

HOPEcommunity.

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Daniel – Part 4 **Sunday, June 19th, 2016**

Daniel 4 NIV

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of a Tree

4 King Nebuchadnezzar,

To the nations and peoples of every language, who live in all the earth:

May you prosper greatly! ² It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me. ³ ***How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation.***

⁴ I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. ⁵ I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me. ⁶ So I commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream for me. ⁷ When the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners came, I told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me. ⁸ 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.)

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ These are the visions I saw while lying in bed: I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous. ¹¹ The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth.

¹² Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit abundant, and on it was food for all. Under it the wild animals found shelter, and the birds lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed.

¹³ "In the visions I saw while lying in bed, I looked, and there before me was a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven. ¹⁴ He called in a loud voice: 'Cut down the tree and trim off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches. 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. 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.

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 all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people.'

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.***"

Daniel Interprets the Dream

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!*** ²⁰ The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth, ²¹ with beautiful leaves and abundant fruit, providing food for all, giving shelter to the wild animals, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds— ²² Your Majesty, you 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.

²³ "Your Majesty saw a holy one, a messenger, 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 with the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.'

²⁴ "This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: ²⁵ You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox 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 all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes. 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.*** ²⁷ Therefore, Your Majesty, 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."

The Dream Is Fulfilled

²⁸ All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹ Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, ³⁰ he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

³¹ Even as the words were on his lips, ***a voice came from heaven,*** "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. ³² You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you ***until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.***"

³³ Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. 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.**

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.**

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?"**

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.** 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.**

When a Leader submits to God...

- 4:1-3, King Nebuchadnezzar had learned a powerful lesson in humility.
- James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.
- 4:34-35 – Restoration from humility
- 4:36-37 – Promotion from humility

When things look down, it's time to look up!

- 4:26... "**your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules.**"
- 4:34... "I, Nebuchadnezzar, **raised my eyes toward heaven**"

Daniels wisdom, heart & grace...

- 4:9 & 4:18 - Daniel had a reputation for truth & wisdom
- 4:19 – Daniel was perplexed and terrified about what God showed him regarding Nebuchadnezzar.
- 4:27 – "Therefore, Your Majesty, 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."

Salvation Prayer (to ask God to forgive your sins and adopt you as His child):

"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for taking my place by dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Saviour and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sin and giving me eternal life. I ask that You lead, teach and fill me with the Holy Spirit. Change me into a person who represents you well, in Jesus name, amen."

Giving \$ to God at Hope CCC: Donations/Tithes/Offerings

1. **Giving Envelopes** (located on the chairs) are to be placed in one of the two **collection boxes on the wall.**
 - A year's box of giving/tithing envelopes are available from our Envelope Secretary Dr. Paul Corriveau.
2. **Monthly Withdrawal - Pre Authorized Remittance.** Registration forms beside the collection boxes.
3. **Online Giving** can be done on our website through Canada Helps.
4. **Text-2-Give** using your phone by texting **705-910-0962**. You can use Visa-Debit or credit card.
5. Cheques can be **Mailed** to the church.

Announcements: www.hopecommunitysite.com 705-812-2833

Small Group Bible Studies: Contact **Craig Basaraba** for current groups or to start a group... 705-323-2628 & basarabac@yahoo.ca

Morning Prayer Monday to Friday 9 to 10 am at the church

Woman's Walking/Exercise Group – Mondays 7:00 pm at the church

Kid's Tuesday Afterschool Program – 3:30 to 5:00 pm - gym games, snack, encouragement & friendship

Mom's Hangout – Wednesdays 10-11:30 am... A time for Moms and kid's to hang out and get to know each other.

Upward Soccer (Ages SK to Grade 6) Practice – Wednesdays 6-8 pm

God Squad Jr. High: Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Students grades 6-8 are invited to this great program.

Sr. High Youth: Thursdays: 7:30 to 8:45 pm. Students grades 9-12

Upward Soccer (Ages SK to Grade 6) Game – Saturdays 9:30 to 11:30 am

Good Food Box – Orders on the first Monday of each month from 3-6 pm and pick up on the third Wednesday of each month from 3-6 pm. Fresh Fruit and Vegetables... Small box \$10, Large box \$15

Communion Lunch Service – **First Sunday of each month** Service (10:00 am) of each month as part of the morning service. Invite a friend and bring food to share in this pot luck style meal.

Summer Intercession & Prayer Meeting – Tuesday, June 28th -7 pm

- 24 hour fast starting Monday at 8:00 pm and ending Tuesday after the gathered prayer meeting
- People can sign up for one hour prayer intervals starting at 8 pm on Monday Night.
- Prayer for families, the church, and opportunities for God to use us in evangelism, discipleship & missions

Summer Bible Study – Wednesday Nights, 7 pm starting July 6th

The Power of Hope Golf Tournament - Thursday, July 7th - 11:00 am

- A charity event to raise funds for the concrete sports pad, providing the community with opportunities to play outdoor basketball, ball & ice hockey.
- Location is the Lake St. George Golf Club. The event includes golf, cart, a presentation of the project and a steak dinner. The cost per person is \$150 with cheques made payable to Hope Community Christian Church
- For more information on how to register yourself or a foursome, **contact Barry Elliott at 705-955-4893**