



The Impossible Deliverance

Often God reveals Himself to us in surprising ways. Sometimes His taps on the shoulder are gentle. A still, small voice within us guides us to right. A persistent conscience convicts us of sin.

There are times when God's voice is loud. He startles us. He interrupts the routine of our lives. He stops us in our tracks. He shakes us up. Our lives seem to be falling apart. Everything seems to be upside down. We may even be in danger of losing the very things we have lived for all our lives. Suddenly, God surprises us. He breaks into our lives in a remarkable way. It happened to King Nebuchadnezzar, and it can happen to you.

Nebuchadnezzar has found the source of inner peace. He has discovered the One who provides internal stability and calm (Isaiah 26:3). He seems to be overflowing with gratitude to God. The heathen king's life has been changed.

Nebuchadnezzar is a changed man – transformed by the grace of God. He must tell his story; he must share the greatness of the God who changed his life. If God changed Nebuchadnezzar, He can change your life too.

It is extremely easy to become complacent when things are going well in our lives. At times, God allows hardship and adversity into our lives to drive us to Him.

In the vision of the tree, Nebuchadnezzar saw the collapse of his own reign as king. The cutting down of the tree represented Nebuchadnezzar's fall from divine favor and loss of his kingdom. For seven years (seven times) the king would experience an insanity which made him think and act like a wild beast.

It's hard to imagine the brilliant, popular king of Babylon wandering around like a wild beast.

Afflicted with temporary insanity, he allowed his nails and hair to grow. He didn't bathe. He felt more at home with the animals than with the royal court.

What a contrast with his former life in the palace! The king hit bottom. His life was a total disaster; it was in absolute ruin. There was no place to look – but up. There was no one to turn to but God.

The judgments of God can be avoided if we repent. It's a dangerous thing to continue in willing disobedience to God. His blessings withdrawn opens our lives to disaster.

Filled with pride, at the height of his power, Nebuchadnezzar fell. What a lesson for us! A failure to acknowledge God in our lives opens us to disaster.

When Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, acknowledged the true God, his understanding returned. The king looked to heaven. He recognized the God of the universe. His life was changed. In a sense, Nebuchadnezzar's story is your story! It is my story! We, too, have fallen from grace. We wander around in a lost condition. We are confused and don't know where to turn.

God invites us to come to Him. In Him we find the security we long for. Life is so fragile. Our jobs, our homes, our marriages, and our health provide little security. They all can be whisked away in a moment. In God, and in God alone, can we find strength and meaning and purpose in our lives.

Would you like to flee to His loving arms today? Would you like to feel His warm embrace and listen to His reassuring voice say, "You are mine. I'll never let you go."?

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| Daniel 4:1 | Nebuchadnezzar is King. |
| Daniel 4:3 | God's Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom. |
| Daniel 4:5-7 | Nebuchadnezzar has a dream that puzzles him. |
| Daniel 4:8 | Daniel comes before the King |
| Daniel 4:10-17 | The purpose of the dream is to reveal God. |
| Daniel 4:18-25 | Daniel gives the interpretation of the dream. |
| Daniel 4:26, 27 | The dream is a warning to the King. |
| Daniel 4:28-31 | The king boasts that his kingdom was built because of his power. |
| Daniel 4:32, 33 | Nebuchadnezzar dwelt with the animals of the field for 7 yrs. |
| Daniel 4:34 | Nebuchadnezzar lifted his eyes toward heaven and gave God honor and glory and his Kingdom was restored unto him. |