

Class: 4-5 yr olds

Date:

Lesson #: VIII - 2

Text: Daniel 2:4

Teacher: Marty + Bunda  
Kewell

Memory Verse: Daniel 2:44

### Concept development

Inspired Scripture ~ speaking through prophets

### Lesson

Words to define: \_\_\_\_\_

Body: i Sen ~ Read from CPB about the dream  
Nebuchadnezzar had about the statue. Let  
them color what the statue looked like.  
Ask them questions while they color.

Ued ~ Read about the Madness of Nebuchadnezzar  
from CPB. Coloring pages. Discuss main  
points of story & ask them questions.

Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Some Questions: > Who was able to explain the dreams?  
How did he know? What did the dream mean?  
Who explained the second dream? Did the  
King listen to Daniel? Did Nebuchadnezzar  
change his ways after being in the  
wilderness?

## Daniel and the Dream

The people of Judah who lived in exile in Babylon were called Jews. The brightest and fittest were selected and trained to serve in the court of the powerful King Nebuchadnezzar.

A young man named Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, were among those chosen. These four were men of God and remained faithful to God's laws, so the Lord watched over them and gave them great knowledge. To Daniel, he also gave the gift of understanding visions and dreams. Nebuchadnezzar was very impressed with Daniel and his friends. Out of all his advisers they were the wisest.

One day, Nebuchadnezzar summoned all his magicians and astrologers. "I have had a strange dream," he said, "and I want to know what it means." The astrologers asked to be told the dream, so that they could interpret it. But the king would not reveal it to them. "I want you also to tell me what I dreamed, as well as its meaning!" he boomed.

"Your majesty," they said, "No man on Earth can do what you ask." When he heard this, Nebuchadnezzar was so furious he ordered for all his advisers to be executed immediately. This also included the four Jews.

The night before the execution, Daniel and the others prayed that God would reveal the dream and its meaning. Sure enough, during the night God told Daniel all that he needed to know.

So the next morning, Daniel asked to be taken to the king.

"Well," said Nebuchadnezzar, "are you able to tell me all about my dream?"

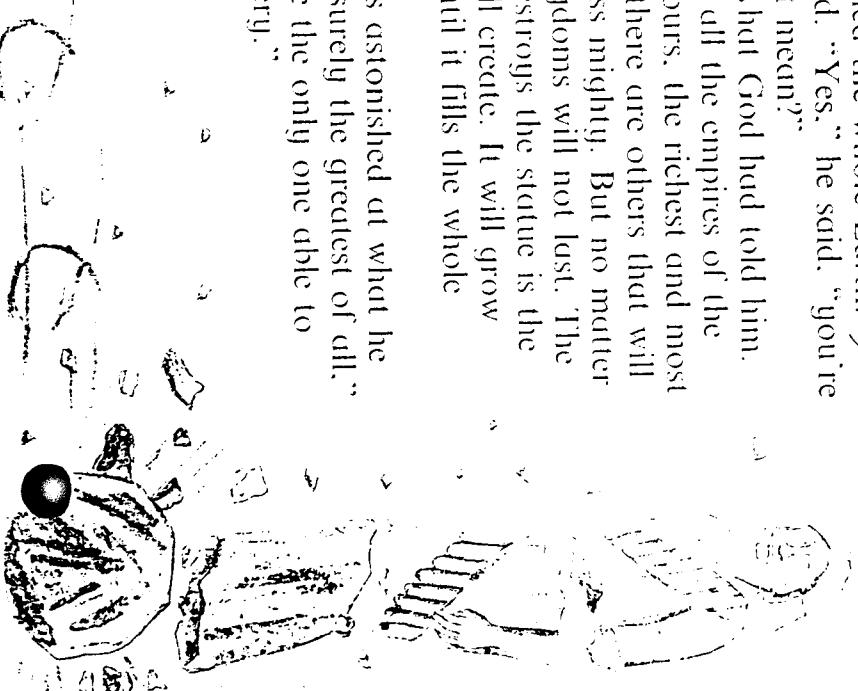
"Your majesty," replied Daniel, "no wise man could ever do what you ask, but there is a God in heaven who explains such mysteries. He has told me your dream."

