

## [A Special Topical Study](#)

### The Book of Daniel "All This I have Built"

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**How can you tell if you are "A Control Freak"?** You know, someone who wants to control every part of their life and everyone else's life?

Let's try this little **knock, knock joke** to illustrate the point: How you can tell if you are a control freak...

**Rob:** Knock, knock.

**Brett:** Who's there?

**Rob:** Control freak. —Now *you* say "**Control freak who?**"

**How much of your life is really under your control?**

- ☞ **Most of us** want to be in some kind of control of our lives...
- ☞ **But how much** of what happens to you is actually under your control?
- ☞ **How much** of your own prosperity is **due to your efforts?**
- ☞ **How many of your trials** are a direct result of your mistakes or do we suffer through trials for some other reason?

Chapter 4 of the Book of Daniel, describes who, How, and Why things in our life happen the way that they do.

**This is a very unusual chapter in the Bible because it was written in the Hebrew Tanakh, by a Gentile, Pagan King, Nebuchadnezzar.**

- ☞ **Can you believe that!** **IN the Hebrew Bible**, a Pagan king, who is a Gentile, has an entire chapter devoted to his words...
- ☞ **It is Nebuchadnezzar's** own personal testimony of what happened to him.

Job had 3 friends, that were miserable comforters, ever had one of those?.

- ☞ **At the end of the Book of Job** that we just completed on Wednesday nights, we learned that nearly everything that Jobs three friends said about God and how He works, was wrong.
- ☞ **At the end of The Book of Job**, The Lord tells Job and all of his friends, that He doesn't have to explain to anyone why He does the things that He does.

### [Isaiah 55:11](#)

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But **it shall accomplish what I please**, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

### [Exodus 33:19](#)

.... I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

**Psalms 50:12**

“If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness

**The Lord doesn't owe us an explanation for why He does what He does.**

☞ **Here in The Book of Daniel chapter 4**, we have Nebuchadnezzar, the most powerful king on the earth, getting a great lesson about pride.

**The last dream Nebuchadnezzar had was in Daniel chapter two, 20 years ago, , about the statue with the head of Gold, etc...**



**Daniel 2:1-33**

1 Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams...

20 Daniel answered and said:

32 This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,

33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

**Daniel 2:36-47**

36 “This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

—you are this head of gold.

39 But **after you shall arise another kingdom** inferior to yours; then another, **a third kingdom of bronze**, which shall rule over all the earth.

40 And **the fourth kingdom** shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him.

47 The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of king

**This statue represented the 4 world wide kingdoms that would come to the earth throughout all of human history.**

**Head of Gold:** Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar

**Chest and Arms of Silver:** Medes/Persians, Cyrus

**Thighs and Legs of Bronze:** Greeks, Alexander the Great.

**Legs of Iron/Feet of Iron and Clay:** Romans, 10 Roman Emperors.

What is amazing is that these are the exact 4 world wide kingdoms that **have come** upon the earth.

- ⊕ **Nebuchadnezzar knowing** that his kingdom was the head of Gold, not wanting his kingdom to ever end, built an entire statue 90 feet tall of Gold.
- ⊕ **In response** to this Nebuchadnezzar then built a statue of himself made of Gold, in defiance of God's proclamation that Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom would end.

### **Daniel 3:1**

Nebuchadnezzar the king made **an image of gold**, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon

**In chapter 4, Nebuchadnezzar is having another dream, 20 years later...**

### **Daniel 4**

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king, **To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth**: Peace be multiplied to you.

**This is his message to the entire world.**

2 I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that **the Most High God** has worked for me.

3 How great are **His signs**,  
And how mighty **His wonders!**  
**His kingdom** is an everlasting kingdom,  
And His dominion is from generation to generation.

4 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in my house, and flourishing in my palace.

5 **I saw a dream which made me afraid**, and the thoughts on my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

6 Therefore I issued a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream.

7 Then the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers came in, and I told them the dream; but they did not make known to me its interpretation.

8 But at last Daniel came before me (his name is **Belteshazzar**, according to the name of my god; in him is the Spirit of the Holy God), and I told the dream before him, saying:

9 "**Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians (Chaldean for Scholar)**, because I know that the Spirit of the Holy God is in you, and no secret troubles you, explain to me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and its interpretation.

