

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study # 7: Daniel 4 – Two Evil Twins of Death
 Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

“Troublous times are right upon us. The signs of the times reveal that the day of the Lord is soon to come. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. **Men possessed by demons are killing men and women and little children.** The taking of human life is a matter of daily occurrence. All these things testify that the end of all things is at hand. The powers of earth are stirred with an intensity from beneath; and the Lord sends to His people the warning, ‘Heaven and earth shall pass away; but My word shall not pass away. And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come on you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.’ ” Ellen White, *The Nearness of The End*, Union Conference Record (Australian), *January 15, 1904*.

Daniel chapter 2 quick review

Main theme: Raise and fall of earthly kingdoms. Last kingdom: Jesus King, his kingdom will last forever!

Image dream and interpretation:

Head of Gold = Babylon (605 to 539 BC)

Arms and Breast of Silver = Medes and Persian (539 to 331 BC)

Belly and Thighs of Brass = Greece (331 to 168 BC)

Leg of Iron = Pagan Rome (168 BC to 476 AD)

Feet of part iron and clay = Divided Europe (476 AD to present)

Stone = Everlasting Kingdom

Remember: Daniel has 12 chapters, but are divided into two halves.

- 1st half Daniel (Chapters 1 – 6) the life lessons from Daniel 1 through 6 are vitally important for these last days because they teach us how to practically overcome opposition, sin, selfishness, pride and to be victorious in Jesus Christ.
- 2nd half (Chapters 7 – 12) are prophecies built from prophecy and life's lessons in Daniel chapter 2 using the “repeat and enlarge” method of teaching.

King Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 4

Remember, King Nebuchadnezzar was only the second king of the New Babylonian kingdom. He was an extremely ambitious and pompous with the goal making Babylon great again. God sent Nebuchadnezzar messages of love and warning and personally witness the power and the glory of God through the witness of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, captives from Judah. He witnessed the bravery of these young men who took a faithful stand not to defile themselves with the king’s food or wine. He was amazed at their intellect and wisdom in which they were found ten times smarter than all the “wise men” of Babylon. He experienced the power of God when Daniel was able to reveal his dream and interpret it. He heard God’s message loud and clear that Babylon and the other earthly kingdoms will not last forever and that God will set up an everlasting kingdom. He was shocked in amazement when the three Hebrew young men, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, that he threw in the fire for not bowing down to the image that he had made did not burn. He saw Jesus, the

Messiah, in the fire with them! The three young Hebrew men were able to turn that fiery furnace into a fiery pulpit to testify of the power and glory of God to Nebuchadnezzar and all the leadership of Babylon!

What did Nebuchadnezzar say about God after he witnessed the power and glory of God for himself?

After he tested God's four witnesses:

Daniel 1:20

20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

After the revealing of his dream and its interpretation:

Daniel 2:47

47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

After he saw Jesus and the three young men walking in the midst of the fiery furnace:

Daniel 3:28-29

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

29 Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because **there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.**

Nebuchadnezzar witnessed the TRUTH. He heard the call of repentance from the TRUTH. He recognized the TRUTH, but he did not answer the call to abide in the TRUTH. **He allowed his PRIDE to keep him from opening the door of his heart to the TRUTH. Nebuchadnezzar at this time was NOT converted to the TRUTH and did not submit himself to God.**

Two Evil Twins: Pride and Idolatry

Even though Nebuchadnezzar witnessed the power of God, His TRUTH, was not willing to give up his PRIDE and idol worship. Nebuchadnezzar and the kingdom of Babylon like many nations were deep in idolatry.

Today many professed Christian still struggle with pride and idolatry! Pride leads to idolatry and idolatry feeds pride. They attract each other. If you have pride, you are involved in idol worship. If you are involved in idol worship, you have pride. They fit like hand and glove. They are two twins that lead to eternal death!

Pride

Proverbs 16:18

18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Pride (Hebrew) – gâ'ôn [gaw-ohn'] = arrogancy, swelling (Strong's Hebrew)

Arrogance = "offensive display of superiority or self-importance; overbearing pride."

