

DIFFICULT Days to be a Christian in KZ – Many see NO REASON to Follow God  
Christians Struggle to SURVIVE – HONESTY does NOT Seem to PAY!

People who DEFY God seem to PROSPER and FLOURISH

BIG and IMPORTANT People have NO INTEREST in RELIGION, BIBLE, FAITH

Bkgd Story Today: COVENANT People of God LOST HOPE & ABANDONED FAITH

Many BLESSINGS Promised and Received by KEEPING Covenant with God

Terrible CURSES Threatened for COVENANT BREAKING > God is Promise Keeper

People of God – Forgotten Him, Ignored His Word – He Acted on Warnings

PUNISHED His People – Because He LOVED Them – Wanted them to REPENT

Instrument of Punishment > Might EMPIRE of Babylon, led by Nebuchadnezzar

Smashed SOLOMON's Magnificent TEMPLE – Destroyed JERUSALEM

RIPPED People OUT of Homeland of JUDAH > Carried CAPTIVE to BABYLON

Book of DANIEL > God is NOT Finished with His ETERNAL PURPOSE

He is PROMISE Keeper > Even if it takes 1000's of years to FULFILL Promises

1500 years BEFORE DANIEL – God made PROMISES to FATHER ABRAHAM

“all peoples on earth will be blessed through you”      Genesis 12.3

“YOU” POINTED beyond him to GREAT SON of Abraham

SAVIOR of WORLD – comes from Line of Abraham – Lord Jesus Christ

Story of BIBLE > Story of Jesus > Also story of WAITING in Faith, Disappointment

There ARE Long Periods of Time – NOT MUCH Seems to Happen

Just when we Think FAITH is for LOSERS and NOBODIES > Read Daniel ch 4  
 TESTIMONY of Most Powerful man on PLANET > Ruled Greatest Empire his time  
 Chapter 4 SPANS 8 years of Neb's Life

SECULAR Historians DOUBT whether this REALLY HAPPENED

Babylonian Historical Records NO MENTION of Emperor following God of Israel  
 NOT SURPRISING! Shameful, Embarrassing!! Does NOT Mean did NOT HAPPEN  
 Official ANNALS of Babylon – Scant DETAILS of last years of his REIGN

Chapter 4 – Opens and Closes with Testimony of Neb. – Sounds like PSALM  
 CRITICS say does not Sound like Babylonian – More like HEBREW Praise to God  
 Pastor Arman leads Pres Nazarbayev to faith in Jesus & Disciples him in Bible  
 Pres' VOCABULARY of Faith will be like the PASTOR who Taught him  
 So HEAR TEACHING of DANIEL in VOICE of NEB in Chapter 4

v. 4 Magnificent PALACE > PROSPEROUS and CONTENTED / No thought of God  
 Mighty Empire BABYLON had SUBDUED Syria, Phoenicia, Judea, Egypt, Arabia  
 City of BABYLON one of Most Fabulous Cities of ANCIENT World  
 Outer Wall of Neb's PALACE was 10 kms Long – Great Towers, Gates of Bronze

Like RICH Man in Gospel of Luke who Built More Barns to STORE his Things  
 Neb. Told Soul to Take Easy – NO WORRIES about GOD and FUTURE  
 Jesus calls him FOOL > THAT NIGHT he would MEET God the JUDGE  
 DANIEL > Name means GOD is MY JUDGE

v. 5 LIVING God gave TROUBLESOME Dream to Mighty NEB.

None of his Babylonian Astrologers could INTERPRET this Dream

4<sup>th</sup> and Final Story about Neb. in book – Each reveal POWER of God of ISRAEL

Stories about Neb. in Daniel cover 43 yrs of his REIGN over Babylon

Neb. knew this God – Protects Servants from Fire / Closes mouth of Lions

DANIEL NOT called FIRST –KNOWN to have Spirit of God – Neb. KNEW THIS

We do This Too – Some Problems we HANDLE OURSELVES – Call Dr., Not God

TRUST our Strength, Wisdom, Riches, Resources – Don't BOTHER God

God NOT for People who don't NEED Him – Only Call Dr. when Really SICK!