10 "These were the visions of my head while on my bed: I was looking, and behold, **A tree** in the midst of the earth, And **its height was great**.

11 The tree grew and became strong; Its height reached to the heavens, And it could be seen to the ends of all the earth.

12 Its leaves were lovely, Its fruit abundant, And in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, The birds of the heavens dwelt in its branches, And all flesh was fed from it.

13 "I saw in the visions of my head while on my bed, and there was **a watcher**, a holy one, coming down from heaven.

14 He cried aloud and said thus: “**Chop down the tree and cut off its branches**, Strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts get out from under it, And the birds from its branches.

15 Nevertheless leave the stump and roots in the earth, Bound with a band of iron and bronze, In the tender grass of the field. Let it be wet with the dew of heaven, And **let him** graze with the beasts On the grass of the earth.

16 Let **his heart** be changed from that of a man, Let him be given the heart of a beast, And **let seven times** pass over him.

17 “This decision is by the decree of **the watchers**, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.’

The “**Watchers**” are the highest order of the Lords beings that were made specifically to “**Watch over**” the affairs of the earth.

- ⊖ **This is why** anything we do that we think no one sees is false. These being are appointed watch everything that happens.
- ⊖ **They report back** to the Lord everything that is seen, heard, and done on the earth.
- ⊖ **There is no such thing** as a “*Secret Sin*”.

#### **Daniel 4**

18 “This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. **Now you, Belteshazzar (Daniel), declare its interpretation**, since all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation; but you are able, for the Spirit of the Holy God is in you.”

We have talked before about the fact that the Bible was not written all at the same time, but is actually 66 Books, written by 40 authors, over thousands of years.

- ⊖ **And surprisingly**, it all is uniform, consistent, and has the same definition for a certain term, that is the same every other place in the Bible.
- ⊖ **For example**, the above dream by Nebuchadnezzar has many “**Coded Words**” and phrases.

1. A Tree.
2. Lovely leaves.
3. Abundant Fruit.
4. Birds and Beasts found shade from it.
5. A Watcher coming down from heaven.
6. A stump with roots.
7. Bound with a Band of Iron and Bronze.
8. His heart changed from that of a man to a heart of an animal,
9. Let “Him”, the tree, graze in the fields with the animals.
10. For 7 Times.

When words hold the same meaning throughout the entire Bible, we call this “**Expositional Constancy**”.

- ⊖ **That term** means that a term found in the Book of Genesis (A Rock for example, a picture of Jesus) will also have the same definition in the Book of Revelation.
- ⊖ **The chances** of 66 Books having this type of Constancy between words and word pictures, **is virtually impossible**, unless...God was the Author.

**A Tree is consistently in the scripture, “A Man”**

**Psalms 1:1-3**

- 1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
- 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.
- 3 **He shall be like a tree** Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither;

**Assyria and Egypt: cedars of Lebanon**

**Ezekiel 31:3**

Indeed Assyria (Babylon) was a cedar in Lebanon, With fine branches that shaded the forest, And of high stature

**Israel: An Olive Tree**

**Romans 11:17**

And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree,

**Daniel 4**

19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for a time, and his thoughts troubled him. So the king spoke, and said, “Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation trouble you.” Belteshazzar answered and said, “My lord, may the dream concern those who hate you, and its interpretation concern your enemies!

- ⊖ **Can you tell anything** about Daniel’s relationship with Nebuchadnezzar from verse 19?

Daniel is not troubled because he could not figure out what the dream was about, Daniel was troubled because He knew what the dream meant, He was trying to figure out how to tell the Babylonian King the Bad news.

- ⊖ **By this time**, Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel had become very close friends.

**Daniel 4**

- 20 **“The tree that you saw**, which grew and became strong, whose height reached to the heavens and which could be seen by all the earth,
- 21 whose leaves were lovely and its fruit abundant, in which was food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and in whose branches the birds of the heaven had their home—
- 22 **it is you, O king**, who have grown and become strong; for your greatness has grown and reaches to the heavens, and **your dominion to the end of the earth.**
- 23 “And inasmuch as the king saw **a watcher, a holy one**, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave its stump and roots in the earth, bound with

a band of iron and bronze in the tender grass of the field; let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let him graze with the beasts of the field, **till seven times pass over him**;

24 this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king:

25 **They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.**

26 “And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump and roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after you come to know that Heaven rules.