Galatians 6:3

3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

Pride deceives us into thinking that we are more than we are. We are all made a little lower than the angels. We were made in the image of God to glorify God! We were not made in image of God to glory self. From the very beginning of time we have always depended on God for our life and survival. Without sunshine, air, water, and food that can only come from the Creator NOT one human being on this earth would survive.

Pride deceives the mind that you have power to survive without God.**John 15:5**

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for **without me ye can do nothing.**

Pride deceives the mind into thinking you are a god that is superior or equal to God the Creator. God, Elohim is Lord, self-existing. Elohim has always existed.

Pride is the reason why Lucifer, now known as Satan was kicked out of Heaven. He thought of himself more than he was. He was a creation of God, not god.

Isaiah 14:13-14

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

This is the deceptive power of PRIDE. Can a created being ever be equal to or higher than God, the creator of ALL things? NO. Impossible! This like a child believing that they gave themselves life or being that he is the mother! Impossible!

Pride centers on "I". Pride is self worship. I is the center of sIn!

Pride leads to Idol worship and Idol worship feeds PRIDE!**Deuteronomy 4:39**

39 Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.

Isaiah 45:5

5 I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded [equipped/clothed] thee, though thou hast not known me.

The Lord HE is GOD and there is NONE ELSE (period). God hates pride and idol worship because it elevates humans in a position in their imaginations where it ought not to be. Idol worship = Humanism

Pride focuses on satisfying the lust of the flesh. Idol worship also focuses on the lust of the flesh, but with the assurance of an immediate and future reward from self, something, and someone.

Idol worship also centers on "I" and self. Idol worship is the WORSHIP or service of SELF and the IMAGINATIONS of the prideful hearts of men! This is the reason why idol worship is also known as image worship. Instead of serving the image of God, idol worshiper bow to the image or imaginations of man!

Humans are NOT God and never can be God. They cannot create a god that has real power like God. If it does not have the power of God, it can never be God. **It is only the figment of the imagination!** It does not matter how much they think, imagine and can dream up, their image of themselves, others, or things as gods are NOT REAL and cannot and never will exist.

Idol worship are movies of the human mind that is inspired by Satan! Movies are simply images displayed to the human mind that has a story-line.

All pagan gods were attached to a story-line that came from human imaginations. They were literally thousands! Many of the stories had gods that had “supernatural” or “superhuman” powers. In some cases images were carved out of the god to represent the story. In many cases throughout the centuries these stories of their gods were reenacted through actors (pretenders) on a theater stage. The Greeks and the Roman were very famous for the entertainment of telling the story of their gods on a theater stage. All these stories fed the pride and lust of others and encouraged their continual worship and service.

Many of modern “movies” today are nothing but the reenactment of stories of the many “gods” of this lustful world. Did you know that ALL the “superhero” movies are depicting stories of gods in which many come from the stories of the gods of the Greeks and Romans, such as Batman, Superman, Spiderman, Black Panther, and a great many of others?

In “superhero” movies humans are elevated greater than their ability. They are ALL humans given supernatural “powers” to do things that cannot normally be done. In many cases they go from human to an animal like figure like a black panther, spider, tiger, wolverine, or bat with super powers to “save others.” **The story line of superhero gods is the imagination of men inspired by Satan and his evil demons. It is a mockery of Jesus. They are ALL an abomination to God!**

Jesus did the opposite of the mockery and the abomination of these “superhero” movies. Jesus who is God, supreme, ALL powerful, humbled himself and clothed himself with the feeble flesh of man to save us from eternal death!

Philippians 2:5-8

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

God’s people should have NOTHING to do with any of Satan’s movies, especially his “superhero” movies. But it is sad to report that a great majority of the professed people of God are seduced, watch, and encourage others to watch Satan’s foolishness!!! This is the wine of Babylon!

Example of a corp SDA church promoting member to see “Black Panther” (Show picture and ad on facebook of Mt. Rubidoux SDA Church promotion of church outing to see Black Panther at movie theater:

[https://www.facebook.com/mtrubidoux/photos/a.10153446799945647.1073741828.256876710646/10160254814810647/?type=3&theater\)](https://www.facebook.com/mtrubidoux/photos/a.10153446799945647.1073741828.256876710646/10160254814810647/?type=3&theater)

2 Timothy 3:4 (Last days perilous times are here!)

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.

