. /The kingdom of Babylon will fall as a result of its sins in the future.

/King Nebuchadnezzar was ruined for three reasons. /First, “This is the great Babylon I have built by my mighty power.” /Second, “I built a royal residence.” /Third, “The glory of my majesty is seen through what I have built.”

/These are the sins for why Nebuchadnezzar was brought to ruins. /To sum it up, he sinned by being “proud.” /He used the pronoun, “me,” three times. /The king needed to know that it was God who built up Babylon, and not himself.

/He needed to glorify God only. /However, Nebuchadnezzar received all the glory for himself. /First, “I did it.” /He was the master. /He did as he wished. /This means to be proud.

“I will do it.” “I will not do it.” These statements come from pride. /When God, our Master, tells us to go, we must go, and when he tells us to stand, we must stand. /We cannot say that we did the work.

/We must understand that everything is done by the grace of God. /1 Corinthians 15:10. /We must glorify God when things go well. /Second, the sin of Nebuchadnezzar was, “he claimed that everything was his.”

/He said, “everything was his.” /He meant that everything belonged to him. /Psalm 24:1. /Everything that we have belongs to God. /We are merely his stewards.

/We are God’s messengers. /Everything is God’s. /1 Corinthians 6:19-20. /As stewards, we must take what belongs to God and use it according to his will.

/Third, Nebuchadnezzar “tried to receive glory for himself. /He believed that everything was for his glory. /He wanted to show himself off. /He wanted to show off his glory. /This is to shield the glory of God. /This is pride.

/God rejects the proud, and gives grace to the humble. /Proverbs 6:17. /Proverbs 11:2. /29:33. /1 Peter 5:5. /James 4:6. /We must be reverent and must have humble faith.

/We must be careful when we succeed. /We must always discover our sins and have humble faith.

/Verse 31. /The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from

you.

/When King Nebuchadnezzar was speaking these proud words, an angel's voice came to him. /The angel said, "King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you." /Judgment was upon Nebuchadnezzar.

/Verse 32. /You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes."

/Seven times passed. /Nebuchadnezzar was driven out by people. /He lived with wild animals. /He ate grass like cattle. /Then seven times passed.

/"Seven times" can be seen as seven years. /The Septuagint defines it as seven years. /Some scholars say that it is seven months.

/We cannot know for sure, but it was most certainly the time that God had chosen. /Still, the times span doesn't seem to have been very long.

/King Nebuchadnezzar was kicked out. /He lived with animals. /He lived without reason. /He became insane. /There are many people who lose their sanity to the world. /There are many who are crazy about worldly pleasures.

/There are those who are crazy for money and gambling. /Colossians 9:3. /King Nebuchadnezzar's illness was a mental illness. /There is an illness where a person believes that he is a "wolf." /This is known as "lycanthropy."

/Lycanthropy. /There are those who believe that they are "cows." /There are people who think that they are "cows." /This illness is known as boanthropy. /This is known as boanthropy.

/King Nebuchadnezzar suddenly became mentally ill. /He became ill as a result of his pride. /In verse 32, he looked up at the Most High God. /God fulfilled that he "gives them to anyone he wishes." /Nebuchadnezzar's sanity was restored when he repented. /When we seek God, he will have mercy on us and heal us as well.

/Everyone will be judged for his or her pride. /However, when we are humble and repent, God will restore us.

/Verse 33. /Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like cattle. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

/The king ate grass like cattle. /Psalm 49:20. /A man who has riches without understanding is like the beasts that perish.

/Verse 34. /At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

/At the end of that time, Nebuchadnezzar raised his eyes toward heaven. /When he looked toward heaven, his sanity was restored. /His pride was gone.

/His own thoughts were gone, /his stubbornness was gone, /and he lifted his hands in surrender to God. /Nebuchadnezzar first believed that he was the best.

/However, after he was punished, he returned by asking God to “have mercy” on him. /The only way for us to live is to look toward God. /Those who look to God will be blessed.

/Those who seek God will be blessed. /Isaiah 45:22. /Luke 15:11-24. /Jonah looked to God in the stomach of the fish. /Jonah 2:4. /In this way, the king’s faith was restored when he raised his eyes toward heaven.

/Those who were once like beasts will become like man. /We will become people of God and become humble people, /become holy people, /and become people of God.

/Verse 35. /All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"

/God also regards all peoples of the earth as nothing. /Our lives are nothing. /Every single person is like dust before God.

/God works according to his will in his heavenly army, through the angels in the heavens, and the people on earth. /Absolute sovereignty belongs to God. /He is in control over life and death.

/God kills, brings to life, lowers, /and raises up. /God can make even the powerful King Nebuchadnezzar become ill. /God could have made him die. /Our lives are like dust before God.

/Verse 35 says, “No one can hold back his hand or say to him: ‘What have you done?’” /In this way, when Nebuchadnezzar looked up at God, he was healed of his illness.

/The king looked towards God and first, he discovered that God is eternal, and limitless in his omnipotence and power. /Second, he realized that there are no peoples of this earth. /We humans are dust; we are nearly nothing.

/Third, he realized that God is the only one in control of the heavenly army and all



peoples of the earth.

/Verse 36. /At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before.

/When Nebuchadnezzar looked toward God, his sanity was restored. /Second, his honor and splendor were returned to him. /Third, he was restored to his throne in the kingdom.

/He was restored to his throne. /His advisers and nobles sought him out. /Thus, Nebuchadnezzar regained his sanity by looking toward God. /His splendor was returned to him.

/He regained his fame. /He regained his splendor. /He regained his confidence. /He was able to reign over the kingdom.

/He regained his honor and power. /Then he spoke beautiful words. /The same goes for us.

/Whoever is proud before God will become pitiful like a beast. /He will become lowly and pitiful. /Yet, when we repent and stand upright, then God will lift us up. /Proverbs 29:23.

/Verse 37. /Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

/King Nebuchadnezzar praised God after he was healed of his illness. /He referred to God as “right and all his ways are just.” /He praised the God who makes the proud humble.

/Then does this mean that Nebuchadnezzar truly believed in God? /There are people who say that Nebuchadnezzar repented and believed in Christ, /yet, there are others who say that Nebuchadnezzar ultimately did not believe.

/However, in chapters 2 and 3, Nebuchadnezzar saw God’s great miraculous signs. /Still, we cannot say that he truly believed in God. /He was indeed outwardly afraid of God, but it does not seem that he truly believed in God in his heart.

/We can see that pride will lead to destruction. /King Nebuchadnezzar was proud and was ruined. /It also means that Babylon will be proud and will be destroyed.

/Then in the Last Days, Babylon will be destroyed. /Therefore, we must always be humble, and must have faith that always looks toward God.

/Also, when we face hardships, or are disciplined by God, we must repent and look toward God. /Then God will restore us.

/Here we will conclude the fifth lecture on the book of Daniel. /Thank you.