

Daniel 4 Nebuchadnezzar's Madness

Dan 4:1 “*Nebuchadnezzar the king* to all the peoples, nations, and men of every language that live in all the earth: May your peace abound!”



There is no other letter like this in the Bible!

The Whole chapter is **FROM** a heathen king to his subjects dealing God's signs to him as emperor!

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Dan 4:2 “It has seemed good to me to declare the *signs and wonders* which the Most High God has done for me.”



Phrase “signs and wonders” occurs fairly frequently in both OT & NT. (Isa 8:18, Mat 24:24; Acts 5:12; etc.)

Nebuchadnezzar is still polytheistic (see v.8, 18) “spirit of the holy gods.”

He just recognizes Daniel's God as the Highest God... among other gods.

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Dan 4:3 "How great are His signs,
And how mighty are His wonders!"

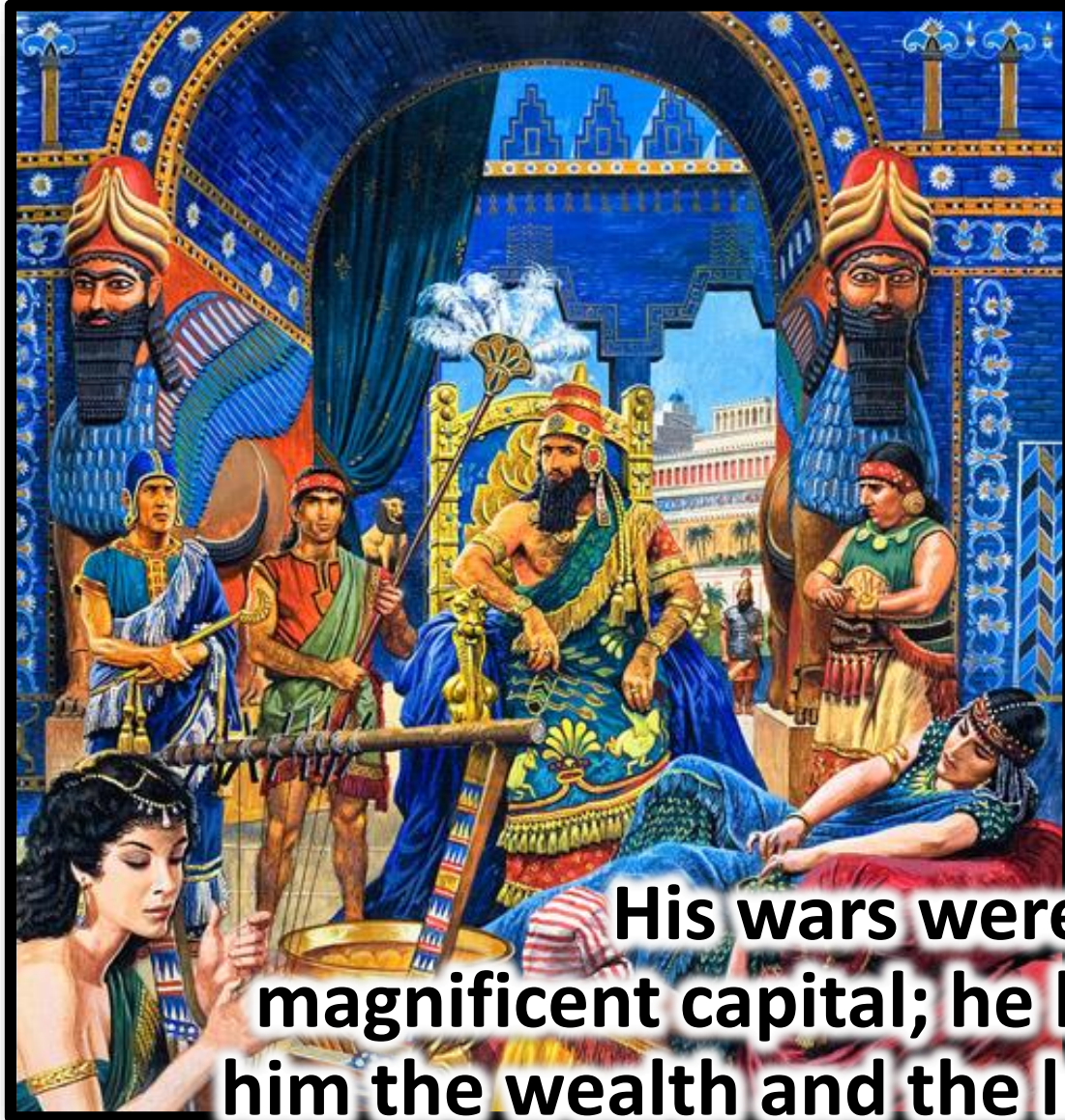
"His kingdom is an *everlasting kingdom*, and
His dominion is from generation to generation."