1 John 2:15-16

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

God abhors all forms of idol worship! Remember there is NO other god.

The reason why human love watching sports because it feeds the pleasure centers of flesh with a superficial “high” and “low” like addictive drugs. The spectators love to watch men and women do extraordinary “superhuman” things that they themselves imagine that they can do or strive to do themselves to get the accolades and praise of others.

What is God’s first commandment?**Exodus 20:3**

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

“Before” in the context means above or in the face of his presence. The first commandment is not a ranking system in which many believe. God does not want us to bring or invite any of the world’s gods before his presence! This is an abomination. **God is not like human imaginations nor can he be compared to gold and silver!**

Acts 17:29

29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

The true remnant people of God must allow Him to remove ALL Pride and ALL forms of idol worship out of our lives.**Romans 12:3**

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

James 4:6

6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Proverbs 8:13

13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate

King Nebuchadnezzar who had a pride and idol worship problem gives us his testimony in Daniel 4 of how God helped him get rid of his pride problem and truly be converted in the likeness of God character.

How does King Nebuchadnezzar start his testimony that reveals that his was truly converted to TRUTH?**Daniel 4:1-3**

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

- 2 I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me.
 3 How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.

The king has another dream!

In **Daniel 4:4 – 17** King Nebuchadnezzar describes another dream that he had. This time he remembered the context of the dream but did not understand the meaning of the dream. He called on his sorcerers, magicians, and soothsayers to interpret the dream. Yes, these were the same ones he was going to kill in Daniel 2. But of course they could not do it. Finally, Daniel arrived. And he told Daniel what he saw in the dream.

Saw a large tree in the midst of the earth that was of great height that reached the heavens. It was full of leaves and fruit. Many birds, animals, and people found shelter and ate the food from the tree.

Then what did king Nebuchadnezzar hear and see?

Daniel 4:13-15

- 13 I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven;
 14 He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches:
 15 Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth:

What is a band of iron and brass? Was it a ring of iron and brass wrapped around the stump?

“Band” (Chaldee) = **imprisonment** – Strong’s Dictionary

A prison to house inmates or an enclosure to protect the city from intruders were made of brass gates and iron bars!

An example of the brass gates and iron bars:

Isaiah 45:2

- 2 I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:

The stump in king Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was enclosed in like a prisoner surrounded by iron bars with a locked brass gate. (Show picture)

Daniel 4:16-17

- 16 Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him.
 17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

What was Daniel's reaction when he heard the dream?

Daniel 4:19

19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.

What was the interpretation of the dream that troubled Daniel so much?**Daniel 4:20-26**

20 The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth;

21 Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation:

22 It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.

23 And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass [**imprisonment – in the midst of bars and gate of iron and brass**], in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be 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 is come upon my lord the king:

25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times (**Chaldean = literal year = 7 years**) shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

26 And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule.

What was Daniel's appeal to King Nebuchadnezzar after he gave the interpretation of the dream?**Daniel 4:27**

27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.

What is Jesus' appeal to us today? Harden not your hearts!**Hebrews 3:12-15**

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

What was the king's response?**Daniel 4:28-30**

28 All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.

29 At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

What was God's response?**Daniel 4:31-33**

31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

What are the results of pride?

Pro 16:18 Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Pro 18:12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour *is* humility.

Isa 2:11 The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Isa 2:12 For the day of the LORD of hosts *shall be* upon every *one that is* proud and lofty, and upon every *one that is* lifted up; and he shall be brought low:

How is spiritual Babylon described in Revelation 18? What will happen Babylon and those in it?**Revelation 18:7-8**

7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

What is the warning to those in Babylon now?**Revelation 18:1-2**

1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

All those filled with pride are in Babylon, confusion by mixing truth and error - it does not matter your profession, religion, or denominational affiliation.

What does Jesus say in verse 4?**Revelation 18:4**

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

What is the conclusion of king Nebuchadnezzar's testimony?**Daniel 4:34-37**

34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.

37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

**What keeps some people from making a FULL surrender to God's Bible TRUTH?
PRIDE!**

In order to make a full surrender to God we MUST let God remove our PRIDE and give us the gift of humility!

Appeal....