



Daniel 4 (Abridged)

1. Believe I am saved _____

King Nebuchadnezzar sent this message to the people...throughout the world:
 "Peace and prosperity to you! "I want you all to know about the miraculous signs and wonders the Most High God has performed for me. How great are his signs, how powerful his wonders! His kingdom will last forever, his rule through all generations. (1-3)

2. _____ The People I Am To Reach

They value comfort and _____
"I, Nebuchadnezzar, was living in my palace in comfort and prosperity." (4)

They value independence, power and _____
"(Nebuchadnezzar) said, 'Look at this great city of Babylon! By my own mighty power, I have built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor.'" (30)

They believe in religious _____
"the spirit of the holy gods is in you" (8,18)

They fear what they cannot control
"one night I had a dream that frightened me; I saw visions that terrified me" (5)

They are searching for answers and _____
"I issued an order calling in all the wise men... I told them the dream, but they could not tell me what it meant." (6,7)

3. Let Them See _____

"I, Nebuchadnezzar, was living in my palace in comfort and prosperity. But one night... I saw visions that terrified me as I lay in my bed. So I issued an order calling in all the wise men of Babylon, so they could tell me what my dream meant. When all the magicians, enchanters, astrologers, and fortune-tellers came in, I told them the dream, but they could not tell me what it meant. At last Daniel came in before me, and I told him the dream... "I said to him, '... **I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you** and that no mystery is too great for you to solve. Now tell me what my dream means.'" (4-9)

4. Show them I _____

"While I was lying in my bed, this is what I dreamed. I saw a large tree in the middle of the earth. The tree grew very tall and strong, reaching high into the heavens for all the world to see. It had fresh green leaves, and it was loaded with fruit for all to eat. Wild animals lived in its shade, and birds nested in its branches. All the world was fed from this tree... Then as I lay there dreaming, I saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven. The messenger shouted, "Cut down the tree; lop off its branches! Shake off its leaves and scatter its fruit! Chase the animals from its shade and birds from its branches. But leave the stump and the roots in the ground, bound with a band of iron and bronze and surrounded by tender grass. Now let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live like an animal among the plants of the fields. For seven periods of time, let him have the mind of an animal instead of a human... The purpose of this decree is that the whole world may understand that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses—even to the lowliest of humans."

"Upon hearing this, **Daniel... was overcome for a time**, aghast at the meaning of the dream. Finally, the king said to him, 'Belteshazzar, don't be alarmed by the dream and what it means.' "Belteshazzar replied, "Oh, **how I wish the events foreshadowed in this dream would happen to your enemies, my lord, and not to you!"** (10-19)

"When my sanity returned to me...my **advisers and officers sought me out**, and I was reestablished as head of my kingdom" (36)

5. Speak _____ To Them

"That tree, Your Majesty, is you. For...your greatness reaches up to heaven, and your rule to the ends of the earth... This is what the dream means... and what the Most High has declared will happen to you. You will be driven from human society, and you will live in the fields with the wild animals. You will eat grass like a cow, and you will be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, **until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world** and gives them to anyone he chooses. But the stump and the roots were left in the ground. This means that you will receive your kingdom back again **when you have learned that heaven rules**. King Nebuchadnezzar, please listen to me. **Stop sinning and do what is right. Break from your wicked past** by being merciful to the poor. Perhaps then you will continue to prosper." (22-27)

6. Wait For _____

"But all these things did happen to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later, he was taking a walk on the flat roof of the royal palace in Babylon...he said, 'Just look at this great city of Babylon! I, by my own mighty power, have built this beautiful city as my royal residence and as an expression of my royal splendor.' While he was still speaking these words, a voice called down from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar... You are no longer ruler of this kingdom..." That very same hour the prophecy was fulfilled, and Nebuchadnezzar was driven from human society. He ate grass like a cow, and he was drenched with the dew of heaven. He lived this way until his hair was as long as eagles' feathers and his nails were like birds' claws. (28-33)

7. Be _____ With the Process

"After this time had passed (7 years), I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven. My sanity returned, I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored the one who lives forever. His rule is everlasting, and his kingdom is eternal. All the people of the earth are nothing compared to him. He has the power to do as he pleases...No one can stop him or challenge him...Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven..." (34-37)