

# Daniel





## Materials I Need:

## Legend:

-  = Option 1, Appropriate for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Memory Work:

-  For He is the living God and He endures forever; His kingdom will not be destroyed, His dominion will never end. Daniel 4:26b
-  For He is the living God and He endures forever; His kingdom will not be destroyed, His dominion will never end. He rescues and He saves, He performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions. Daniel 4:26b-27


Prophet	Daniel
People	Jews in Exile
Prophecy	The Most High is Sovereign over the Kingdoms of Men
Principle	We Won't Compromise God's Standards

## Aim Questions:


1. How was King Nebuchadnezzar shown that God was in control of his life?
2. Why would King Nebuchadnezzar think he was so great? (*Saw through his own priests and wisemen; see also accomplishments listed on the preview, second bullet under Concepts.*)
3. Why was this book written in Hebrew and Aramaic? (*The first part is in Hebrew, the second in Aramaic is King Nebuchadnezzar's personal testimony.*)
4. How did Belshazzar defile the temple articles? (*In a drunken stupor orders the articles brought from the treasury, and they were used to toast other so-called gods.*)
5. How has God shown you He is in control of your life? (*He does not live to do your bidding. He gives control of this planet to whomever He wishes, and He takes it away just as fast.*)

## Hook:

- World in His Hands (Color Page).** Color this picture. Discuss its meaning, **3DAN38.GF10**.
- A Scary Discussion (Discussion).** Have students share about the time in their life when they were most afraid. How did they feel and what did they do? Read Daniel 5:6, "His face turned pale, and he was so frightened that his knees knocked together, and his legs gave way." Tell students to listen and find out who was so afraid and what scared him so much.
- Timeline (Visual Aid).** Review the timeline from last week's lesson. Point out the events in today's lesson. Pay special attention to who is on the throne at the time. Belshazzar is a new character. (*His name sounds like Daniel's Babylonian name, Beltashazzar. Be sure this is clarified.*)

 **Volleyball (Game).** Divide the class into two teams. Move all of the chairs to the edge of the room (or go outside). Place tables in the middle to serve as the “net.” Have several balloons available to serve as volleyballs. Play volleyball. When one team begins to pull ahead, give the losing team an opportunity to win. Announce before the losing team is about to serve that the next point is worth \_\_\_\_, (whatever point total it would take for that team to win!) Watch the response of both teams.

**DEBRIEF:** Are you proud of your win? What do you think sealed your win? Where do the Bible students give the credit? King Nebuchadnezzar refused to give credit where credit was due. Listen for the severe penalty he received.


 **Charades (Game).** Prepare several charade slips with instructions that God might give. (Read your Bible, pray every day, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, resist the devil, hate sin, etc.) The person giving clues may only use their arms and hands to give the clues. When someone guesses the clue correctly, they may pick the next slip of paper. Use all of the slips.


**DEBRIEF:** Check out the communication that God uses in Daniel Chapter 5.



## **Book:**

### **Presentation Ideas -**

 **The Beautiful Tree (Overhead/Illustration).** Use during Bible Adventure to show how Nebuchadnezzar’s dream started out, **3DAN38.GF1.**

 **Is that King Nebuchadnezzar? (Overhead/Illustration).** Use during Bible Adventure to illustrate how Nebuchadnezzar looked for seven years when his dream came true, **3DAN38.GF2.**

### **Bible Adventure -**

Most of us have heard the song, "Our God is an awesome God! He reigns from heaven above with wisdom, power and love. Our God is an awesome God!" Isn't it easy to just slip your mind into neutral, sing the words and not have the slightest idea what you're singing about?

Fortunately, God has given us the Bible so that we can see just what that song means. God is awesome, and part of His awesomeness is what we call His sovereignty. In countries where a government is run by a king or a queen, you might hear people refer to their ruler as their "Sovereign." What they mean is that the king has absolute power in that country--his word is law. When we say God is sovereign over all, we mean He has absolute power and authority over all things in heaven and on earth.

The prophet Daniel understood that fact and lived his life accordingly. God was pleased to reveal His sovereignty through His prophet. We've already seen that the future is not news to God, since it was He who gave Daniel the ability to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream and gave Daniel a dream of his own foretelling the downfall of four mighty kingdoms. We've seen God's ability to protect those who belong to Him in the most deadly circumstances.

Now we are going to see a new aspect of God's sovereignty. To do that, we'll be looking again at the great Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar. Remember, Nebuchadnezzar had seen some pretty amazing things since God had allowed Daniel to enter his life. He'd had a startling dream that none of his wise men could figure out, except Daniel. He'd seen Daniel left unharmed by some very hungry lions. He'd seen Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego come untouched out of a furnace so hot it could toast your marshmallows at fifty paces. Nebuchadnezzar knew Daniel's God was responsible for those miraculous happenings. He even called Him "The Most High God." But to Nebuchadnezzar, He was still one god among many, and Nebuchadnezzar still called Marduk, the god of the Babylonians, his own god. Hold on, Nebuchadnezzar! You are about to come face to face with the real thing--the one, the only, God of the Universe!

Nebuchadnezzar had a second dream that truly terrified him. He saw an enormous tree growing in the middle of the land. It was visible all over the earth. It was a beautiful tree, providing food and shelter for all. Next, the king saw a heavenly messenger come and give orders for the tree to be cut down. The tree's roots were to be left in the ground and its stump was to be bound with iron and bronze. The messenger said, "Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth. Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an

animal, 'til seven times pass by for him." Can you guess who the "he" was the messenger was talking about? We'll find out in just a moment. The king was so frightened by this dream that once again he sent for all the wise men of Babylon. Just like before, they were no help to their king. As wise as these men were thought to be, they did not belong to the one true God. God would never reveal His wisdom to those who did not honor and obey Him. Nebuchadnezzar then sent for Daniel. You may wonder why he did not do this in the first place, since Daniel had already proven more than once that God had given him tremendous wisdom. Perhaps the king feared the meaning of the dream, that it meant something bad was in store for his future.

