



# WEREWOLF!

A BIBLE STUDY BASED ON DANIEL 4

DANIEL SESSION 4  
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# THE PROPHECIES OF DANIEL STATESMAN FOR THE AGES

*Session Four / Chapter Four*  
Wednesday, January 31, 2018

## WEREWOLF

1 Daniel 4 yields the dramatic saga of a great king who became an animal for a time.  
2 Daniel 4:33 *The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was*  
3 *driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of*  
4 *heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.*

5  
6 Was the king a werewolf?

7  
8 There is a dark fascination with these mythical figures, the werewolves. The common  
9 story is of a man turning at full moon into a raving wolf, tearing and destroying human  
10 flesh. For the most part these are made-up stories; but the Old Testament tells the true  
11 story of one of earth's greatest kings who became a sort of werewolf.

12  
13 His name was Nebuchadnezzar. He reigned for 43 years over the Babylonian Empire.  
14 History records that "all peoples and nations trembled and feared before him." It was he  
15 who made Babylon the mistress and wonder of the ancient world.

16  
17 *The magnificence and splendor of Nebuchadnezzar's court were equal to his power and*  
18 *cruelty. Babylon, his residence and seat of his empire, was made the marvel of the*  
19 *world. The grandeur of its buildings, temples, royal palaces and gardens became the*  
20 *admiration of the age (Even noted in Isaiah 13:19 **And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms,***  
21 ***the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and***  
22 ***Gomorrah.) The monarch seemed to have reached the sum of human greatness, and if***  
23 *wealth, pomp and dominion contribute to supreme happiness, then Nebuchadnezzar must*  
24 *have been the happiest man of his time.*

25 LOCKYER. ALL THE KINGS AND QUEENS OF THE BIBLE / P. 64 / ZONDERVAN

26  
27 But Scriptures record that Nebuchadnezzar was not the happiest of men. On the  
28 contrary, his defiance of God seemed to increase with his wealth. He plundered and  
29 destroyed the holy Temple in Jerusalem and carried the sacred vessels to Babylon to place  
30 in his 53 temples and 180 altars to Ishtar, a false, man-made God. His life was lifted up  
31 with profane pride and God - the one, true God - was angry. He decided that the  
32 pompous and arrogant king needed a lesson. When Nebuchadnezzar went to bed one  
33 night, he was the mightiest king in the world. When he awakened the next day, he had  
34 become a prowling animal, disgusting and vile.

1 History tells us the same strange tale. When the dead Sea scrolls were found,  
2 archaeologists came upon a fragment of parchment called "The Prayer of Nabonidus." It  
3 tells of a Babylonian king who was mentally ill for seven years and that his malady ended  
4 only after God lifted the judgment following the witness of a Jewish prophet. The king,  
5 of course, was Nebuchadnezzar and the prophet was Daniel.

6  
7 This true, but bizarre, story accurately shows us sin's effect on humanity. Everything  
8 about sin is degrading and defiling. No wonder God loathes it so completely. God  
9 seeks with His great might to stamp sin out from the human race, even sending His own  
10 precious Son Jesus to bring salvation from sin's curse.

### 11 12 IS THERE A LINE THAT IS CROSSED?

13  
14 There is yet another divine truth from Nebuchadnezzar's story. There seems to be a line  
15 past which God will not go. Note Genesis 6:3: **And the Lord said, My spirit shall not**  
16 **always strive with man...** There is a line, a certain point, that once we cross the God  
17 head cries, "Enough!" Three generations ago, gospel soloists sang this cryptic gospel  
18 song:

19  
20 *There's a line that is drawn by rejecting our Lord/  
21 Where the call of His Spirit is lost.  
22 And you hurry along with the pleasure-mad throng/  
23 Have you counted? Have you counted the cost?*

24  
25 Nebuchadnezzar had been warned about that line. Daniel had so informed him. But the  
26 king pitched aside the message of God's prophet and paid the awful consequence.  
27 Daniel had not minced any words with his king. He prophesied that Nebuchadnezzar's  
28 life would be catastrophic once God saw him cross that invisible line. Daniel said the  
29 king's hair would be matted - as thick as eagle's feathers. Furthermore, his nails would  
30 grow like birds' claws. And his demeanor would be so repulsive that he would be  
31 driven into the woods. Daniel said God had "had it" with Nebuchadnezzar and there  
32 was a penalty to be exacted.