(Daniel went on, "In your dream you saw a large statue of a man. The head was made of pure gold, the chest and arms were silver, the thighs were bronze, and the legs were iron. But the feet of the statue were iron mixed with clay. As you were gazing at the statue, a great boulder came rolling toward it. The rock crashed onto the feet of clay and smashed them. Then the statue crumbled into dust and was scattered in the wind. But the boulder became a huge mountain and filled the whole Earth.")

The king was amazed. "Yes," he said, "you're right! But what does it mean?"

So Daniel revealed what God had told him. (The statue represents all the empires of the world. At the top is yours, the richest and most powerful of all. Then there are others that will come, which will be less mighty. But no matter how strong, these kingdoms will not last. The simple boulder that destroys the statue is the kingdom that God will create. It will grow greater and greater until it fills the whole world.)

Nebuchadnezzar was astonished at what he heard. "Your God is surely the greatest of all," he said. "For you were the only one able to interpret such a mystery."



## The Madness of Nebuchadnezzar

**K**ing Nebuchadnezzar continued to rule his great empire successfully for many years to come. Nothing troubled him, until one night, he had another strange dream.

As usual, the king summoned his magicians and astrologers to interpret the dream, but none of them could explain it at all.

So Nebuchadnezzar sent for Daniel. "I know that the spirit of God is in you," he said, "and that no mystery is too difficult for you to explain. Please help me to understand this dream." Daniel listened carefully as the king described what he had seen.

"I saw an enormous tree which grew so large that its top reached the sky, and everyone in the world could see it. The tree had beautiful leaves and luscious fruit, and it provided food and shelter for all the birds and animals around.

Then suddenly, an angel from heaven flew down and called out, 'Cut down the tree and trim its branches. Strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. But leave the stump in the ground.' "

Nebuchadnezzar went on, "Then the tree stump turned into a man. The angel said, 'This man will live in the wild like an animal and for seven years, his mind will become like that of an animal. This is to show everyone in the world that God rules over even the mightiest of men.' "

Daniel was very worried when he heard what his king had dreamed. For a while, he did not speak. "Daniel," said Nebuchadnezzar, "do not be afraid to tell me what you think."

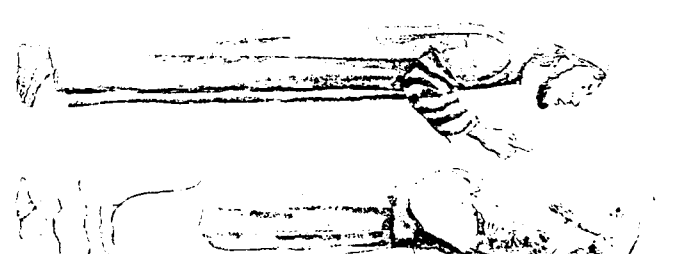
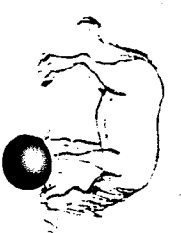
Reluctantly, Daniel explained the meaning of the dream. "The enormous tree that you saw is you, your majesty," he said. "You have become strong and powerful. But unless you recognize that God is greater than you, He will take away your power. You will lose your mind and live in the wild, away from your people and everything you know. Your kingdom will only be restored to you when you have learned that only God rules the world."

Then Daniel begged the king, "Please, your majesty, take notice of this dream. Be kind to the poor and needy and humble yourself before God. In this way, you may avoid disaster."