Nebuchadnezzar told Daniel about his dream, including the ending where the heavenly messengers said, "...the Most High God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone He wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men." The Bible tells us that after Daniel heard about the dream, he was very troubled and hesitated telling Nebuchadnezzar what it meant. Daniel knew that God had given him the understanding and that he had to share it. Daniel told the king that he was the tree, grown large and strong. Nebuchadnezzar would be cut down, driven away from the people and would live like a wild animal. He would eat grass like a cow and live out in the open for seven years, until he admitted that God is sovereign over the kingdoms of the earth. Daniel told the king that just as the roots and stump of the tree were left in the ground, so Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom would be restored to him when he acknowledged God's sovereignty. Daniel finished the interpretation by advising the king to turn from his wicked way of living. Unfortunately, Nebuchadnezzar did not listen to this advice, choosing instead to carry on as he always had.

About a year later, the king was walking on the roof of his palace and looking out with pride over his kingdom. He saw the great double wall he had built, 50 feet thick with tall towers. He saw the beautiful Procession Street, 70 feet wide and decorated with carved figures of lions, dragons and bulls. From all over the city one would see the Tower of Babylon, 288 feet high, on which the temple of Marduk stood. The palace itself was a marvel, richly decorated and containing the famous hanging gardens which Nebuchadnezzar had built for his wife. Surveying all this grandeur, Nebuchadnezzar spoke these words and revealed the attitude that was his downfall, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as a royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?" While these words were still on his lips, the king heard a voice from heaven telling him that his dream was now to come true. Nebuchadnezzar became like a wild animal, his hair growing long and his fingernails growing like the claws of a bird. For seven years he lived this way, until he raised his eyes toward heaven one day and came back to his senses. He praised and glorified God and finally realized that God was in control, not him. God returned Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom to him and he became even greater than before. His heart was greater, too, because he recognized God's right to do as He pleased.

Even though we can see that Nebuchadnezzar's pride was overdone and misplaced, in some ways we can understand it. He had worked hard to make the Babylonian kingdom what it was. We can't say the same of Nebuchadnezzar's grandson Belshazzar, who sat on the throne years later and had the kingdom handed to him. Daniel wrote about this king so that we might learn something from his story. Remember the items Nebuchadnezzar took from God's temple when he conquered Jerusalem? They show up again in the story of King Belshazzar.

The king was giving a great banquet for his nobles. As they sat around drinking wine, Belshazzar commanded that the silver and gold goblets from God's temple be brought to him. The king and his nobles began to drink from them, and as they did, they praised the idols of gold & silver, bronze, iron, wood and stone.

Imagine Belshazzar's shock and surprise when he looked over near the lampstand and saw the fingers of a human hand writing on the wall. Now that would definitely get your attention! Poor Belshazzar turned pale and his knees knocked together before they folded beneath him. He called for the wisemen (*are these guys still in business?*) He promised rewards to anyone who could read the writing and tell him what it meant. But the wise men could not tell him. Big surprise. The king grew even more frightened. Hearing the voices, the queen came into the banquet hall, heard what had happened and told Belshazzar about Daniel and his special wisdom. "Call for Daniel," she said, "and he will tell you what the writing means. Soon Daniel stood before the king. He refused the rewards and began to tell Belshazzar what the writing meant. He reminded the king of what had happened to Nebuchadnezzar; how he was humbled until he acknowledged that God is sovereign. He said, "But you, O Belshazzar, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. Instead you have set yourself up against the Lord of Heaven. You brought the goblets from the temple here and praised your false idols, which can't see or

understand. But you do not honor the God who holds your life in His hand and all your ways." Daniel told the king that God had sent the hand to write the inscription, which read like this:

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN

"This is what the words mean," said Daniel. MENE: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. (*In fact God did the numbering twice so there would be no doubt.*) TEKEL: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting. (*Daniel meant that Belshazzar had not been the kind of king or man God wanted.*) PERES: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

That very night, Belshazzar was slain, and the Medes took over his kingdom. Once again God's will came to pass and no one could stop it. King Nebuchadnezzar said it very well, "He (God) does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back His hand or say to Him, "What have you done?"

What will it take to convince you of God's sovereignty? Are you just saying God is sovereign or do you really believe it? God is never arrogant or unfair in His dealings with men. Because He is who He is and because anything good or worthy of praise has its source in Him, everything God does is just and right. This is a whole new way of thinking for us. We get caught up in the circumstances of life, wondering why it's so unfair, why God allows this or that or demanding that God prove Himself to us. Why not start at the beginning with this thought: God is in control. He does not live to do your or my bidding. He gives control of the nations of the earth to whomever He wishes, and can remove it just as quickly. He has a plan. Stop trying to make up your own plan, and rest in the fact that God is in control. If we truly believe that, it will show in our lives in the form of peace, confidence, being able to take a stand, a healthy fear for God and wonder as we watch His plan unfold. Learn from Daniel and these two Babylonian kings. Their lives bear witness that God is sovereign. He is in control He's not a controller. He is the sovereign Lord of the Universe. And...He wants you to know Him.



### Look:




**Timber! (Discussion).** Using the Beautiful Tree illustration, discuss with Bible students what happened to this magnificent tree in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Who gave the order to chop it down? Who was the tree? What did the stump and roots signify?



**A Bit of Speculation (Discussion).** In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the messenger concluded with these words: "...the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone He wishes and **sets over them the lowliest of men.**" Some scholars think it's a good possibility that Daniel himself ruled Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom in his absence. Any Babylonian with a claim to the throne would likely have been afraid to declare himself king for fear of losing his head, if and when Nebuchadnezzar returned. Imagine Nebuchadnezzar, absolute ruler of the world, being temporarily replaced by a captive Hebrew slave. Whether it actually happened this way or not, it sounds like a thing God would do. 1 Corinthians 1: 27, "But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things - and the things that are not - to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him."