Neb was NOT DESPERATE ENOUGH to call God who could REALLY HELP

Wanted to KEEP True God OUT of his FACE

Neb. wanted to KEEP CONTROL – Not READY to SUBMIT to King of Kings

When his HOMIES could NOT figure out Dream > Neb called DANIEL

DREAM of Mighty TREE > Common Symbol for EMPIRE in Ancient Near East

Today FLOURISHING GREEN TREE on FLAG on Nation of LEBANON

BABYLON – Ruled by Neb – Mighty TREE – v. 11 Seen to ENDS of Earth

v. 14 Tree CHOPPED Down – Stump / FUTURE Remains – 7 years of TROUBLE

Neb FOCUSED on GOOD PART of Tree Story > Flourishing, Prosperous TREE

FORGOT that TROUBLESOME News of Chopping Down > Becoming BEAST!

ONE Year passed Walking Rooftop of Empire > PROUD of his Accomplishments

We ALL Happy to Hear – GOOD NEWS of the GOSPEL STORY  
 JESUS Loves You! – God-MAN lived Sinless Life – Wonderful Teacher  
 DIED for our Sins on Cross – ROSE from DEAD – LIVES to Pray for You  
 LOVES YOU and OFFERS Eternal Life – FORGIVENESS of Sins  
 Isn't that GREAT!! – We ALL want That!! Last Line of Gospel Message

There is MORE to the STORY of Jesus > MORE Challenging to US!  
 COMING BACK as JUDGE! – What did we DO WITH Him??, DO FOR Him??  
 Happy Jesus is our SAVIOR / Not SURE if Want for Him to be our LORD

He is BOTH Savior and Lord - He SAVES because He is LORD  
 Neb had to FACE FULL Truth of God – Makes Tree FLOURISH and FALL!

v. 30 – PROUD Claim of his OWN KINGDOM, MAJESTY, GLORY

PRIDE comes before THE FALL > v. 31 That Moment NEB Fell > BEAST  
 Even today RARE MEDICAL Condition > People become like ANIMALS!

7 Shameful Years – LIVED like Hairy, Dew Covered BEAST, Claws & Feathers!  
 NOT an Impressive Portrait of Emperor to hang in Babylonian Palace!!

Like PRODIGAL Son – who Ran out of FRIENDS and MONEY – Feeding PIGS  
 Neb TURNED his THOUGHTS to God v. 34 Called on Name of the Lord

God HEARD, RESPONDED, and RESTORED Neb to PERSON and to POWER

Final years RULED as VICE Regent / President – Under God the TRUE KING  
Like DEMONIAC who Delivered by Jesus – Clothed & Right Mind sitting at Feet

1. God is Sovereign > We are called to be HUMBLE

No problem for NEB. to be GREAT EMPEROR of Mighty EMPIRE

OK > BRILLIANT PROFESSOR, WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN, TALENTED ATHLETE,  
SUCCESSFUL FILM MAKER, POPULAR POLITICIAN, BILLIONAIRE TECH-GIANT

Faithful Husband, Loving Mother, Trustworthy Security Guard, Excellent Student  
FOLLOWER of Jesus – Whole World is YOURS – Seize it, ENJOY it

REMEMBER you are FOLLOWER of Jesus – HE is GOD, KING

YOU are LOYAL Subject of His Kingdom, Advancing HIS GLORY

When you Walk Rooftop and Say

“Great FAMILY I Made” / “BUSINESS I Built” / CAREER I Developed”

“MONEY I Earned” / “DEGREE I Achieved” / “WEB-SITE I Created”

GET Ready to be HUMBLLED – NOW, LATER, or in ETERNITY

Only ONE Lord in Universe > And it is NOT YOU!

Neb. had to LEARN the HARD way – But Finally he UNDERSTOOD

v. 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”

Funeral for Emperor Louis 14 – Elaborate Ceremony in Notre Dame Cathedral

His Body lay in Golden Coffin – One Light in Hall – Candle on Coffin

Massillon > One Sentence Sermon – Blew out Candle – “Only God is Great!”

2. God is Savior > We are called to Long-Distance FAITH

HEAR Stories of Bible > WORD of God > Is it REALLY TRUE?

SEEMS Nothing REALLY CHANGES – Life goes On – Problems CONTINUE

Many Things we THOUGHT God would Do – PRAYED FOR! – Did NOT Happen

400 yrs Sons of Jacob – Nation of Israel – IN Egypt – Long Period SLAVES!

40 yrs Redeemed Nation – Passed thru RED SEA – Walked in Wilderness DIED

2000 yrs since JESUS Died and Resurrected – Many DOUBT if he will RETURN

ONLY Sure thing we KNOW about TOMORROW is it BELONGS to God

Most Important Question about Tomorrow > DO YOU belong to God??

