

## The Book of Daniel

### The Sovereignty of God Over the Realm of Mankind

#### Daniel 4

1. **A Pronouncement from the King** (vs.1-3)

This content of this entire chapter is a letter or pronouncement that Nebuchadnezzar had circulated throughout the entire empire (v.1).

2. **A Prophecy for the King** (vs.4-26)

Nebuchadnezzar's second prophetic dream comes in the later years of his rule when the kingdom was relatively stable and many of his aggressive construction projects had been completed (cf. v.30). Despite the constant influence of Daniel as well God's display of the superiority of His power to the king's (cf. Dan 3:15, 28), Nebuchadnezzar had become extremely proud. It was God's plan that Nebuchadnezzar would give Him praise that was more than mere lip service (cv. v. 27).

3. **A Plea to the King** (v.27)

Daniel's love for the king is significant in that he both wished that the dream had been for one of his enemies (v.19) and then urges the king to repent (cf. Luke 3:8).

4. **A Punishment for the King** (vs.28-33)

God showed significant patience for the king (cf. Rom 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:15), but when it came time for judgement, it came quickly (cf. Matt 24:38). God's patience in delaying the execution of judgment neither invalidates the reality nor mitigates the severity of His judgment.

5. **A Profession by the King** (vs.34-37)

God is faithful to His promise (cf. Deut. 7:9). When Nebuchadnezzar humbled himself before God, he was restored to his former status and his greatness increased from its former zenith.

### The Sovereignty of God: A Definition

God's sovereignty is the exercise of His ruling and governing power over all creation. "Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps." (Psalms 135:6)

### The Sovereignty of God on Display in Daniel

God's magnificent and sovereign authority is seen when He intervenes in the effect of Daniel's diet (Dan 1:15), when He revealed the dream and its meaning to Daniel (Dan 2:19; 4:24-26), as He is praised for changing times, rulers, and giving men understanding (Dan 2:20-23), when He preserves the three friends from the furnace (Dan 3:24-27), in His humbling and restoration of Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 4:33, 36), and in His praise by Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 4:34-35, 37).

### The Sovereignty of God in Scripture

- God is sovereign over creation (Prov. 16:33; Matt 5:45b; 10:29-30;
- God is sovereign in governing all things in order to accomplish His purposes (Gen. 50:20; Ps.103:19; Dan. 4:35; Eph. 1:11)
- God is sovereign in the things that men endure (1 Pet 3:17; 4:19;
- God is sovereign over the lives of men (Ex. 4:11; Deut. 32:39; Ps. 139:16; 33:10-11; Prov. 16:9; 21:1; Jer. 10:23; Acts 4:27-28)