**I See the Handwriting on the Wall! (Hand Puppet).** Lightly stuff a latex, rubber glove or thin winter glove with enough cotton to hold its shape. Attach a dry erase marker to the index finger of the glove with hot glue. Do so in such a manner that only the finger is visible. Shape and glue other fingers in such a way that the glove looks like it is pointing as it "writes." Insert a dowel or paint stick inside of the glove and staple it in place on the palm side. A sleeve can be attached for added effect. Draw the students' attention to the whiteboard as you recount what was going on at the feast when suddenly a hand appeared! Use the puppet to slowly begin writing symbolic-type writing as you continue to narrate what Belshazzar and his companions saw as the hand wrote its foreboding message. Ask students to share how they think those at the feast would have felt...terrified, unable to move, speechless, did they scream? etc.

 **Heaven Rules! (Action Play).** Divide into groups with a teacher. Work together to make up a cheer or rap that declares God's sovereignty over the earth. Here is an example:

No one can ask Him  
What have you done?  
No one at all 'cause  
He's number one!  
HEAVEN RULES!  
He makes kings from the  
Lowliest of men;  
His ways are right and just;  
Say it again!  
HEAVEN RULES!

Read these verses to find ideas: Dan. 4: 3, 17, 25, 26, 34, 35, and 3. (*Be sure to look at these passages. That's the point of this activity*). Have groups share their cheers or raps with each other (*motions may be included*). They do not need to rhyme. Young students can keep it simple. Gimme an "H"!

 **Heaven Rules Bumper Sticker/Bookmark (Craft).** Based on Daniel 4:26, have the Bible students make colorful bumper stickers or bookmarks. Cover with Contac paper to preserve artwork and/or stick on bumper, **3DAN38.GF3 BUMPER STICKER / 3DAN38.GF4 BOOKMARK.**


 **Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Worksheet).** Cut squares from the picture page. Glue them in place to show the fulfillment of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, **3DAN38.GF5.**


 **Belshazzar's Feast (Worksheet).**




Color page. Connect the dots and color the picture, **3DAN38.GF6a.**

Worksheet. Find the writing on the wall. Follow the line, writing each letter below as you come to it. Some letters are backwards. (*Answers: Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin.*) Then, at the bottom of the page, fill in the coded message. (*Answers: days, reign, numbered, his, actions, His, kingdom, divided, all, came, true, night.*) **3DAN38.GF6b**

 **A Changed Man (Worksheet).** Read the appropriate passages for each of King Nebuchadnezzar's attitudes. Fill in the blanks. What brought about King Nebuchadnezzar's changed life? How long did it take him grazing in the field to realize God was in control all along? **3DAN 38.GF7**

 **Handwriting on the Wall (Worksheet).** Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin - what does this mean? Have the students look up the verses for each word and match them to the correct definitions. How does God number our days? What does it mean to be weighed on the scales and found wanting? How do we do on God's scale of obedience? **3DAN38.GF8**

 **Writing on the Wall (Craft).** You will need clay, baggies and something to create the handwriting on the wall (*craft sticks or toothpicks*). Have the Bible students flatten their piece of clay and write the words: MENE TEKEL PARSIN on their "wall." Go through the definitions of these words again with the Bible students. How would you have felt if you were at a big party and all of the sudden a hand appeared and began writing on the wall?



## Took:

**Nebuchadnezzar's Diary (Booklet).** This simple book illustrates some very important times in Nebuchadnezzar's life. Have students fill in the missing blanks or words to the several facts they have learned below each illustration. (Answers: **Furnace** - Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego, Nebuchadnezzar, fiery, furnace, bowing, idol. **Tree** - Nebuchadnezzar, cut, roots, stump, kingdom, restored. **Eating Grass** - He needed to admit God was sovereign over the kingdoms of the earth. It took seven years for Nebuchadnezzar to realize God is in control.) **3DAN38.GF9**

**Nebuchadnezzar (Worksheet).** How many words can you make from NEBUCHADNEZZAR? You have three minutes. The words must be 4 letters or more.

band bane bare barn beach bead bean bear beard behead  
 banch bend brace brad bran brand braze brazen bread bred  
 breech breed cane card care cheer dare dear dune hand  
 hard hare haze head hear heard herd near need nerd  
 race raze reach read reed.

This is a partial list. My three minutes are up. On your mark, get set, GO! **3DAN38.GF11**

**Testimony (Worksheet).** (On the same sheet as Nebuchadnezzar above.) Why did King Nebuchadnezzar think he was so great? How did God humble him? Why are personal testimonies important? Think about writing your testimony out. Why? So that you will have a tool to share Christ. "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. When you do, do it with gentleness and respect." 1Peter 3:15b, **3DAN38.GF11.**

**Modern World Rulers (Discussion).** We don't have very many kings in the world today. What do we call some of our rulers? Who is in charge of our Country? Who is in charge of our State? Do students know the names of these people? Remember, God put these men and women in position. We need to obey and support them (unless that means disobeying God) and we need to pray for them. They need to know the Lord as much as does the lowest beggar. (Prayer time today could include petition for these leaders.)

