

The Most Wonderful Kingdom

Daniel 4:10-17

There was a tree at the center of the earth, and its height was great. 11 The tree grew great and strong, its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the ends of the whole earth. 12 Its foliage was beautiful, its fruit abundant, and it provided food for all. The animals of the field found shade under it, the birds of the air nested in its branches, and from it all living beings were fed.

This description of this tree is beautiful. It describes a wonderful, loving nation—a nation that takes good care of all its people! It even takes good care of the animals—feeding them well. Wouldn't we all like to be in a nation like that where the leader cares about each of us? Well we are! The words used to describe this kingdom sound like the words Yeshua/Jesus used to describe the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 13:32 *...it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."*

Maybe Yeshua was referring back to this story. They say that when a Rabbi quotes a tiny portion of a passage, he is referring to the whole passage. So perhaps Yeshua is referring to this vision of Nebuchadnezzar. Perhaps He wanted us to have this whole picture in our minds.

The Kingdom of Heaven *is* the center of the earth. Its height is very great—it not only reaches heaven, it *is* heaven! It will feed all living beings!! It is not only visible from the ends of the earth, it *reaches* the ends of the earth. It will eventually reign over every person everywhere, feeding them and taking good care of them, giving them physical food and spiritual food!

Revelation 22:2 *On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.*

The Lord's Kingdom not only feeds everyone, it *heals* everyone! What an awesome Kingdom, we are part of and will someday experience to the fullest!!!

Now back to earthly kingdoms, I'm thinking how much America has been like Nebuchadnezzar's vision kingdom. America has been visible to the ends of the earth. I have traveled to many places that felt like the ends of the earth to me—places that are very primitive, with very little connection to the outside—places where it takes flying a small plane across barren mountains and then driving further across a desert, etc, to get there. Yet at each place, no matter how remote, the people knew about America. Every where I went people asked me to help them get to America. Every time!!! People around the world see America as a kingdom that feeds and takes care of everyone, like the tree in Nebuchadnezzar's vision.

Let's pray that what happened to Nebuchadnezzar's vision tree doesn't happen to America.

13 "I continued looking, in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and there was a holy watcher, coming down from heaven. 14 He cried aloud and said: "Cut down the tree and chop off its branches, strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from beneath it and the birds from its branches. ...

*17 The sentence is rendered by decree of the watchers, the decision is given by order of the holy ones, in order that all who live may know that the **Most High is sovereign over the kingdom of mortals; he gives it to whom he will** and sets over it the lowliest of human beings.*

There are watchers in heaven! They are watching our government today. What are they seeing? (These words H5894 "er" - "watcher" and H6977 "kadish" - "holy ones" are only used by Daniel. They are not found anywhere else in Scripture.) I pray that the Lord will cut down the leaders who are going against God's will before they destroy America. I hope America will not have to be hurt in the process. Why would the Lord cut them down? Why might we have to suffer as He does that?

Daniel 4: 25 ... *until you have learned that the Most High has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals, and gives it to whom He will.*

How could Nebuchadnezzar have prevented the judgment coming his way? Through atonement:

Daniel 4:27 *Therefore, O king, ... atone for your sins with righteousness, and your iniquities with mercy to the oppressed, so that your prosperity may be prolonged."*

May we in America and our leaders come to realize we desperately need the atonement of the Lamb!! May our leaders' hearts be changed like Nebuchadnezzar's was.

Daniel 4:34-37

*When that period was over, I, Nebuchadnezzar, ... blessed the **Most High**, and praised and honored the one who lives forever. For His sovereignty is an everlasting sovereignty, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation. 35 All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and He does what He wills with the host of heaven and the inhabitants of the earth. There is no one who can stay his hand or say to him, "What are you doing?" ... Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, **praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are truth, and His ways are justice; and He is able to bring low those who walk in pride.***

The problem is there are people who won't change even though they see God's hand mightily before their eyes. It's very sad.

Daniel 5:21-24 O king, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar kingship, greatness, glory, and majesty. 19 ... all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. He killed ... honored ..., and degraded 20 But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he acted proudly, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and his glory was stripped from him. ... 21 ... until he learned that the Most High God has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals, and sets over it whomever he will. 22 And you, Belshazzar his son, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this! 23 You have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven! ... So from His presence the hand was sent

O Lord, You are the Most High God. You reign over all the earth. You have sovereignty over ALL the nations. You are sovereign over America. Please have mercy upon us, O Lord! Please turn our hearts to You. Please soften our leaders' hearts toward You. Please bring us all to repentance. Bring us all to the place where we know who You are, where we humble ourselves before you and acknowledge that you are Most High and we all honor and extol you!

Bring all the world's leaders to that place, we pray, before it is too late! Please spare us the judgment that some leaders might be bringing upon the world. If they are not going to turn to you, Lord, then please judge them like you did Belshazzar, we pray, but please have mercy and protect us all from having to suffer with them.

Yeshua, if this is Your time of judgment of the whole earth, then we pray that You will come quickly to take Your redeemed ones home. We pray that all people all over the earth will see You and accept You as their Savior and become redeemed ones and meet You with us in the air. Come Lord Yeshua. Come quickly. We are waiting for You.

May Your Words of prophecy be fulfilled. May Your will be done in all the world as You have planned. Please bring Your most wonderful, Heavenly Kingdom to reign over all the earth.

In the Holy Name of Yeshua/ Jesus, we pray.