*(Dan 2:44) Never to be destroyed.
God's reign will endure forever.*

Daniel's influence is seen here as this is
a *direct quote* of (Ps 145:13)

How many will *YOU* influence for good?

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(Dan 4:4) “I,
Nebuchadnezzar,
*was at ease in
my house &
flourishing in
my palace.”*

Herodotus
describes Babylon.

His wars were over; he had built a magnificent capital; he had gathered around him the wealth and the luxuries of the world.⁴

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Dan 4:5 "*I saw a dream* and it made me fearful; and these fantasies as I lay on my bed and the visions in my mind kept alarming me."

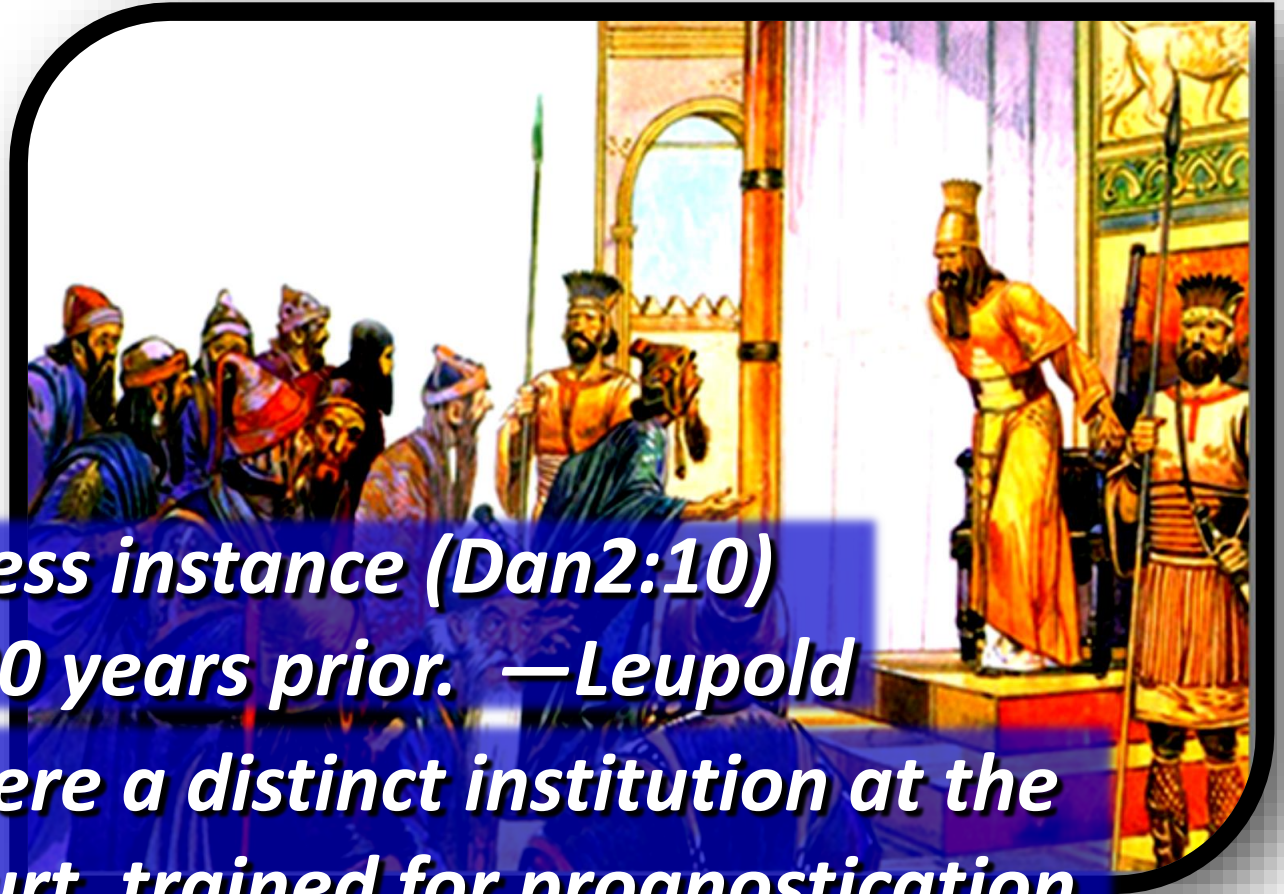


Dan 4:6 "So I gave orders to bring into my presence all the wise men of Babylon, that they might **make known to me the interpretation of the dream.**"

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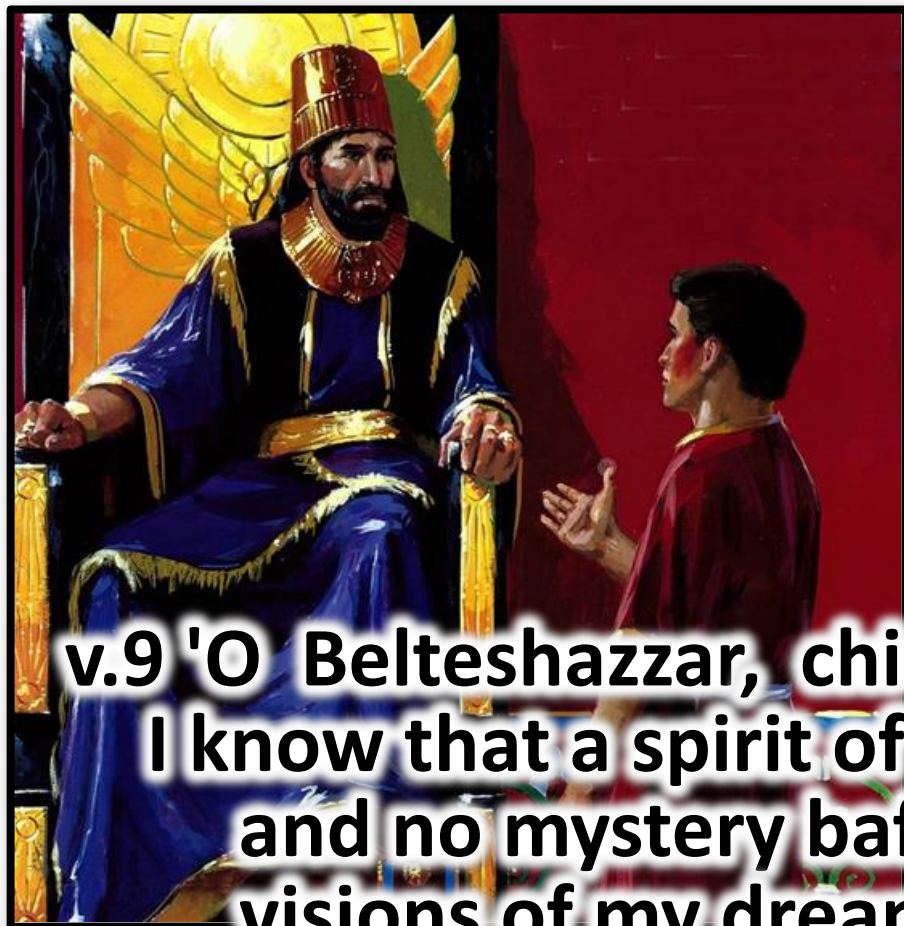
Dan 4:7 “Then the magicians, the conjurers, the Chaldeans, and the diviners came in, and I related the dream to them; but *they could not make its interpretation known to me.*”

Former useless instance (Dan2:10) was perhaps 20 years prior. —Leupold
“Wise Men” were a distinct institution at the Babylonian court, trained for prognostication.