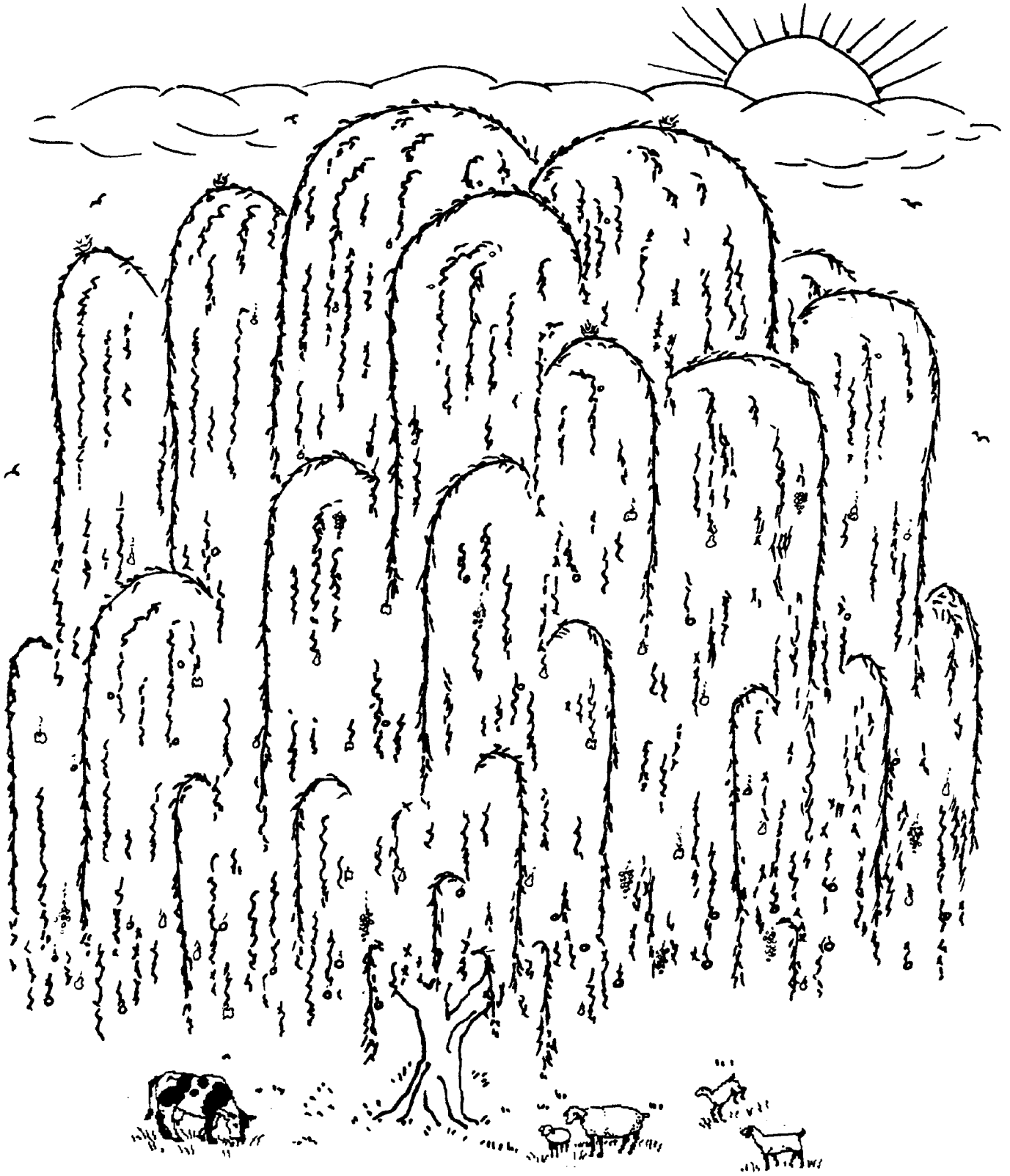
**Two Proud Kings (Discussion).** Brainstorm with a teacher writing ideas on the board. First, in what ways were Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar alike? Second, in what ways were these two kings different? Why did things turn out so differently for them?

**Animal Game (Relay Game).** Divide students into equal teams for a relay. In turn, each student will crawl to the finish line where a teacher will place a cracker on a napkin on the floor. The student will pick up the cracker in his mouth and eat it without using his hands as he crawls back to the starting line. He is finished when he can say, "The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men."

**Jumpin' 4 P's (Jump Rope Ditty).** Get in shape with our jump rope ditty... not only for your heart and lungs but a good stretch for the brain as we remember the 4 P's!

The Prophet's name is Daniel  
 The People are Jews in Exile  
 The Prophecy---The Most High is Sovereign  
 Over the Kingdoms of Men  
 The Principle---We Won't Compromise  
 God's Standards  
 These are the 4 P's  
 Got 'em from Daniel  
 Now it's time to jump out!

