

Nebuchadnezzar's Madness

Daniel 4

by Don Falkos

copyright 2018 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

King Nebuchadnezzar told Daniel about a frightening dream he had had. "I saw a tree at the center of the earth – tall and strong. It could be seen from anywhere on the earth. It produced abundant fruit – enough for everyone to eat. Wild animals enjoyed its shade, and birds nested in its branches.

"Then a holy messenger came down from heaven to say,

Cut down the tree, cut off its branches,
strip off its leaves, and scatter its fruit!
Let the wild animals flee from its shelter!
Let the birds abandon its branches!
But leave the stump with its roots in the ground.
Let him become like a wild animal for seven years.
And know this: The Most High rules all!"

Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar) was shocked, frightened by the meaning of the dream. He said, "The tree, Your Majesty, is you. Just like the tree, your greatness benefits all the earth. Now the Most High warns Your Majesty what is to become of you.

You will be driven from human society
to live with wild animals.
Seven years will pass before you acknowledge
'The Most High rules all!'
But your kingdom will be kept for you until you return."

About a year later, Nebuchadnezzar was surveying his kingdom and praising his own greatness when he suddenly went insane. For seven years he lived like a wild animal, just as Daniel had said. Then one day Nebuchadnezzar's heart turned toward God the Most High. His sanity returned; he was re-established as king of Babylon; and he praised the King of heaven.