27 **Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins** by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity.”

What do we learn from this dream that Nebuchadnezzar had?

- ☞ **We learn that** the phrase “*Seven Times*” shall pass over you, is a code for 7 years shall go by.
- ☞ **When we get the Daniel Chapter 7**, we see that there is a term *For a time and times and half a time*.

**7 times = 7 Years, a ½ time is A Half a Year**

### **Daniel 7:25**

He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his **hand For a time and times and half a time**.

This verse is speaking of the fact that during the last 7 years of this present earth, a man called the “**Anti christ**” will be introduced to the world

- ☞ **Those who did not accept Jesus as their Savior** before the 7 year tribulation began, but now have accepted Jesus in the 7 year tribulation, they shall be given over to the power of this antichrist, and shall be beheaded for their faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Revelation 12:14**

But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for **a time and times and half a time**, from the presence of the serpent

This verse is about the fact that when the antichrist goes into the newly rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, **3 ½ years into the 7 years**, He will command that all the world must worship him as god.

- ☞ **The nation of Israel** will refuse and be attacked by the antichrist.
- ☞ **Israel will flee** into the mountains and go to the Rock fortress of Petra in Jordan.

- ⊖ **This verse in Revelation 12:14** says that once there at Petra, the Lord will nourish and protect Israel from the antichrist for the last 3 1/2 years, until Jesus returns to the earth.

Based on what you know now about what “A Time” is, (7 years) King Nebuchadnezzar will be drive into the fields and live like a cow eating grass **for 7 years**, until he acknowledges that the kingdom and power he has, came by the Lords hand, not his...

- ⊖ **The governments** that are on the earth, were put there by the Lord.
- ⊖ **You may not like** the president or other leaders in the world, byt according to the Bibe, they all exist for the Lords own good purposes.

**Nebuchadnezzar was warned by the Lord, but apparently he did not listen...**

**Daniel 4**

28 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.

29 At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon.

30 The king spoke, saying, **“Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?”**

**Babylon is an incredibly built city**



- ⊖ **The city wall** was 15 miles long per side.
- ⊖ **Babylon** straddled the Euphrates River.
- ⊖ **The river protected** them from attacks of the enemy.
- ⊖ **The Walls** of Babylon were 350 feet high
- ⊖ **87** feet wide.
- ⊖ **250 watchtowers** 450 feet high
- ⊖ **The Banquet Hall** of chapter 5 has been found.
- ⊖ **Saddaam Hussein** rebuilt the palace.
- ⊖ **The hanging Gardens** are still a mystery to engineers today as to how they actually watered it.



**Saddam rebuilt Nebuchadnezzar’s Palace**



29 At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon.

30 The king spoke, saying, “**Is not this great Babylon, that I have built** for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and **for the honor of my majesty**”



**Is there anything wrong with Nebuchadnezzar’s statement?**  
“*Is not this great Babylon, that I have built...*”

**The thing that the Lord seems to dislike more than anything else is Pride.**

**Proverbs 6:16-19**

16 These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to

Him:

17 **1.** A proud look, **2.** A lying tongue, **3.** Hands that shed innocent blood,

18 **4.** A heart that devises wicked plans, **5.** Feet that are swift in running to evil,

19 **6.** A false witness who speaks lies, **7.** And one who sows discord among brethren.

**Discussing each one of these, why do you think the Lord hates them?**

☞ **Number 1 is Pride.** Why do you think the Lord hates pride worse than anything else?

**Isaiah 14:13-14**

13 For you have said in your heart: “**I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God; **I will** also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

14 **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds,

**I will** be like the Most High.’

**James 4:13-14**

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”;

14 whereas **you do not know what will happen tomorrow.** For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

**Pride is at the root cause for any person who will not come to Jesus and surrender their life to Him.**

☞ **This is why the Lord hates Pride** so much, it keeps us from obtaining all that the Lord wants to give us.