# The Beautiful Tree

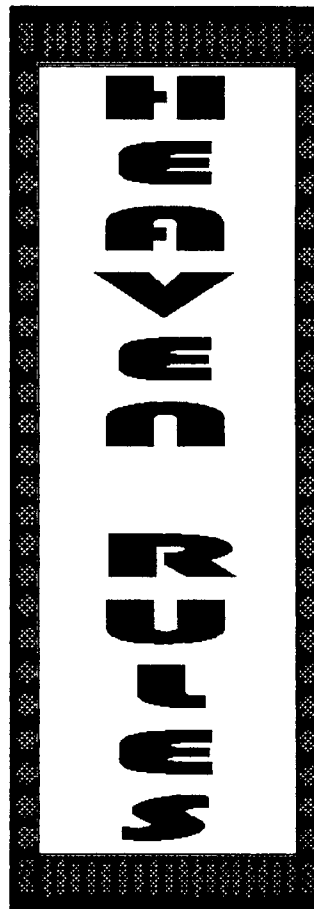
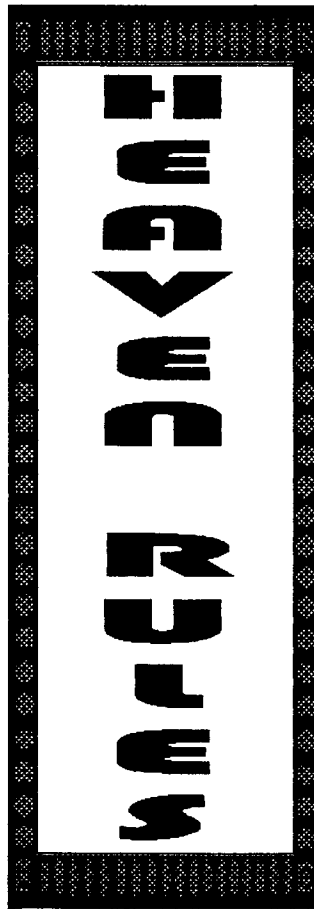
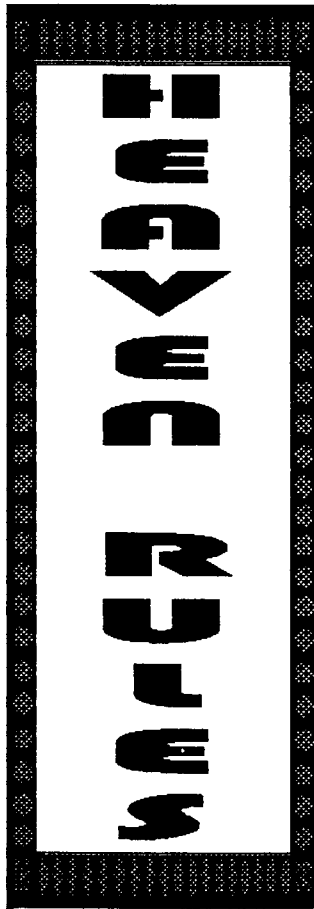
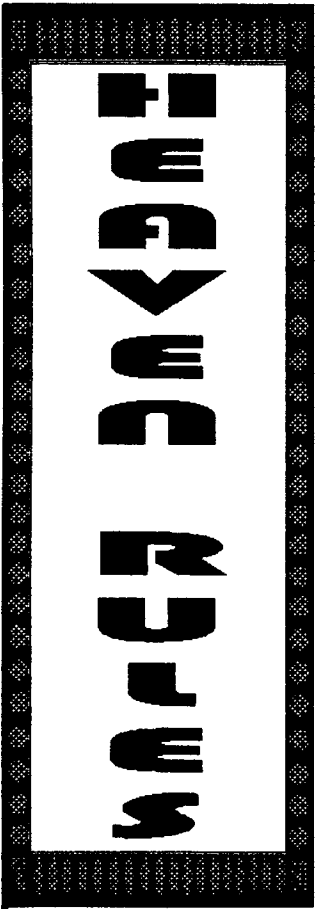
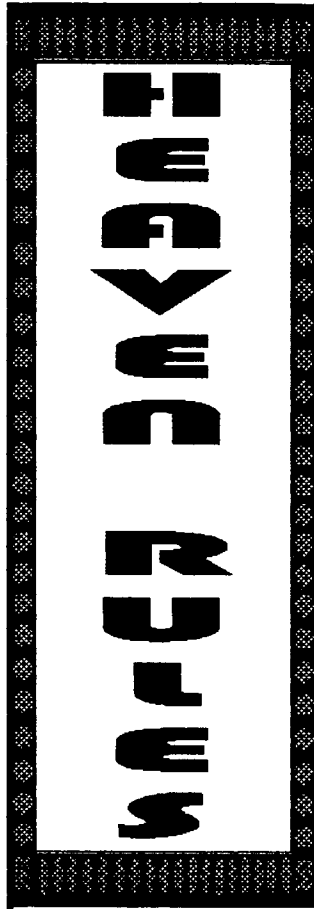
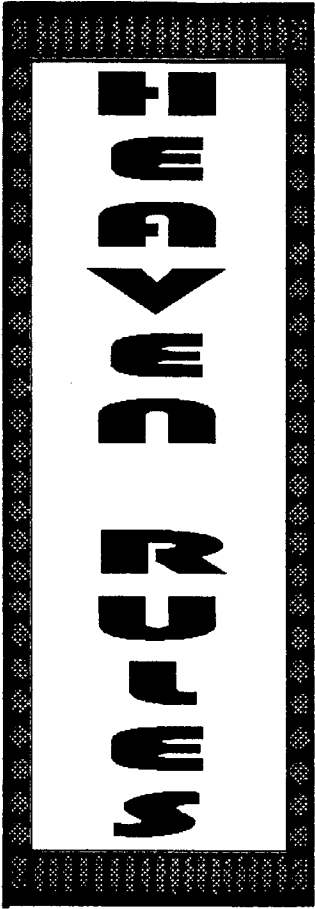


