



# DANIEL



## Chapter 4

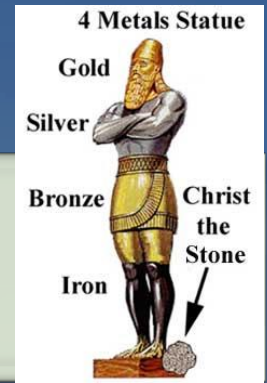
# Nebuchadnezzar's Pride

# All 3 Colossal Things are Flawed

Chapter 2

Dream Image of Man

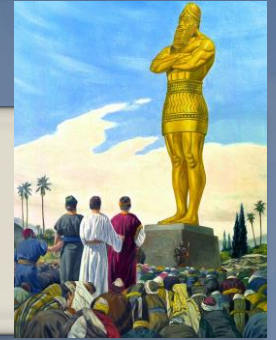
Realm of Politics



Chapter 3

Actual Image of Man

Realm of Power



Chapter 4

Tree

Realm of Beauty



# All 3 Colossal Things Fail

2

**Dream Image**

**Politics  
Fails**

3

**Actual Image**

**Power  
Fails**

4

**Tree**

**Beauty  
Fails**

# CHAPTER 4 – BREAK DOWN

- 1) Nebuchadnezzar the Builder vs. 1-8
- 2) Daniel the Challenger vs. 9-27
- 3) God the Humbler vs. 28-37