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v.8 “But *finally Daniel came in before me*, whose



name is Belteshazzar according to the name of My god [*Bel Protects*] & in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and I related the dream to him, saying:

v.9 'O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, since I know that a spirit of the holy gods is in you and no mystery baffles you, tell me the visions of my dream which I have seen, *along with its interpretation.*”

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Dan 4:10 Now these were the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed: I was looking, and behold, there was a ***tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great.***

Dan 4:11 'The tree grew large and became strong, ***And its height reached to the sky, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth.***

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Dan 4:12 'Its foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, *And in it was food for all.*

12b The beasts of the field *found shade* under it.

12c And the birds of the sky *dwelt in its branches,*
And all living *creatures fed themselves* from it.

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Dan 4:13 'I was looking in the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed and behold, an angelic watcher, a holy one, descended from heaven.



v14 'He shouted out ..as follows: "**Chop down** the tree and **cut off** its branches, **Strip off** its foliage & **scatter** its fruit; Let the beasts flee from under it, and the birds from its branches. v15 "Yet **leave** the stump with its roots in the ground. But with **a band of iron and bronze** around it.

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Dan 4:15b “And let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and *let him share with the beasts in the grass of the earth.*”



v16 "Let his mind be changed from that of a man, *And let a beast's mind be given to him,* And let seven periods of time pass over him.”

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Dan 4:17 "This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers & *the decision is a command of the holy ones..*

Decision by the angelic council. (Dan 7:10)

"Ten thousand times ten thousand... the court sat and the books were opened."

In order that the living may know
"That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes, and sets over it the lowliest of men."

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Dan 4:19 "Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was *appalled for a while as his thoughts alarmed him.*"

"The king responded and said, 'Belteshazzar, *do not let the dream or its interpretation alarm you.*'"

"Belteshazzar answered and said, 'My lord, *if only the dream applied to those who hate you, and its interpretation to your adversaries!*'"

Daniel's *Interpretation* of the Dream

v.20 -26

The Great Tree (10)

It is You O' King v20 -22a

Foliage & fruit (12)

Your glory & dominion v22b

Chopped down (v14)

Deposed, driven away v23-25a

Mind of beast (16)

Insane: You'll eat grass v 25b

Iron & bronze band (15)

Your Kingdom assured v26

***Purpose: Nebuchadnezzar Must Realize
That it is **God Who Rules!** Dan 4:25***

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Dan 4:27 “Therefore,
O king, *may my advice
be pleasing to you:*

*“Break away now from
your sins by doing
righteousness, and
from your iniquities
by showing mercy
to the poor..*



...in case there may be a prolonging of
your prosperity.

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Power was his Real
god. (Hab 1:6, 11)

Dan 4:29 "*Twelve months* later he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon.

v30 "The king reflected and said, 'Is this not *Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?*'"

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Babylonian "Hanging" Gardens ¹⁷