**Daniel 4**

31 **While the word was still in the king’s mouth,** a voice fell from heaven: “King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: **the kingdom has departed from you!**

32 And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, **until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.**”

33 That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws.

It is believed that Nebuchadnezzar is suffering from a mental disorder called "Lycanthropy:

- ☞ **(Greek: lykos, "wolf"; anthropos, "Man")**
- ☞ **A Mental disorder** in which the patient believes he is a wolf or some other animal.
- ☞ **It is possible** that Lycanthropy is where the tales of "**Wolf Man**" came from.

### **Daniel 4**

34 And at the end of the time (**7 Years**) I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever:

For **His dominion** is an everlasting dominion,  
And **His kingdom** is from generation to generation.

35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing;  
**He does according to His** will in the army of heaven  
And among the inhabitants of the earth.  
No one can restrain His hand  
Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, **I was restored to my kingdom**, and excellent majesty was added to me.

37 **Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven**, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.

**The Lord may have to wipe out some things in our life, so that our pride is destroyed.**

- ☞ **Trials, heart aches**, destroy our pride and cause a reliance upon the Lord.

**What is your greatest area of weakness? This can be your greatest teacher of humility and destroyer of pride.**

- ☞ What was Nebuchadnezzar's response after the 7 years.
- ☞ What was the results of the 7 years of terrible trials?
- ☞ Do you think Nebuchadnezzar was saved at the end of his life.?
- ☞ We see here the results of God allowing trials.

**There is an account that Daniel is the one that took care of Nebuchadnezzar during this time.**

**Prayer of Nabonidus (The Mad King) Written by The Son of Nebuchadnezzar**  
*This Aramaic text belongs to the famous Dead Sea scrolls: four scraps of parchment from Cave 4, usually called 4Q242, copied from an older original in the second half of the first century BCE. The story is similar to the preceding one: a king of Babylon is ill, lives isolated for seven years and becomes convinced of the truth of the monotheistic creed.*

*There must have circulated a Jewish story about the mad king Nabonidus who went to Temâ to recover his wits, and recognized the supreme God. Two people reworked this original: one of the authors of Daniel changed the name of the monarch, the author of the Prayer changed the illness (to make the story fit Leviticus 13?). The reconstructed story independently confirms two points made by the author of the verse account: Nabonidus suffered from a mental disease and insulted the Babylonian clergy by his monotheistic ideas . This does not prove that Nabonidus was mad, but it makes it extremely plausible that the accusation was very old.*



Words of the prayer, said by Nabonidus, king of Babylonia, the great king, when afflicted with an ulcer on command of the most high God in Temâ:

**'I, Nabonidus, was afflicted with an evil ulcer for seven years, and far from men I was driven, until I prayed to the most high God. And an exorcist pardoned my sins.** He was a Jew from among the children of the exile of Judah, and said: "Recount this in writing to glorify and exalt the name of the most high God." Then I wrote this: "When **I was afflicted for seven years by the most high God** with an evil

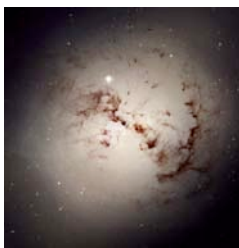
ulcer during my stay at Temâ, I prayed to the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood, stone and lime, because I thought and considered them gods..." *[the end is missing]*

**The Lord is still in control of this Immense Universe and He doesn't need any help from us in running it.**

- ⊞ **Nothing is going to happen** to you in your life unless the Lord wills it or allows it to happen.

This past week, Astronomers were shocked and amazed as they have been gazing deeper into the Universe.

- ⊞ **Just 5 years ago** astronomers were only looking at a few thousand galaxies, today they are looking deeper into space than anyone ever imagined possible, thanks to more powerful telescopes.
- ⊞ **Scientist have discovered** a fast moving dust cloud that has a mass 1 million times the mass of the Sun.



- ⊞ **This massive cloud** of cosmic dust is swallowing up everything in its path as it moves closer to earth everyday.
- ⊞ **It is 47 Quadrillion miles away**, but it is moving towards earth at 150 miles per second, or 541,000 miles per hour.
- ⊞ **In just 190 hours**, it moves the distance the Sun is from the earth.

- ⊞ **Don't worry too much though**, the Universe is so huge that it will take this massive dust cloud 40 million years to reach us.

**Who controls all of this?**

**The one who made the earth and the Heavens, and he give power and dominion to whomever He sees fit, for the purpose He desires...**