



Daniel

1

Nebuchadnezzar's Confession of Faith

- Most of this chapter is a first-person account written by Nebuchadnezzar.

2

Nebuchadnezzar's Confession of Faith

- The chapter begins with a powerful confession of faith by Nebuchadnezzar in the Most High God and then details how this came to be.
 - This confession was addressed to and therefore would be distributed throughout the known world.
 - The Most High God is presented as actively working in this world.
 - The Most High God has a kingdom that will endure forever.

3

Nebuchadnezzar's Confession of Faith

- The Setting
 - Nebuchadnezzar was at a place in his reign of peace and prosperity.
 - Nebuchadnezzar had another dream.
 - This time he told the other counselors the dream, but they could not or would not interpret it.
 - Daniel was called to give the interpretation.
 - "in whom is the spirit of the holy gods"

4

Nebuchadnezzar's Confession of Faith

- The Dream
 - A large and fruitful tree which provided in every way for everything and everyone.
 - A proclamation was made
 - That the tree be cut down, the branches cut off, the leaves stripped away, the fruit scattered
 - The birds and animals using the tree for provision and refuge fled away

5

Nebuchadnezzar's Confession of Faith

- The Dream
 - A proclamation was made
 - The stump and roots were left, and the stump bound with a band of iron and bronze
 - The stump was to be open to the elements
 - The stump's mind would be changed from a man's to one of a beast for seven periods of time
 - The purpose is that all the living would know that the Most High reigns and assigns the rulers of the earth

6

Nebuchadnezzar's Confession of Faith

- The interpretation
 - Daniel was greatly troubled by the dream and what he knew to be the interpretation.
 - He began with an attempt to prepare Nebuchadnezzar that the interpretation would be difficult to hear.
 - Nebuchadnezzar is that tree.
 - He will be reduced to the mental and behavioral state of an animal.

7

Nebuchadnezzar's Confession of Faith

- The interpretation
 - Seven times would indicate that the duration would be sufficient to accomplish the purpose of bringing Nebuchadnezzar to the place of knowing who rules this world.
 - Daniel ended with a plea of Nebuchadnezzar to bring his behavior in line with the rule of the Most High God and thus continue in the prosperity he now enjoyed.

8

Nebuchadnezzar's Confession of Faith

- The fulfillment
 - After one year as Nebuchadnezzar was contemplating his greatness, the events unfolded as foretold.

9

Nebuchadnezzar's Confession of Faith

- The fulfillment
 - At the end of this time Nebuchadnezzar proclaimed his confession of faith in the Most High.
 - Acknowledged the Most High as one who lives forever
 - His kingdom endures forever
 - There is no comparison between his being and the inhabitants of the earth
 - He exercises His will both in heaven and on earth
 - There is no power or authority greater than the Most High

10

Nebuchadnezzar's Confession of Faith

- The restored king
 - All that had been lost was restored and more
 - Gained insights into the character of the Most High
 - The King of heaven
 - His works are right
 - His ways are just
 - He is able to humble those who are prideful

11

Lessons

- We must stay alert in times of peace and prosperity.
- God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. (see James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5)
- God loves us enough to do whatever it takes to bring us from where we are to where we need to be.
- God is actively overseeing the affairs of this world.
- God acts with purpose consistent with His character.

12