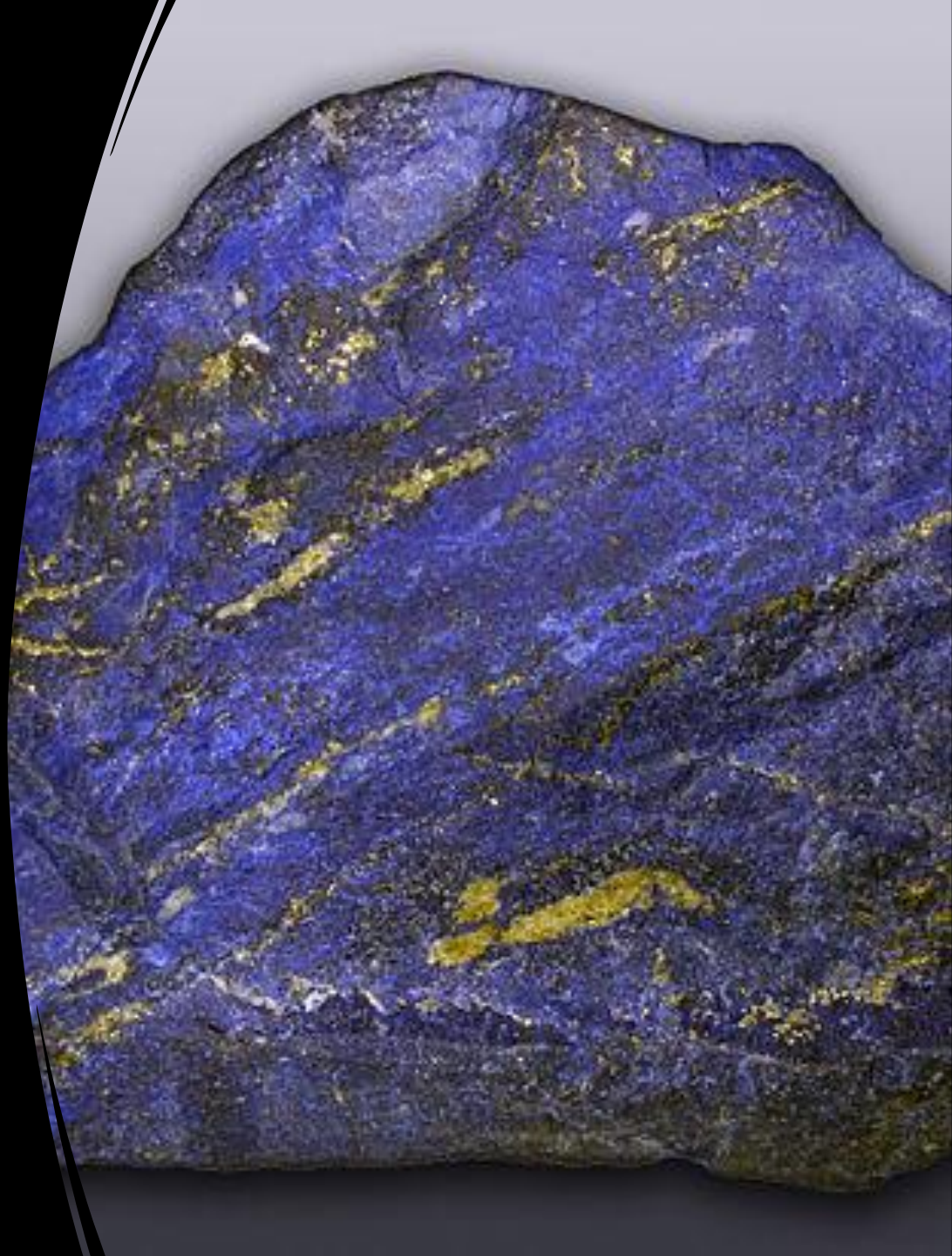
# NEBCHADNEZZER THE BUILDER vs. 1-8

- Nebuchadnezzar was a builder in many ways:
  1. He built an Empire.
    - Out of the tatters of Assyria and in competition with Egypt he built an empire that lasted some 70 years.
  2. He built a Culture.
    - Known as the Neo-Babylonian culture to historians.
  3. He built a Government System.
    - Educated and multi-racial, his administration was second to none.
  4. He built a City - Babylon.
    - He glorified and beautified it; the famous “Hanging Gardens of Babylon” are among the 7 Wonders of the ancient world.
    - Ishtar gate – Lapis Lazuli.

# Lapis Lazuli

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A deep-blue metamorphic rock used as a semi-precious stone that has been prized since antiquity for its intense color.

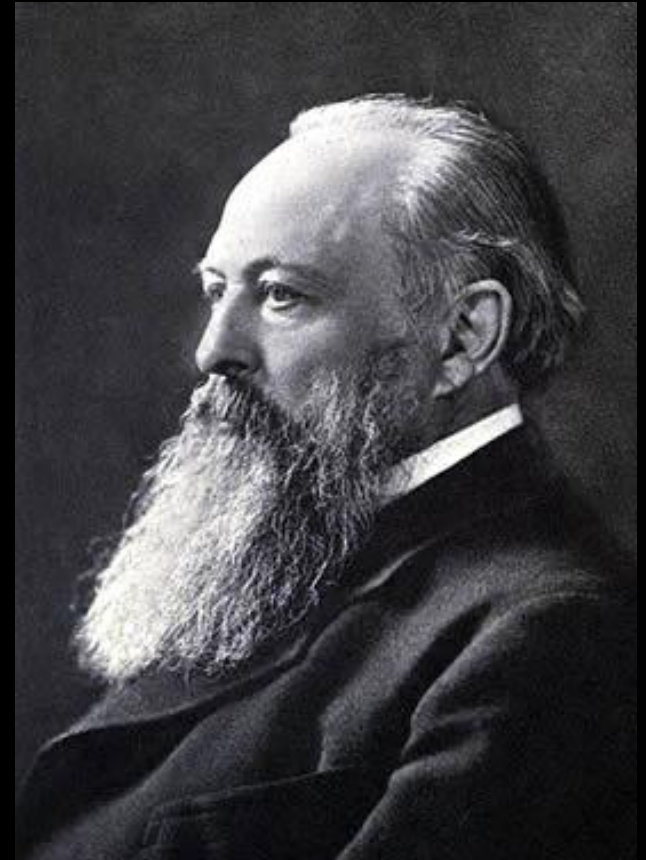


# NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S PRIDE

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- From all this, Nebuchadnezzar's pride was staggering – he even had delusions of divinity.
- "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men."

John Edward Acton



## NEBCHADNEZZER THE BUILDER vs. 1-8

- Much of what he had built was good – excellent in fact.
- But he neglected the moral side of what he had done.
- The ends DO NOT justify the means.
- He had built beautiful and strong things that provided for his nation, but he had done it on the backs of the oppressed, with their blood sweat and tears!



## NEBCHADNEZZER THE BUILDER vs. 1-8

- His desire to produce the BEAUTY consumed him:
  - *“I was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace.”* vs. 4
  - *“Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?”* vs. 30

## NEBCHADNEZZER THE BUILDER vs. 1-8

- So, without morality in the equation – God would cut him down, like the tree in his dream.
- Beauty with out Morality will ultimately be cut down – ex. Lucifer himself.
- What theme can be more contemporary than this one? This world that seeks to create a:

Virtual Reality

# DANIEL THE CHALLENGER vs. 9-27

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Two interesting features of Daniel's response to the king:

Pastoral  
Concern

Prophetic  
Courage

# DANIEL THE CHALLENGER vs. 9-27

## 1. Pastoral Concern:

– Daniel faithfully served the man who had:

- Destroyed his homeland.
- Devastated his city.
- Deported his people.

– The exiles wondered if they could even pray in Babylon let alone pray for Babylon.

- *“By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion....shall we sing the LORD’s song in a foreign land?” Ps 137:1–4*



# DANIEL THE CHALLENGER vs. 9-27

## 1. Pastoral Concern:

- Put yourself in Daniel's shoes, listening to a dream in which the king gets chopped down, driven out to eat grass with the cattle, God pronounces divine judgment upon him.
- Wouldn't you have inwardly cheered?
- But Daniel was dismayed at the king's dream. He couldn't speak. He couldn't bear to tell the king. He could only express a forlorn wish, that the dream applied to Nebuchadnezzar's enemies.