33  
34 So many biographies tell the same, tragic story. Such as the life of one of show  
35 business' greatest singers - one of my favorites, as a matter of fact. The lady had it all  
36 and threw it away. Somewhere she crossed the line. On the morning of her premature  
37 death, her husband searched for her. Finally he pounded on her door, then, fearing the  
38 worst, went outside the house, and climbed up and onto a section of roof that allowed him  
39 to look into her window. She was in a sitting position, her head collapsed onto her  
40 breast, like a small brown sparrow with a broken neck. She had already been dead for  
41 several hours.  
42

1  
2 Once again, the king summoned Daniel to interpret a shocking dream. This time, now  
3 trusting Daniel completely after about twenty years, he told Daniel what he had seen in  
4 the night:

5  
6 Daniel 4:10-16

7 **Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold a tree in the**  
8 **midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great. [11] The tree grew, and was**  
9 **strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end**  
10 **of all the earth: [12] The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in**  
11 **it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the**  
12 **heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it. [13] I saw in the**  
13 **visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down**  
14 **from heaven; [14] He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his**  
15 **branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from**  
16 **under it, and the fowls from his branches: [15] Nevertheless leave the stump of his**  
17 **roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the**  
18 **field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts**  
19 **in the grass of the earth: [16] Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's**  
20 **heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him.**

21  
22 Let's stop for a moment to discuss the tree.

23  
24 1. It was lovely to look at. (Verse 12) We humans are drawn to forests. Babylon  
25 was known for its hanging gardens, one of the ancient seven wonders of the world.

26  
27 2. Trees are good for providing food. How proud of it all was this king: Daniel 4:4  
28 **I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace:**

29  
30 Small wonder! Babylon was a center of architectural and artistic expressions of the  
31 king's fertile mind. He made sure that everyone would know that it was all HIS  
32 masterpiece. Sir Henry Rawlinson, wrote, "I have examined the bricks belonging  
33 perhaps to a hundred different owns and cities around Baghdad, and I never found any  
34 other legend than that of Nebuchadnezzar, son of Nabopolassar, king of Babylon"  
35 stamped on the bricks.

36  
37 We are now seeing three of Nebuchadnezzar's great moral failures:

- 38  
39 1. He had no time or heart for righteousness  
40 2. He had not shown mercy to the oppressed  
41 3. He was consumed by pride in himself

1 In the king's dream, the tree was cut down. The king turned into a veritable werewolf,  
2 an animal, for seven brutal years.

3  
4 Note this carefully: Between the night of the dream, and its fulfillment, about one year  
5 passed in which God gave the king the time to repent and change his ways. But did he  
6 do so? This verse informs us clearly: Daniel 4:30 **The king spake, and said, Is not**  
7 **this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my**  
8 **power, and for the honour of my majesty?**

9  
10 Now...the rest of the story:

11  
12 Daniel 4:24-33

13 **This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is**  
14 **come upon my lord the king: [25] That they shall drive thee from men, and thy**  
15 **dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as**  
16 **oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over**  
17 **thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to**  
18 **whomsoever he will. [26] And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the**  
19 **tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known**  
20 **that the heavens do rule. [27] Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto**  
21 **thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy**  
22 **to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquility.**

23 **[28] All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. [29] At the end of twelve**  
24 **months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. [30] The king spake, and**  
25 **said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the**  
26 **might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? [31] While the word was in**  
27 **the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to**  
28 **thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. [32] And they shall drive thee**  
29 **from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee**  
30 **to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the**  
31 **most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. [33]**  
32 **The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven**  
33 **from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven,**  
34 **till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.**

35  
36 Today, God-rejecting men and woman may not turn into literal animals, but their future is  
37 clearly told in scripture: Romans 1:21-22 **Because that, when they knew God, they**  
38 **glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their**  
39 **imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. [22] Professing themselves to be**  
40 **wise, they became fools....**

41  
42 The fact is that God-rejecting people behave LIKE animals. They often drink

1 themselves into oblivion. They kill their unborn children, sacrificing them on the altar of  
2 “convenience.” They treat their mates like sub-humans. Or they mate promiscuously.  
3 They throw out reason when it comes to issues of the eternal spirit. They cast off any  
4 biblical realities without any evidence whatsoever to do so and mock those who can  
5 clearly declare the Gospel with proof and understanding..  
6

If there is just one place alone that shows the deterioration of western society, it is the movies. Yes, they now show special effects that are dazzling. It is in the writing that the weakness stands out. Today’s writers can hardly get through a sentence without the “f” word. The films are punctuated with fights, explosions, car race, boozing. While not a movie fan, in days gone by there were films that were brilliantly written and acted such as Ben Hur, Spartacus, Sleuth, and others. Those days seem to be gone. Yes, Hollywood’s films and personalities are in a rapid state of decline. Without God, there is no connection to excellence.

7 “We have only to think of some examples of what is accepted as art or entertainment  
8 nowadays to understand that rejection of God leads to the death of civilized  
9 culture...where blatant immorality is hailed a marvelous theater. The darkness is such  
10 that there is little or no understanding or appreciation of what has happened - man has  
11 descended to the animal.”

12 JOHN LENNOX / AGAINST THE FLOW / MONARCH BOOKS / PAGE 168

13 \*\* LENNOX IS THE FORMER HEAD OF THE MATHEMATICS DEPT. / OXFORD UNIVERSITY

14  
15 REASON

16  
17 Daniel 4:34-37 (New American Standard)

18 **"But at the end of that period I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven,  
19 and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and  
20 honored Him who lives forever;**

21 **For His dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
22 And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.  
23 [35] "And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,  
24 But He does according to His will in the host of heaven  
25 And among the inhabitants of earth;  
26 And no one can ward off His hand  
27 Or say to Him, 'What hast Thou done?'**

28 **[36] "At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were  
29 restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began  
30 seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness  
31 was added to me. [37] "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise, exalt, and honor the King of  
32 heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those**

1 **who walk in pride."**

2  
3 Let's talk about REASON for a moment. There are over 90 times in sacred scripture  
4 where we are challenged to REASON with God.