He is the FINAL Winner – Not ISIS, Not Obama / Hillary, Putin, XI in China

NEB was Never MORE POWERFUL than when he was ON HIS KNEES before God

v. 34 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.

I don't know if MEGA MALL will be here in 100 years or 1000 years

But I KNOW that Jesus Christ will rule over KZ – and Whole World – Forever!

When KING of Kings strolls Rooftop of God's Palace > Sight of Amazing Beauty

ETERNAL Temple of Living God – Living Stones from whole Earth

Men, Women, Boys, Girls every Tongue, Tribe, People, and Nation

This King REASON for True PRIDE > He PAID for it ALL > BLOOD

This Kingdom BUILT FOREVER – NEVER BE SHAKEN – Joy & Blessing Forever!

PAID Highest Price – BLOOD of Eternal Son of God

PROVEN by EMPTY TOMB – POURED Out in Gift of Holy Spirit ours NOW

COMPLETED when He RETURNS in Power and Glory to Take us to Himself!

### 3. God Speaks > We are called to SHARE

DANIEL > HERO – POLITICIAN remained PURE / Near KINGS stayed CLEAN

Not sure HOW MANY years he SERVED Empire of Babylon – 40 or 50 years??

EMPERORS DIED and were REMOVED but Daniel REMAINED Faithful

Yes – He SERVED Babylon – BUT His MASTER was the LORD GOD of ISRAEL

Even tho Neb had done TERRIBLE things to DANIEL'S People of JUDAH

Daniel had COMPASSION for him – LOYAL to a King who served IDOLS

Obedied command of PAUL to Ephesians "SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE"

v. 19 "My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries"

IF you do NOT Love People you PREACH to they will NOT Likely LISTEN to You

REASON Babylon leaders KEPT Daniel – Not Like his Opinions – LIKED HIM!

He would TELL THEM the TRUTH – Whether they wanted to HEAR it or NOT!

Babylonian NAME v. 8 "Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods"

Neb. KNEW Something Special about Daniel – Ch 2 – Told DREAM & Interpret.

Name of Neb's god > But SPIRIT did NOT COME from his god

Babylonian Wise Men who FOLLOWED Neb's god > NOT Speak TRUTH

They did NOT Know the FUTURE > God in Daniel gave him Exceeding WISDOM

HOLY God – DIFFERENT, UNLIKE any we have Ever Seen, UNIQUE God in Daniel

Daniel MODELED what Jesus prayed in John 17 – IN World, but not OF World  
AND he was SENT INTO the World > Declare ONLY TRUE GOD and SAVIOR

DANIEL Risked HIGH POSITION – and his LIFE! – to be Loyal Messenger for God  
TRANSFORMING Power of Word – Seed of Truth planted in Neb.  
WORD grew until FINALLY Compelled Him to BOW Down to True GOD

We may WANT Friends and Family to REPENT more Quickly – God WILL WIN!  
IF Neb – Most Powerful man on Planet – brought LOW before God  
Be CERTAIN NO Person will RESIST Him > All will Bow Knee and Confess Jesus

NOT Easy assignment – Daniel was BOLD...

v. 22 “It is YOU O King, who have grown and become strong

Daniel did MORE than give CORRECT Interpretation of DREAM

Daniel BOLDLY told King he MUST RESPOND and REPENT before God

v. 27 Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity”

DANIEL could NOT Promise Neb his Kingdom would Endure – OR his LIFE!

Daniel CONVINCED the Wisest Thing Neb could do was BOW DOWN before God

Daniel spoke with GREAT INTEGRITY – Loyal Servant, Holy Life, Loving Concern

When God Opened Door > Daniel READY to Speak to Heart of Neb.  
Are you PREPARED for that Day? Do your UNBELIEVING Friends & Family  
See your INTEGRITY, your LOVE for Them, your CONSISTENCY in Christ??  
NOT Perfect but are you HONEST??  
ADMIT you are Sinner, you FAIL and FAIL – Trust the BLOOD of Christ!  
HE is the SAVIOR – He is the RIGHTEOUS One!

Once Arrogant King NEB. BOWS Down to King who LIVES FOREVER  
Neb. finds his True GLORY in SUBMISSION to True and Living God  
And SO WILL YOU!

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