# DANIEL THE CHALLENGER vs. 9-27

## 1. Pastoral Concern:

- Daniel had gone beyond malice and vengeance and took no pleasure in the destruction of the wicked.
- The mark of a man acquiring God’s mindset.
  - *“As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.”* Ezk. 33:11

# DANIEL THE CHALLENGER vs. 9-27

## 1. Pastoral Concern:

– But the Lord’s instruction to Israel was clear:

- *“Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ...the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” Jer. 29:4&7*

# DANIEL THE CHALLENGER vs. 9-27

## 1. Pastoral Concern:

– Much as Christ instructed us:

- *“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic.” Lk. 6:27-29*

– Handling pride in ourselves is a sign of maturity.

– Handling pride in others is a sign of godliness.



# DANIEL THE CHALLENGER vs. 9-27

## 2. Prophetic Courage:

- It took courage for Daniel to say to the most powerful man on the world:
  - *“You are that tree”* v. 22
- But Daniel went even further and put his finger on the sore spot of Babylon’s imperial glory, human oppression and exploitation:
  - *“break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed”* vs. 27

# DANIEL THE CHALLENGER vs. 9-27

## 2. Prophetic Courage:

- Daniel had the courage to call the king both to personal repentance and to social reform.
- It's the same national plea Peter makes to the Jews:
  - *“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out...”* Acts 3:19
- A call for repentance and a change in behavior.

# DANIEL THE CHALLENGER vs. 9-27

## 2. Prophetic Courage:

- Finally, Daniel had the opportunity to speak to the king because of hard work in a government office.
- He earned the respect of the king and the right to speak, and when the moment came, he had the courage to speak it in the Name of God.
- Yes, we should all “*do the work of an evangelist*”  
2 Tim. 4:5,
- Often the hard part is earning the right to do so.

# GOD THE HUMBLER vs. 28-37

- God gave Nebuchadnezzar a whole year to act.
  - *“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Pet. 3:9*
- But he would not.
  - Pride led to insanity.
  - Its insanity to think we can live as we want.
  - But an attack of humility will lead to sanity.



# GOD THE HUMBLER vs. 28-37

- Nebuchadnezzar got 2 things wrong:
- *“Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?” vs.30*
  1. He thought he was the SOURCE of the GENIUS.  
GOD WAS THE SOURCE
  2. He thought his building reflected HIS MAJESTY.  
IT REFLECTED GOD’S MAJESTY

# GOD THE HUMBLER vs. 28-37

- The Serpent in the garden got 2 things wrong:
- “...when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”vs.30

1. He told Eve that she could have the SOURCE of knowledge. “*your eyes will be opened*”

**GOD IS THE SOURCE KNOWLEDGE**

2. He told Eve that she could have God’s MAJESTY. “*be like God*”

**GOD’S MAJESTY IS HIS ALONE**

# GOD THE HUMBLER

vs. 28-37

- Nebuchadnezzar thought like the Serpent, an animal.
- Thus, God made him like animal.





# GOD THE HUMBLER vs. 28-37

- But Nebuchadnezzar, after 7 years, testifies:
  - *“I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven”* vs34
- He repented and Glorified God in 3 ways:
  1. *“I blessed the Most High...for His dominion is an everlasting dominion”* vs. 34 – **THE RULE IS GOD’S**
  2. *“He does according to His will...and none can stay his hand.”* vs. 35 – **AUTHORITY IS GOD’S**
  3. *“My majesty and splendor returned to me. I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me.”* vs. 36 – **BEAUTY IS FROM AND FOR GOD**



# All 3 Colossal Things Fail

2

**Dream Image**

**Politics  
Fails**

3

**Actual Image**

**Power  
Fails**

4

**Tree**

**Beauty  
Fails**

# What did the King Learn?

Without God

2

Politics  
Fails

3

Power  
Fails

4

Beauty  
Fails

With God

2

Rule is  
Restored

vs.34

3

Authority  
is Restored

vs. 35

4

Beauty is  
Restored

vs. 36

# GOD THE HUMBLER

vs. 28-37

To whom did  
Nebuchadnezzar  
testify?

*“...to all peoples,  
nations, and  
languages, that  
dwell in all the  
earth” vs. 1*



# CHAPTER 4

- This chapter introduces a major theme of the book – **The animal behavior of man.**
- This world drives us to act like animals.
- Indeed, many teach that there is no difference between animals and man.
- They say man is an animal.
- But God makes it clear that **REASON TOWARD GOD'S REVELATION IS THE DIFFERENCE.**

