

Daniel 19 – True Repentance

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Daniel 4:1-3

Prologue: Transitioning to Salvation

- Furnace miracle transitions to the next miracle: Nebuchadnezzar's salvation
 - God could have used a any method to cause Nebuchadnezzar's salvation: speaking from a bright light (Paul); personal appearance that would have overwhelmed him (Daniel; John) or even a still small voice (Elijah; you or I) (18:179-18:00 18:18; AC 17:18; 18:10-18)
 - God used a unique means to remove Nebuchadnezzar from power for seven years so that he would not have been considered a threat; i.e., God preserved his physical life (First Death) and his soul (Second Death)
 - God has been preparing him to become the only leader to be saved; i.e., the true head of gold
 - Nebuchadnezzar is in sharp contrast to Pharaoh who was not saved; Nebuchadnezzar is a sign of the coming Time of the Gentiles, First Fruits Dispensation, until the Jews are driven to zealotry and return to God (14:1402; 18:174-18:11,11,20)

Nebuchadnezzar's Final Edict God Exists

- It has been at least eight years since the Plain of Dura (Image) incident though it could have been longer
 - Nebuchadnezzar was out of commission for seven years plus one
 - Nebuchadnezzar had to re-establish his authority; not on Marduk but on God
- This edict preamble begins similarly to the Plain of Dura edict (10:129-30)
 - "To all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth"; the language implies he is writing to all kingdoms; however, this phrase was defined during the Plain of Dura incident; Referred to his bureaucracy (10:171-18:41)
 - Previously he threatened death to all who did not worship him; now, he offers peace to everyone based on God; This incident **changed** him (10:129-1)
 - Hallmark of salvation: Changed nature that seeks God; gsebeia to gsebeia (10:171)

Nebuchadnezzar's Declarations of God – Analyzed



- Nebuchadnezzar declared God as God three times; we will analyze them to learn their differences using hermeneutics and scripture
- Two – **Strengthened** (#2) Message of unbelief; Nebuchadnezzar realized something astounding occurred which he cannot ignore; these do not save him; Signs alone do not bring salvation (Jc 101-102; 103-104)
 - God reveals mysteries – When Christ establishes His kingdom, He reveals all mysteries; Christ in you, the hope of glory; New Covenant (24:24; 25:10; 26:13; 27:12; 28:13; 29:14; 30:15)
 - God delivers – Nebuchadnezzar referred to physical death, first death; salvation refers to the second death, Lake of Fire (Jc 103:4-5; 104:20)
- One – **God Complete in Self** (#1) Message of Belief; God awakened Nebuchadnezzar to life to proclaimed hope to the Gentiles; Mission of Israel
- Three – **Completeness with God only** by God; cf. Pharaoh (Jc 114-20)

Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar: Signs from God

- Pharaoh (Egypt) a sign that unbelievers seek to enslave or destroy God's elect; Great Tribulation (Jc 113-24)
- Nebuchadnezzar (Gentiles) a sign that God will bring salvation to Gentiles when Jews reject him; First Fruits Dispensation
 - John the Baptist – Warned Jews to prepare to face God's wrath or bear fruits showing true repentance (Jc 89-113; 27-41)
 - Christ – Proclaimed His Messiahship at Nazareth but was rejected; He informed them that salvation had come to Gentiles when Jews rejected Him (Jc 41; 42)
 - Eljah sent only to a Gentile woman saving her during God's three year famine
 - Elsha healed only a Gentile of leprosy instead of Jews who had leprosy
 - God saved Nebuchadnezzar instead of Jews because of their rejection of Him



Did God Forsake His People: No – They Forsook Him

- Jews were to be an example of a godly people to the world; instead, they were an example of an apostate people who rejected God; worse (Jc 69-113)
 - They were to be the crowning jewel of God's Peace; apostasy brings no peace
 - They killed the prophets and God promised to scatter them; Babylonian exile was a taste of the indefinite exile to come (Jc 25:11; 26:20-25)
 - Ezekiel, exilic prophet, spoke of an indeterminate exile to come from which the Jews would be recalled to witness during Great Tribulation (Jc 113; 42)
 - Paul details that during this time Gentiles would be saved until the Jews, driven to zealotry for God, awaken to repent; but, not all Jews (Jc 7:48; 11:11-12; 25:25)
 - Satan and Lost Jews and Gentiles do not understand that the flesh was never designed for eternity; flesh must be destroyed with this creation (Jc 63-65; 101-103; 105)



Peace with God: Mainstay of Salvation

- Nebuchadnezzar's edict confesses **peace** between God **and** people rather than threats of death as previously; sinners only promise death (24:8)
- With sin there is **no** peace with God exhibited from Cain onward (24:23-27, 43P, 46-51)
- Sinners always reject God and His people: Ungodly (atebela) (24:17-32, 2:10-18)
- When Messiah was born in the flesh, angels proclaimed He came to bring peace to those who want peace: Salvation (eusebela) (24:2:13-14)
- Christ did not to save the righteous people; He came to save sinners who hated Him, and God, because of His own purpose and election (24:33-32, 46:54-55, 59:1-2:14)
- When God recalls the Jews it is for His name's sake and not because they are righteous; they repent when **He** gives them hearts of flesh (25:34:22-26, 29:12:12)
- He will separate the Jews of the Law from the Jews of His Promise (24:42:21)



Nebuchadnezzar Understands His Dream: God's Kingdom not Man's

- Nebuchadnezzar recognized his salvation flowed from God's signs and wonders; each salvation is a miracle evidenced by repentance and peace
 - Nebuchadnezzar **finally** had his request answered; what would come after him (24:23:30, 44:45)
 - Previously a lost Nebuchadnezzar focused on his legacy, forcing everyone to acknowledge **his** greatness or die
 - Saved Nebuchadnezzar focused on God's coming kingdom that will replace **all** kingdoms bringing true peace on earth; including his kingdom (24:2:13-14)
 - Nebuchadnezzar is **now** a prophet of God; i.e., proclaiming God's truth (24:12:57)
- While lost Jews made a home in Babylon, God saved their conqueror to drive them to zealotness for God; Presaging First Fruits Dispensation (24:48:12)



Answered Prayer Requires Preparation

- Christians expect immediate gratification when they pray their wants
 - In God's **present** perspective, prayers are answered immediately
 - However, we may need to be prepared to understand the answer which may take years (25:35:8, 46:21-3)
 - Thus, Christ came in the fullness of time, when God had made man ready (26:13:14)
 - Just as God brought Nebuchadnezzar through three trials to prepare him to understand the answer to his request; God does the same to us for **our** growth
- This requires Christians to wait patiently on the Lord to be renewed in His Spirit and molded according to His eternal purpose: Are you waiting in faith or in impatient anger against God? (25:40:1, 42:120-24)
 - Immature Christians demand answers now making them easy prey for false Teachers who will tell them what they want to hear to lead them astray (27:3:12, 42:4)