*Is that King Nebuchadnezzar?*

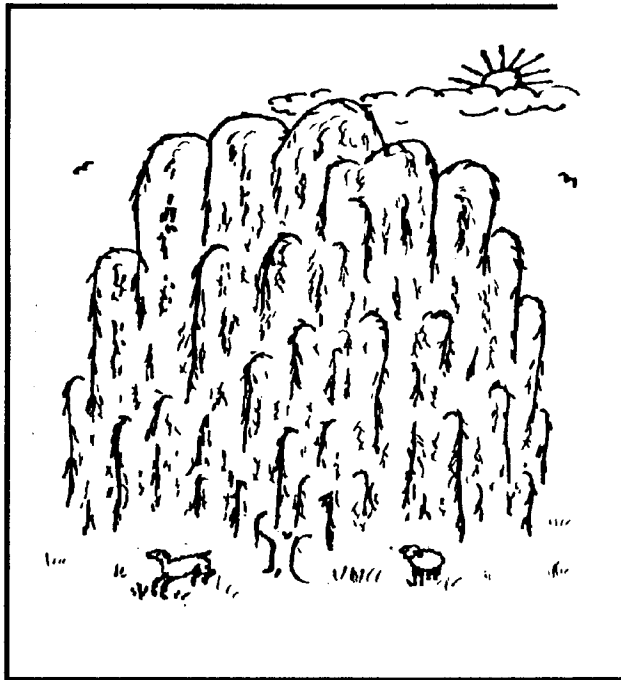


**HEAVEN RULES**

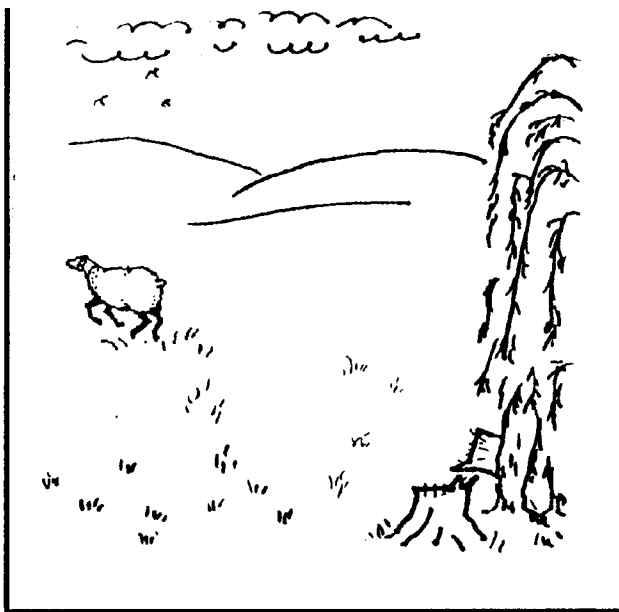
**HEAVEN RULES**



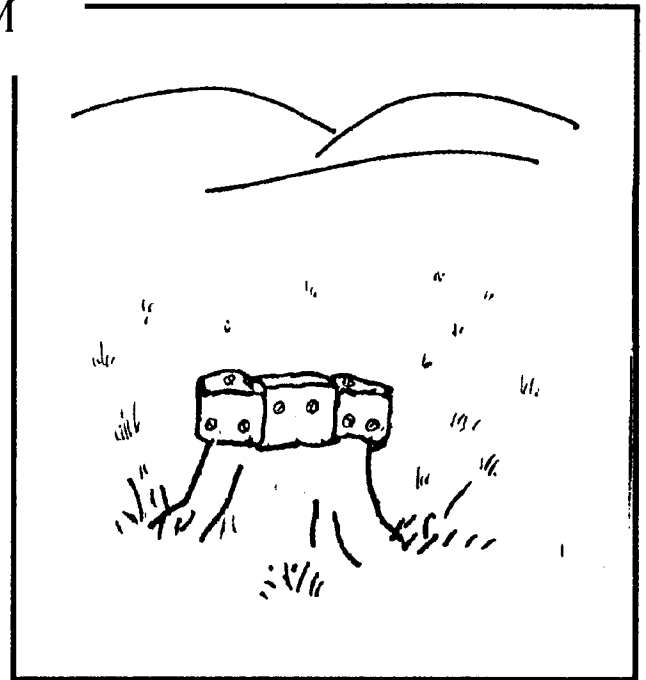
# NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM



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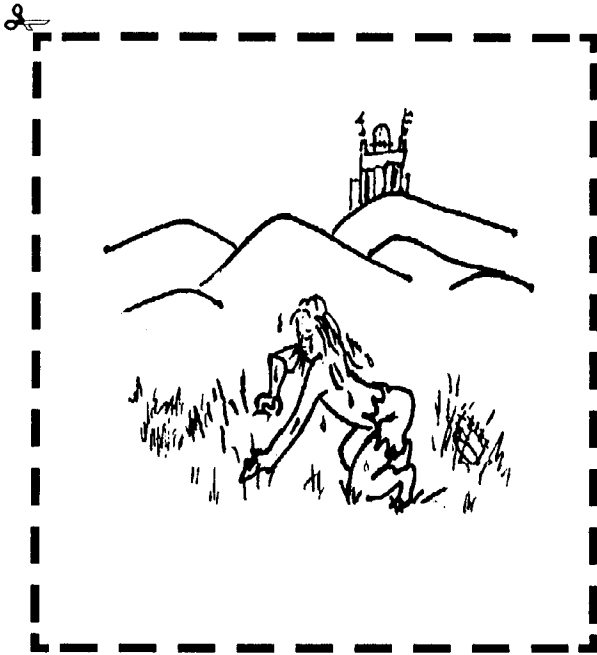


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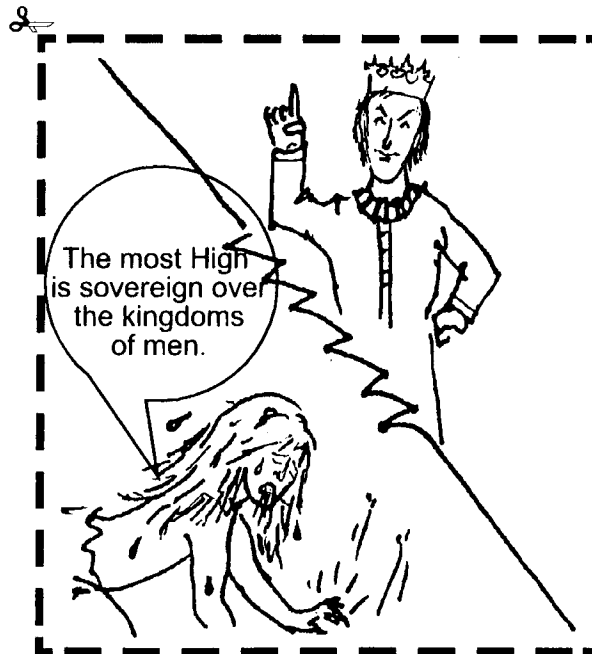


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Cut squares from picture page. Glue in place to show the fulfillment of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.



