



When Jesus gave His discourse on the Bread of Life, the hearers struggled with His claim that “He came down from heaven.”

There was misunderstanding, there was murmuring, there was unbelief. Jesus said, “But I said unto you, that ye also have seen Me, and believe not,” which is contrary to pervasive thought:
 “I’ll believe it when I see it.”

Daniel Series, Eight: Another Dream. A Nightmare. The Tree Is Cut Down

“I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace: I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me. Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream. Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof. But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying, O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof.” -Daniel 4:1-9

The Master has recently demonstrated fantastic miracles, causing the blind to see, the deaf to hear, walking on water, commanding the wind, and calming the waves. He also miraculously fed the 5,000 with few fish and a couple loaves, and He stands before them, flesh and blood, in plain sight, and they are in unbelief. “Ye have seen Me, and believe not.” Despite mountains of evidence, sight and experience, they will not believe. Jesus explains, “All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. For I came

down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me.” He is revealing the plan, a covert mission, a very skillful invasion. The kingdom invisible is enlisting citizenry for the coming visible kingdom.

“And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.” -John 6:39-40

We are heading to the crescendo of history, the Millennial Kingdom, the King and kingdom of great glory that every Hebrew was waiting for; and He, the Good King is before their very eyes, and they are blind.

“The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?” -John 6:41-42

Notice.

“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.” -John 6:44

Be advised. “No man can come,” nor would desire to come, for we are in revolt. A rebellion so deep seeded one must be “drawn” as one draws the drapes, the steel hooks must be drug, scraping across the rod.



Daniel chapter 4.

Déjà vu.

Another disturbing dream that requires interpretation. But this one in particular is royal portrait with heaven's ink. The invisible kingdom vividly painted in the visible kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar, complete with angelic handiwork.

As a rarest of jewels, this portion of the prophecy is inscribed by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. It is of his memoirs, it is an edict to go throughout the land.

At the time of authorship he has increased in age. And like aged men, he becomes nostalgic, and reminisces.

"Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me." -Daniel 4:1-2

Wonders that God hath "wrought" or machined.

These things were worked and machined...forged as a blacksmith doth iron work.

Twas a splendid day in the kingdom, "at rest in mine house flourishing in my palace." One of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Hanging Gardens, was in full bloom. Exotic tropical plants with intricate aqueduct watering systems. It hath been said that such watering systems was the embryonic stage of air conditioning as air travels through both cascading plants and waterfalls.

Yet he is a hardened criminal, a villain of the baser sort, a man of war from his youth. Fierce and pitiless, merciless with chest of iron. But the most High again with ease, causes him to tremble.

"I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me. Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream." -Daniel 4:5-6

He again calls in the astrologers, and again to no avail, so at last arrives Daniel. The man of God does not enter beside the Chaldeans for he likely has separated himself from such specimen, being busy about the king's business. A commendable statesman working in the gate. He states, "But at the last Daniel came in...whose name was Belteshazzar." Daniel's name was changed as part of the brainwashing process to make him "Babylonian."

But notice the king calls him Daniel and then states for the record his pseudo name for those who knew him within the empire. By now the two older gentlemen have developed a trusting relationship.

"Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies." -Daniel 4:19

Daniel is immediately startled and astonished. He gains a sense of defense, loyalty, and genuine concern for the king. Let this happen to "thine enemies." He realizes... this is not good. This is going to be bad.

"The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth; Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation: It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth." -Daniel 4:20-22

Babylon had grown to be the global superpower. So wealthy, so productive, it produced enough food capacity to feed the world. (One can not pass through this pasture without noticing the similarities of the United States. An idolatrous nation, with massive GDP able with ease to feed the entire world, yet a government equal in corruption and evil.) All the nations of the world came to trade, to do business with such a mart of nations. The book of Revelation reminds us of the merchandise, the rare delicacies, the famous shipping industry, the ships of Tarshish. The fine linens, the purple silks, gold in abundance. And, he has ended war. It is a time of decadence, dare we say, exceeding that of Solomon.

Solomon's reign, his global dominion, was a definite foreshadow of the glorious Millennium. The wars of David were ended. The economy was so great the shoulders of the roads were adorned with silver for eye to behold. Exotic animals were brought in, apes and peacocks. A certain quantity of gold by pound came by shipment per day. He ruled the world. Yet, the half hath yet been told.

And the words of the Prophet Isaiah blare as an air raid



siren: Behind the king of Babylon, behind the curtain, is none other than Lucifer. The deceiver has produced a counterfeit. Global dominion. "I will be like the most High." The dispatch of a watcher. For we war not against flesh and blood, but principalities and powers, spiritual wickedness.

"And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him; This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity." -Daniel 4:23-27

Note: No one knows the identity of heaven's dispatch. A watcher and a holy one. It is quite possible the watcher could be a demon used to do evil as the holy one to restrain. Be certain the matter is spiritual, and it is a decree from the Lord Jesus Christ who sits high and lifted up, His train filling the temple.

A proof of the established relationship between the king and the prophet is that the prophet is safe to rebuke the king. Two items to be addressed are: any king or president should have a trusted biblical advisor, a pastor. Many a king has done well with a man of God at his side. The other is the blaring standard of benevolence. The heart of the king must have genuine mercy, not feigned, but genuine mercy for the poor.

"At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spake, and 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 the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee."

-Daniel 4:29-31

"Pride cometh before a fall."

"The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws."

-Daniel 4:33

His sanity went from him.

There have been rare cases of insanity where people for a time thought themselves to be beasts. In one noted instance the patient within an asylum was put out in the yard only to eat grass. The peculiar part was it is recorded that the man would only eat specific grass, no weeds, and let his hair and nails grow wild.

This begs the question what is God doing? Is He punishing the man? Are we looking at sheer cruelty?

"And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation."

-Daniel 4:34

As another man of old grew prideful and found himself in a far country, famished, and "...would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat..." then "...came to himself..." and said: "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."

The answer to the begged question, "No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him." The Father is taking the vilest offender, and dragging him to Jesus Christ. "All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." Amazing Grace how sweet the sound.



“And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.” -Daniel 4:35-36

Exceedingly, abundantly above all you can ask or think.

Another miracle is before us. Never would there be a kingdom whose subjects and lords would wait seven years for an incapacitated king. More often a coup d'état would be lurking in the grass. Especially for such a tyrant. Remember he is a bloodthirsty viper, the criminal, portrayal of the devil, even fueled by the devil, yet, the Most High drags him to Himself, to be a portrait of grace, a trophy of grace.

“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.” -Daniel 4:37