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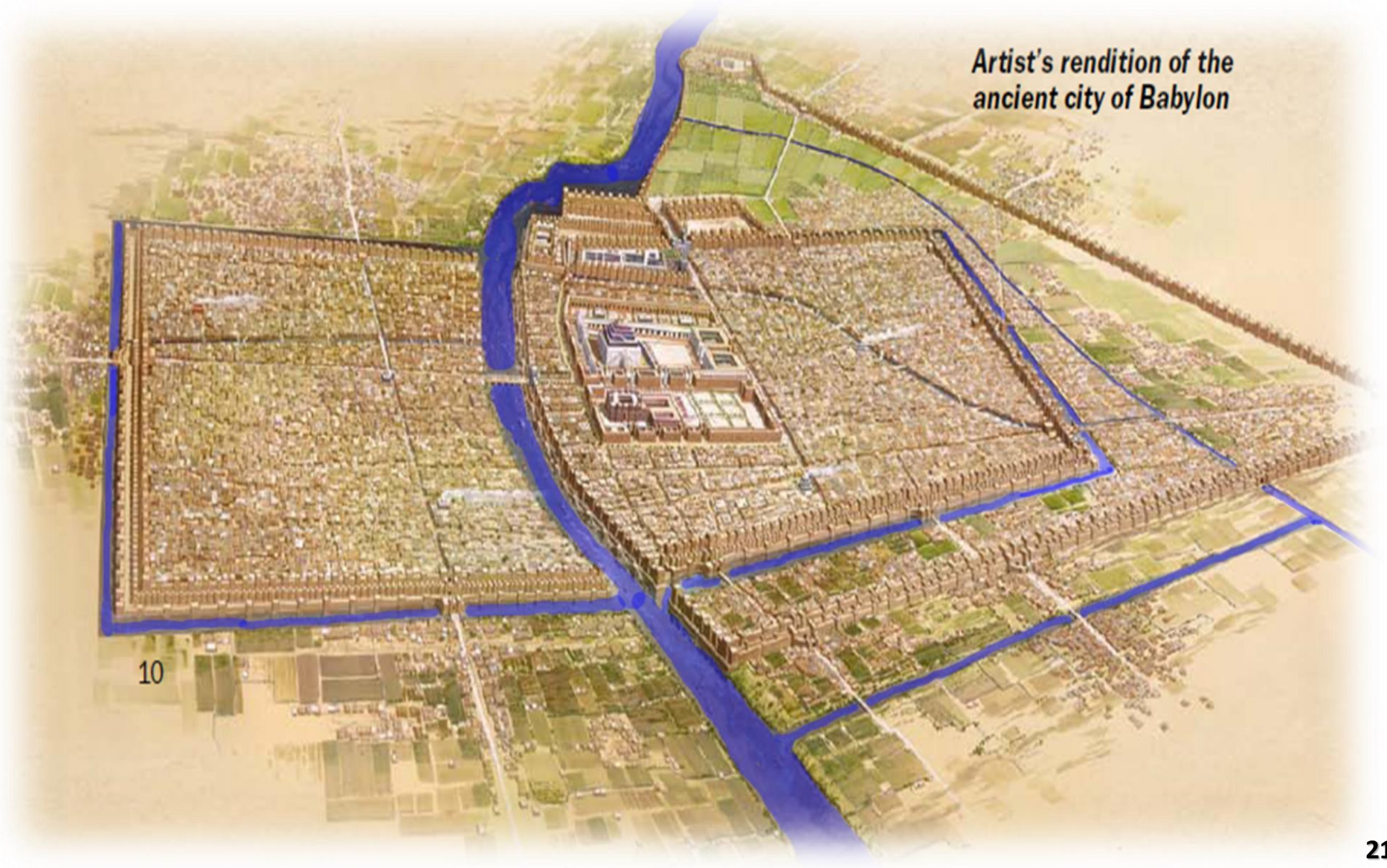


Army Parade Toward Ishtar Gat ¹⁹

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Artist's rendition of the ancient city of Babylon

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Dan 4:31 "While the word was in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you..

v32 and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whomever He wishes.'

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Dan 4:33 "**Immediately** the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; **and he was driven away from mankind & began eating grass like cattle.**

v33b "And his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws."

There is a **mental illness called *lycanthropy***, now being linked to schizophrenia, causing humans the delusional belief that they are animals. *(Britannica)*

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Dan 4:33 "But at the end of that period I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, *and my reason returned to me...*

and I blessed the Most High *and praised and honored Him who lives forever..."*



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Dan 4:36 "At that time *my reason returned* to me.



And my majesty and splendor were restored to me
for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors
and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was
reestablished in my sovereignty, & surpassing
greatness was added to me.

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Dan 4:37 "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and *His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.*"

Do we need to learn the same lesson about our houses, children, our body, position, work, abilities?

How humble are *WE* ???

(1 Pet 5:5) Clothe yourselves with *humility* toward.. *Humble* yourselves under the mighty hand of God.