# PICTURE PAGE

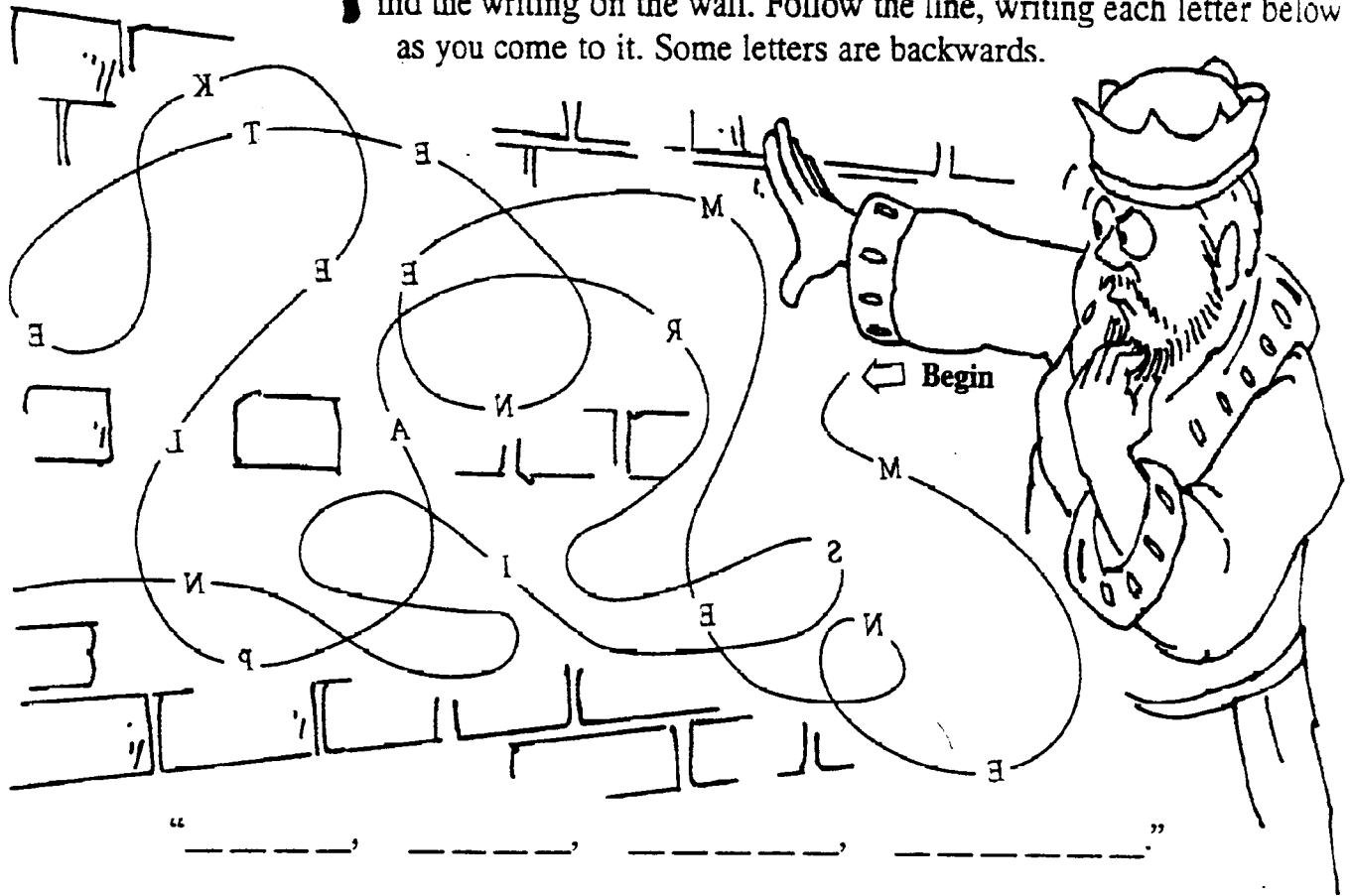




# BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST

# F

ind the writing on the wall. Follow the line, writing each letter below as you come to it. Some letters are backwards.



Code		
♥ = A	× = L	♠ = W
⊕ = B	☆ = M	● = X
▷ = C	⊗ = N	○ = Y
⊞ = D	⊕ = O	† = Z
▼ = E	◐ = P	
□ = F	Ⓜ = Q	
* = G	= R	
■ = H	◆ = S	
☆ = I	* = T	
✈ = J	▲ = U	
✓ = K	* = V	

Daniel came to explain the meaning to Belshazzar.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Belshazzar's \_\_\_\_\_ were  
 \_\_\_\_\_ because of \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ was to be  
 \_\_\_\_\_. It \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_!

Fill in the blanks  
using these words:

## A CHANGED MAN

**POWER**  
**ROYAL**  
**GREAT**  
**GLORY**  
**BUILT**

**HEAVEN**  
**GLORIFY**  
**EVERYTHING**  
**HUMBLE**  
**PRIDE**  
**JUST**



Is not this the

\_\_\_\_\_

Babylon I have

\_\_\_\_\_

as my residence, by my  
mighty

\_\_\_\_\_

and for the

\_\_\_\_\_

of my majesty?

