

## Was Nebuchadnezzar Saved?

Daniel 4:1-37

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1980 (Rev. 84,02,04,11)

**Introduction:** There is great question that comes to mind after reading this account of Nebuchadnezzar's experience.

It is interesting that the phrase "break off" (Dan. 4:27) means "to redeem, in the sense of to compensate, to atone, or to reconcile."<sup>1</sup> The king was admonished to redeem his sins of pride by acts of righteousness.

"Did Nebuchadnezzar get saved from his experience of insanity?"

Notice the statements Nebuchadnezzar makes about God and his understanding of God.

**1. He understood who God is.** (Dan. 4:37)

He stated he recognized, the "Most High," the one "who lives forever," (Dan. 4:34), and "the King of Heaven."

**2. He humbled himself before God.** (Dan 4:34)

He "lifted up his eyes to heaven."

**3. He sensed God's blessings.** (Dan. 4:34)

He "blessed" the Most High God.

**4. He gave God His proper worth.** (Dan. 4:34)

He "praised" the Lord.

**5. He honored God.** (Dan. 4:34)

He gave "honored" the Lord.

**6. He understood God's sovereignty.** (Dan. 4:34-35)

He said, "His dominion is an everlasting dominion," and "He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth."

**7. He realized God is in control.** (Dan. 4:35)

He stated, "No one can restrain His hand, or say to Him, what have you done?"

**8. He knew God's ways are true and just.** (Dan. 4:37).

He said of God, "all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice."

**9. He saw man's frailty in light of God.** (Dan. 4:37)

He acknowledged the temporary nature of man's domain by saying, "those who walk in pride He is able to put down."

**Conclusion:** What is your viewpoint concerning his salvation? There are basically three views: (1.) Many conservative commentators believe the king fell short of true conversion (Leupold, Calvin, Keil); (2.) A few commentators think Nebuchadnezzar did get saved because of the testimony "Now I Nebuchadnezzar..." (Young, Unger); and (3.) Whatever really happened, Nebuchadnezzar reaches a new level of spiritual awareness. What the king does say in view of his pagan background is very remarkable.<sup>2</sup>

### END NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Commentary on Daniel, Harry Bultema, Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1988, p. 143

<sup>2</sup>A Commentary on Daniel, Leon Wood, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976, p. 127; Daniel, John Walvoord, Chicago: Moody, 1975, p. 95,112; Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament, Merrill Unger, Chicago: Moody, 1981, p. 1630; Prophecy of Daniel, Edward Young, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1949, p. 113-114