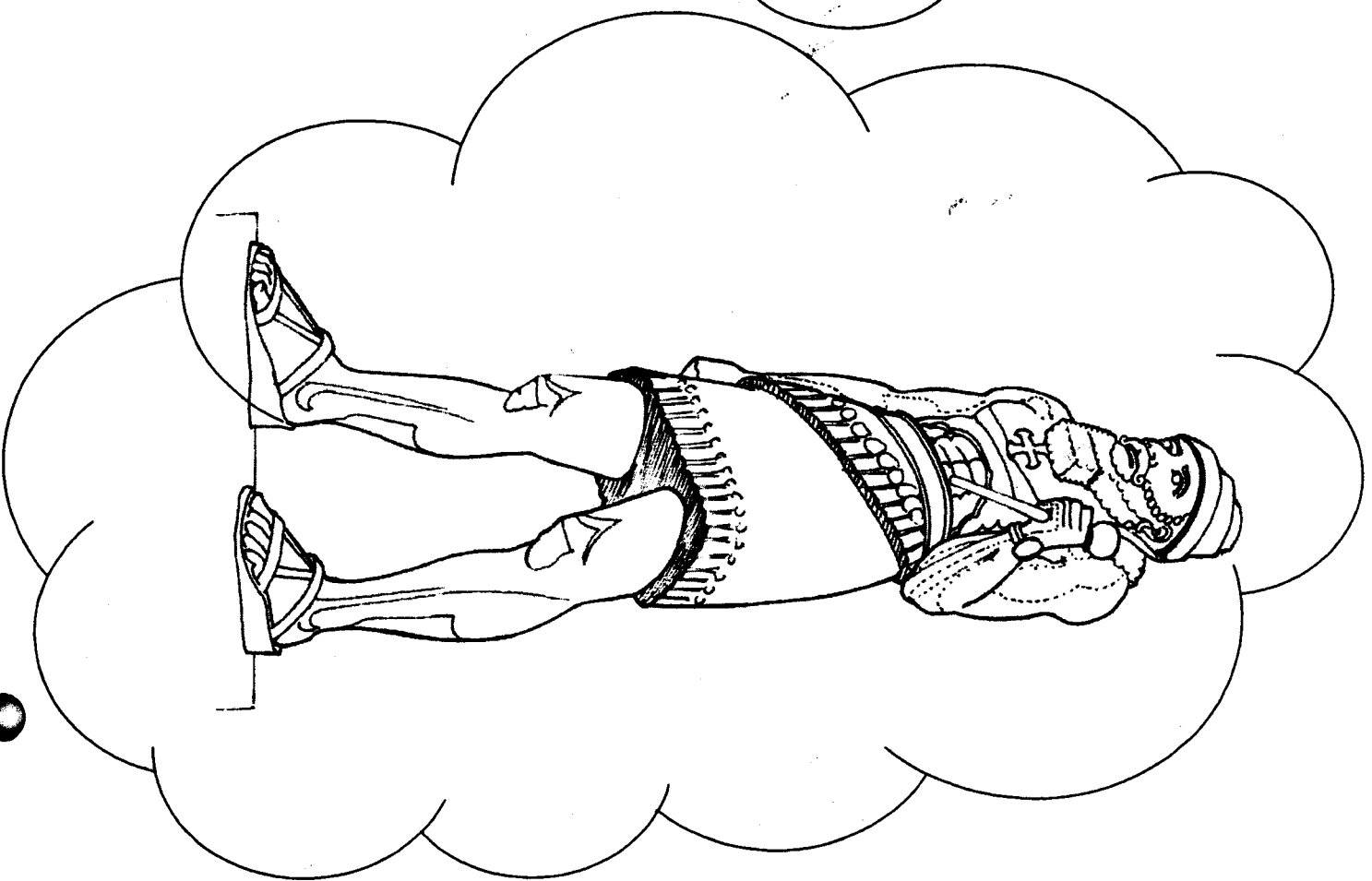
The king listened, but soon forgot Daniel's words. A year later, as he stood on his palace roof in Babylon, he looked out at the city stretched before him and said to himself, "What a magnificent city I have built. How smart and powerful I am!"

