

Pastor Ron Case  
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## **“Transformation, One Way or Another”**

*“For this is the will of God, your sanctification...” (1 Thessalonians 4:3)*

### **Confronting Casualness**

**Daniel 4:4-5** – (4) **“I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace.** (5) I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me.”

### **The Tree that could be Me**

**Daniel 4:8-17, 19, 22, 27** – (8) “At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Beltshazzar after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream, saying, (9) ‘O Beltshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you, tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation. (10) The visions of my head as I lay in bed were these: I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. (11) The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. (12) Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it. (13) I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven. (14) He proclaimed aloud and said thus: ‘Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. (15) But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth. (16) Let his mind be changed from a man’s, and let a beast’s mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him. (17) The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.’ (19) Then Daniel, whose name was Beltshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him... (22) ‘it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth. (27) Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.’”

## **Crash Course**

**Daniel 4:28-32** – (28) “All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. (29) At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, (30) and the king answered and said, ‘*Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?*’ (31) While the words were still in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, ‘O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, (32) and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.”

### **Key Point: God is Passionate about My Transformation**

#### **Lessons:**

**(1) God \_\_\_\_\_ me where I am, & \_\_\_\_\_ me enough to not leave me there.**

**(2) The opposite of transformation is \_\_\_\_\_ ation.**

**(3) The goal of harsh lessons is knowing God, not destruction.**

#### **Questions:**

What impacted me the most in this message?

Am I actively engaging and embracing Godly transformation?

(Matt. 9:20-22; Rom. 12:1-2; Phil. 3:12-19; Ps. 139:23-24)

Have I become lazy or apathetic in regards to growth in Godliness?

(2 Peter 1:8-10; Rev. 3:16-18)

What is God’s will for my life? (1 Thes. 4:3)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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