5  
6 It is a well-known and lamented reality that 75 - 80% of all Christian and Pentecostal kids  
7 coming out of our churches into secular college drop out of their Christian faith in a short  
8 period of time. They come head-to-head with non-believing instructors who "eat them  
9 for lunch." Why? The old question, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?"  
10 comes into play. Consider:

- 11
- 12 • Are the college and university professors really that bright and their godless  
13 philosophies that mentally intoxicating? Or –
  - 14 • Have the students recently come from churches where the teaching and preaching  
15 is so shallow that these kids simply do not know the Bible (because it has been  
16 replaced in their home pulpit with philosophical bromides or "tickle the ears"  
17 theology by pastors who fancied themselves more as therapists rather than  
18 instructors in the Word?)
  - 19 • We further ask ourselves: Is collegiate peer pressure and sheer weight of superior  
20 numbers so impressive that our kids just crumble in the teaching of evolutionists,  
21 secularists and historical revisionists? Or–
  - 22 • Have these youngsters just come from alleged evangelical churches where flashing  
23 lights, fog machines and juvenile music and preaching over-rode solid theology  
24 and exegetical preaching?

25  
26 What is all too often the standard greeting from the pulpit on Sundays? "Well, how is  
27 everyone FEELING today?"

28  
29 What differences does that make (how they're feeling)? Since our salvation is based on  
30 knowledge and acceptance of Biblical reality and fact, would it not be more proper to  
31 inquire, "Well, what do you KNOW this morning? How about Scriptural knowledge that  
32 does not flicker with every passing fad and that blesses us with unshakeable faith and  
33 resolve?"

34  
35 One hundred years ago, Anna Waterman gave the church one of its finest musical gifts  
36 with this song:

37  
38 *Come, ye sinners, lost and hopeless / Jesus' blood can make you free /*  
39 *For He saved the worst among you / When He saved a wretch like me!*  
40 *And I KNOW, yes I KNOW, Jesus' blood can make the vilest sinner clean*  
41 *And I KNOW, yes I KNOW, Jesus' blood can make the vilest sinner clean!*

1 Pride caused the downfall of this great far-eastern monarch, Nebuchadnezzar. We must  
2 acknowledge that it would have taken a remarkable man of faith not to have undue pride  
3 at all he had accomplished. You and I cannot probably relate to that. But we all have  
4 “little Babylons”, don’t we? Things that give us great personal pleasure and fulfillment,  
5 which would be acceptable if they did not escalate to sheer pride. Our accomplishments  
6 and victories must rest upon the foundation of LOVE.

7  
8 1 Cor. 13:1-3

9 **Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have**  
10 **become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. [2] And though I have the gift of**  
11 **prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all**  
12 **faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. [3] And**  
13 **though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be**  
14 **burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.**

15  
16 No matter how gifted we may be, or what great position we may hold, if we are flawed  
17 spiritually it really does not matter. Admittedly, it would have been tough for  
18 Nebuchadnezzar to be unflawed in his character. There was nothing he could not have.  
19 There was nothing he could not buy. There was no one he could not boss. His only  
20 problem was with himself.

21  
22 But it is great to know that the great King came back to God. He took his seven years of  
23 punishment and acknowledged his wrong doing. He still had years of service left in his  
24 lifetime.

25  
26 Just one more thought:

27  
28 Note this clever trick of Satan. After Daniel’s warning, a whole year went by. Nothing  
29 happened. No wrath of God. No price to pay. Nebuchadnezzar became cocky. God  
30 would not do anything to him! After all, look who he was! Nebuchadnezzar, King of  
31 Babylon. In effect, king of the world. It was said in the regal city by the great river that  
32 he, the Golden One,” had successfully defied Jehovah, Daniel’s God. But soon the  
33 warning was forgotten. Not by Daniel. Not by God. Only by Nebuchadnezzar. That  
34 oversight would be fatal.

35  
36 *Though the mills of God grind slowly*  
37 *Yet they grind exceeding small;*  
38 *Though with patience He stands waiting,*  
39 *With exactness grinds He all.*

40  
41 In the next chapter (5) we will study one of the most dramatic collapses of a world power



1 (Babylon) in all human history. The Babylonian Empire will end and the Medo Persians  
2 will sweep in.  
3  
4 A son of the King, a fellow named Belshazaar, will display one of the most inept  
5 leadership skills ever. And his kingdom will come one night as he hosts a drunken feast  
6 in the palace. Suddenly....fingers of a man's hand appear and write the prince's obituary  
7 on the wall and in that night was Belshazzar slain!  
8  
9  
10