

Chapter 4. – The God of heaven gives and takes away power from kings as he pleases.

The fourth chapter tells the story of how God, the Creator of heaven and earth, first took away King Nebuchadnezzar's great power and then restored it to him after seven years. He again announced this to the king in a dream, and Daniel again interpreted the dream for him. What is remarkable is that this is the personal testimony of the king himself (verses 1, 15-16, 31-34).

The king himself testifies that he became convinced that the Most High God rules over everything. At the same time, the story presents the Most High God as just, because He first warns the king so that he knows what God's punishment will be, namely, loss of judgment and exile from people for seven times (years).

Note: 𐤒𐤕 - 'iddân. pronunciation: id-dawn' (Chaldee); periodic flow; technically *a year* - time.

In spite of strong warnings, after twelve months the king declared that he had accomplished all by his power and glory. Even as he spoke a voice from heaven sounded and pronounced upon him the punishment of which he had been warned. After the lapse of seven years, the king regained his senses and the knowledge that he ruled only with God's approval. *"And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up my eyes unto heaven, and my understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honored him that lives forever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he does according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can restrain his hand, or say unto him, What do you? At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and brightness returned unto me; and my counselors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase."* Da 4:34-37;

All of today's rulers, potentates and politicians should make the fourth chapter of Daniel required reading. But we know why it is otherwise. Let's leave aside the question of why the stump of the tree that symbolizes the kingship of King Nebuchadnezzar is bound with iron and bronze hoops for seven times. It is also interesting to ask how Nebuchadnezzar could reach to the heavens and to the ends of the earth when it was not technically possible in his time? It is likely that the whole

story has overlap to the end of the Babylonian era. Perhaps it awaits its fulfillment according to Rev. 11:7 and 17:8;

Conclusion

A more eloquent and unequivocal message to human governments and rulers could not perhaps be conveyed. If we recall the aforementioned second Psalm, contemporary events in the first third of the 21st century begin to become clear. We see that human rulers are once again blinded by Satan's deceptions spread by his servants. At the same time, we see that God is trying to warn people. "*Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? says the Lord GOD: and not that he should turn from his ways, and live?*" Ezek. 18:23; 33:11;