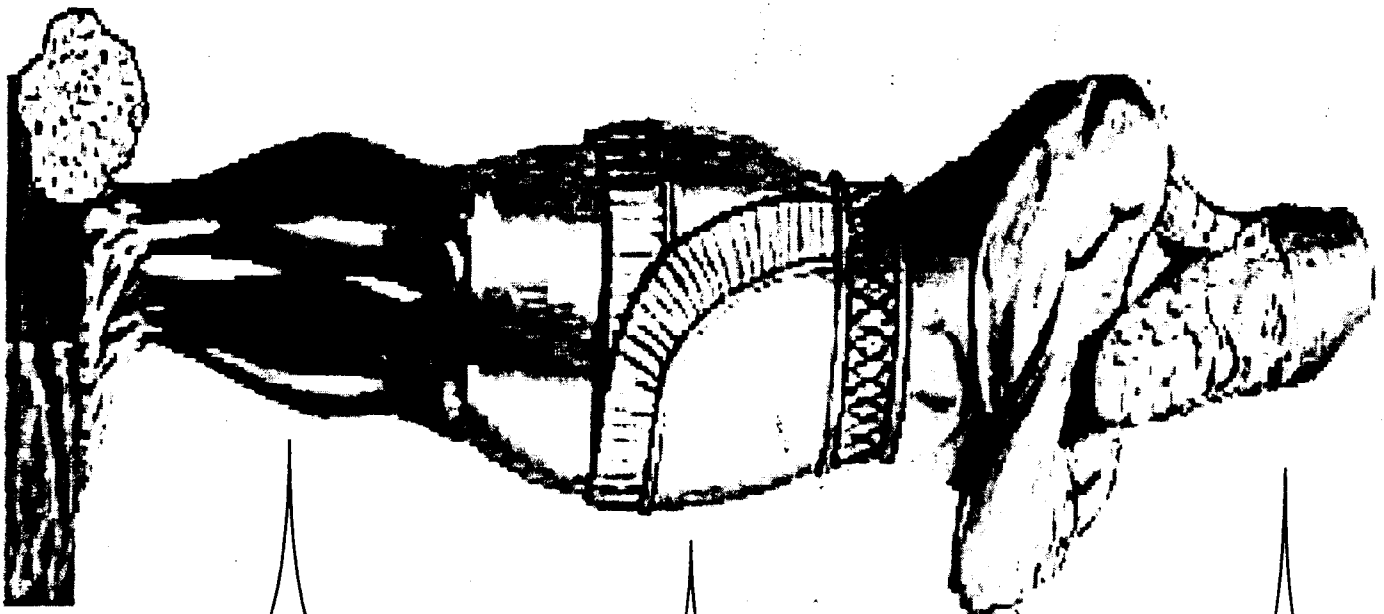
As soon as the words were spoken, the king was immediately overcome by a terrible madness. He did not know who he was, and he lived like an animal, eating grass and plants out in the wild. His hair grew long and matted and his nails were like claws. For a long time, Nebuchadnezzar lived like this, until one day, his mind cleared and he became sane again. It was then he realized that he owed everything to God, and that only the Lord was truly powerful.

Once the king had learned his lesson, his kingdom and riches were restored to him, and he lived the rest of his life worshipping and praising God.



# Daniel & King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream





The Head was the BABYLONIAN Kingdom

The head was made of gold

The Chest and Arms were the MEDO-PERSIAN Kingdom

The chest and arms were made of silver

The Belly and Thighs were the GREEK Kingdom

The belly and thighs were made of brass

The legs and Feet were the ROMAN Kingdom

The legs were made of iron

The feet were made of iron & clay

Daniel & King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2)

# 158. NEBUCHADNEZZAR IS HUMBLLED

(DANIEL 4:28-37)



"Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase."

**DANIEL 4:37**

# 156. NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

(DANIEL 2:1-49)



"Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation. The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?"

**DANIEL 2:25-26**