Daniel 4:30

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise  
and exalt and

\_\_\_\_\_

the King of

\_\_\_\_\_

because

\_\_\_\_\_

He does is right, and all His  
ways are

\_\_\_\_\_

And those who walk in

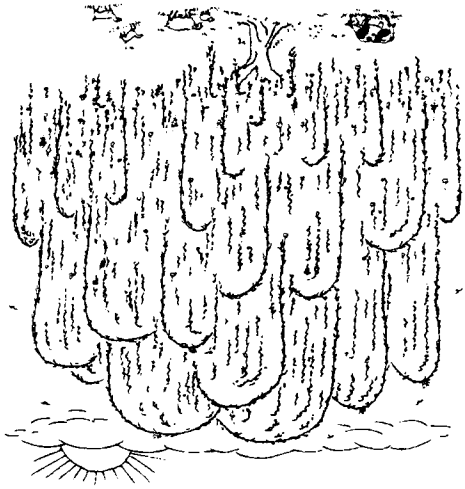
\_\_\_\_\_

He is able to

Daniel 4:37



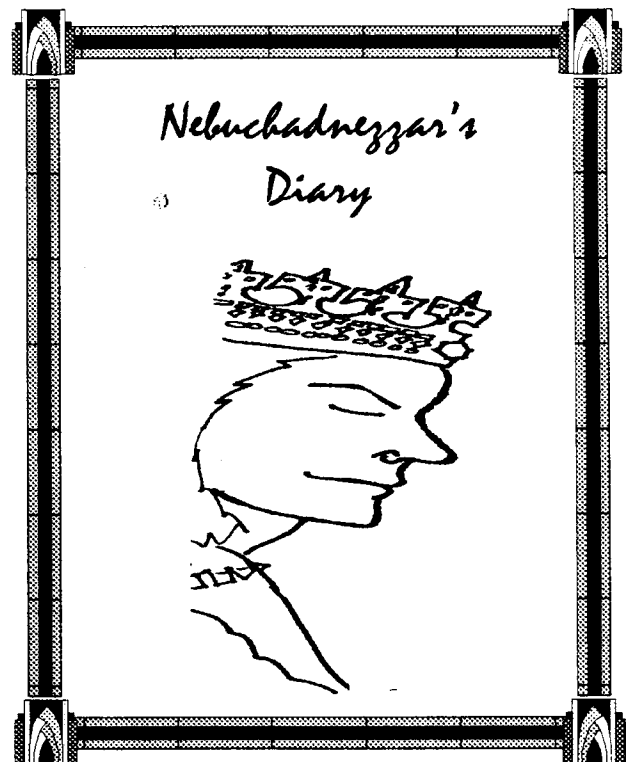
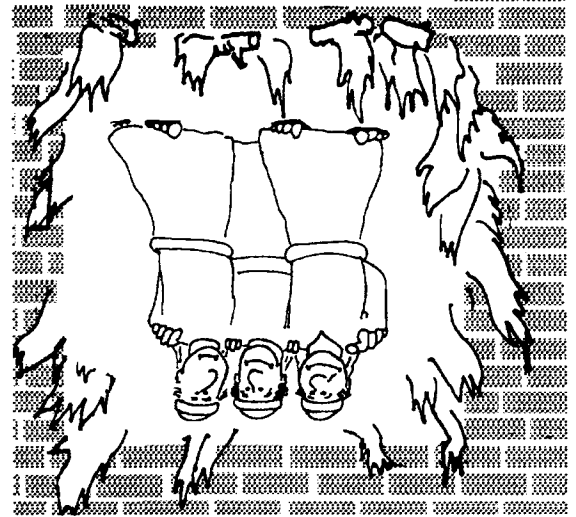
Daniel told me that the tree in my  
 dr \_\_\_\_\_ represents me. It is to be  
 \_\_\_\_\_ down. The r \_\_\_\_\_ ts and st  
 \_\_\_\_\_ m  
 will be left, meaning my k \_\_\_\_\_ gd  
 will someday be r \_\_\_\_\_ st \_\_\_\_\_ red to me. I  
 \_\_\_\_\_ think \_\_\_\_\_ is wrong.



After s \_\_\_\_\_ years of living like an  
 \_\_\_\_\_ animal, I finally understood  
 that \_\_\_\_\_ is in c \_\_\_\_\_ tr \_\_\_\_\_, not  
 \_\_\_\_\_. God is so good to me. He gave  
 me back my k \_\_\_\_\_ m!

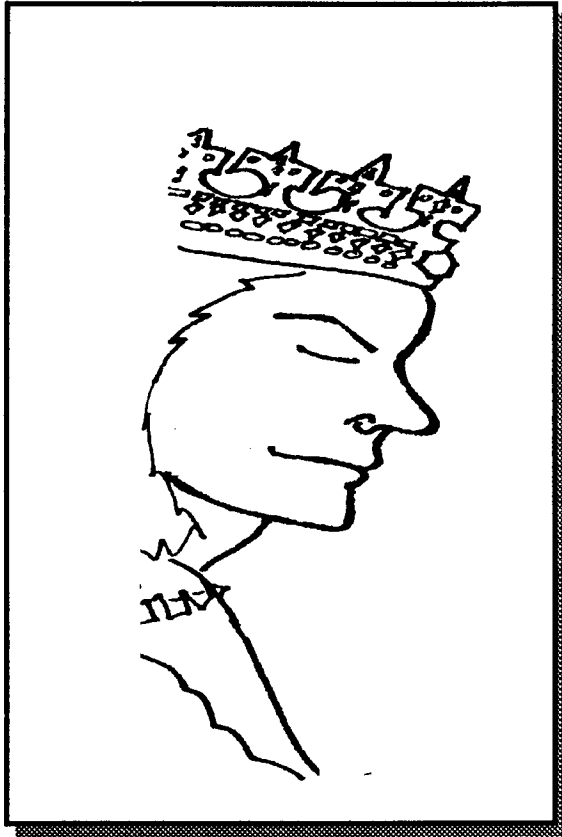
threw ha rac, e hac,  
 & Abe ne o into the f \_\_\_\_\_ y  
 f \_\_\_\_\_ n \_\_\_\_\_ e for not b \_\_\_\_\_ ing  
 down to my \_\_\_\_\_ d \_\_\_\_\_ l.

I, King



The  
World  
IS  
in  
His  
Hands





## NEBUCHADNEZZAR

(How many words can you make from NEBUCHADNEZZAR?  
The words must be 4 letters or more and you only have 3  
minutes.)

TESTIMONY- Begin thinking about your testimony. Read 1st Peter 3:15b. Why should you know\think about your personal testimony? What were you like before you became a Christian? How did you become a Christian? How are you different today? If you are not a Christian and would like to find out more about becoming a Christian, ask one of your teachers today!