

## 9. NEBUCHADNEZZAR BECAME A BEAST

Daniel 4

After God had spared Daniel's three friends, King Nebuchadnezzar realized, "there is no other God that can deliver after this sort" (Dan. 3:29).

Later the king had a dream that troubled him. He brought in the "wise men" he trusted, but they could not tell him what his dream meant. Then Daniel came in and the king told him the dream. King Nebuchadnezzar had seen a huge, strong tree, that "could be seen to the ends of all the earth" (Dan 4:11 NKJV). It was lovely and had lots of fruit with animals enjoying the shade and birds resting on the branches.

He then told Daniel that a holy one came down from heaven and said to chop down the tree and cut off the branches, but to leave a stump with the roots in the ground. Then the vision began talking about the stump as if it were an animal. It was to eat grass and be wet with dew, living with the beasts. The heart was to be changed from a man's heart to a beast's heart. The holy one said, "and let seven times pass over him" so all people would "know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will" (Dan. 4:17).

Daniel was so troubled he could not speak for about an hour. Then Daniel told the king the dream was about him and his kingdom. The huge tree was the king who had

"grown and become strong" (v. 21). His power reached all over the earth.

When the tree was to be cut down, it meant the king would be driven from his kingdom and would live in the fields like a wild beast. He would eat grass and feel the dew. This would last "seven times" or seven years (v. 23). After he came to his sense and realized that God in heaven is the real ruler, the king would have his kingdom back, and that is what the stump represented (v. 26).

Daniel begged the king to repent and show "mercy to the poor" (v. 27). The king evidently forgot the dream after some time. Twelve months later when the king was walking in his palace he said, "Is not this great Babylon, the I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?" (v. 30). He immediately heard a voice from heaven saying, "O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken: the kingdom is departed from thee..." (v. 31).

The king was driven from the palace and ate grass like an ox. His hair and nails grew long. At the end of seven years the king came to his senses and admitted that the God of heaven is in control. He returned to his former power as the leader of Babylon.



## To Help Us Understand

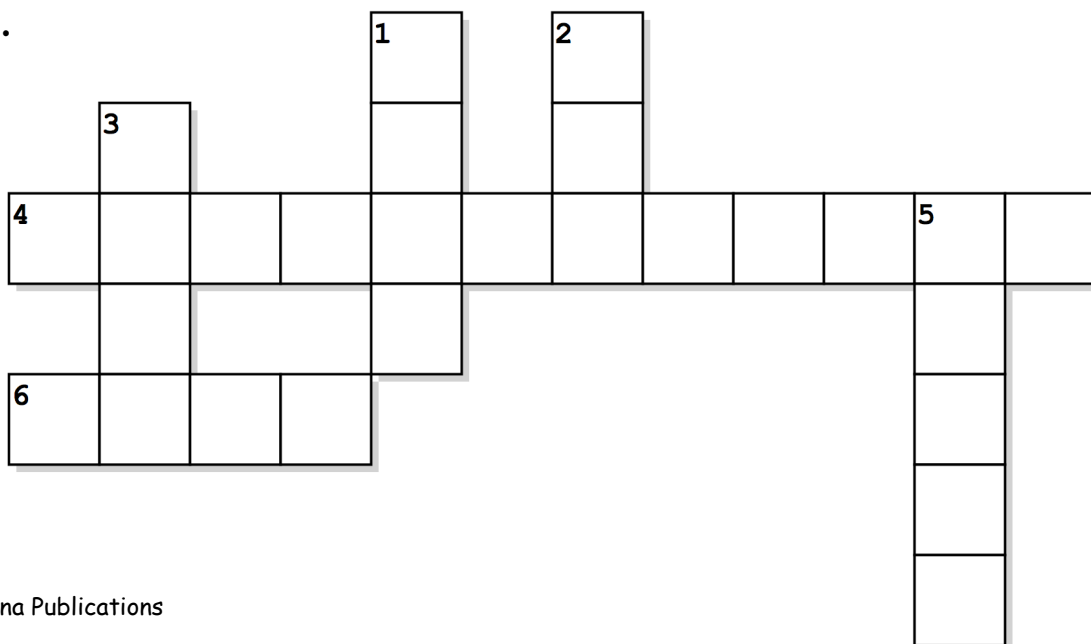
We have already learned that God does not work in the same manner today as He did in the days of Daniel. We have the completed Word of God, and there is no need for miracles to prove that our God is the one and only true God. But God still expects us to obey and honor Him! Fill in the words to find out how we show that we know God, and write them in the crossword puzzle below.

### 1 John 2:

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we \_\_\_\_\_ (6A) his \_\_\_\_\_ (4A).

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a \_\_\_\_\_ (1D) and the \_\_\_\_\_ (5D) is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the \_\_\_\_\_ (3D) of \_\_\_\_\_ (2D) perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.



## 9. NEBUCHADNEZZAR BECAME A BEAST

Daniel 4

After God had spared Daniel's three friends from the fiery furnace, King Nebuchadnezzar realized, "there is no other God that can deliver after this sort" (Dan. 3:29). The king even "promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, in the province of Babylon.

Later the king had a dream that troubled him. He brought in the so-called "wise men" he trusted: magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans and soothsayers; but they could not tell him what his dream meant. Then Daniel came in and the king told him the dream. King Nebuchadnezzar had seen a huge, strong tree, that "could be seen to the ends of all the earth" (Dan 4:11 NKJV). It was lovely and had lots of fruit with animals enjoying the shade and birds resting on the branches.

He then told Daniel that a holy one came down from heaven and said to chop down the tree and cut off the branches, but to leave a stump with the roots in the ground. Then the vision began talking about the stump as if it were an animal. It was to eat grass and be wet with dew, living with the beasts. The heart was to be changed from a man's heart to a beast's heart. The holy one said, "and let seven times pass over him" so all people would "know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will" (Dan. 4:17).

Daniel was so troubled he could not speak for about an hour. Then Daniel told the king the dream was about him and his kingdom. The huge tree was the king who had "grown and become strong" (v. 21). His power reached all over the earth.

When the tree was to be cut down, it meant the king would be driven from his kingdom and would live in the fields like a wild beast. He would eat grass and feel the dew. This would last "seven times" or seven years (v. 23). After he came to his sense and realized that God in heaven is the real ruler, the king would have his kingdom back, and that is what the stump represented (v. 26).

Daniel begged the king to repent and show "mercy to the poor" (v. 27). The king evidently forgot the dream after some time. Twelve months later when the king was walking in his palace he said, "Is not this great Babylon, the I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?" (v. 30). King Nebuchadnezzar was taking credit for himself, rather than thanking God and recognizing that God is in charge of the world. He immediately heard a voice from heaven saying, "O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken: the kingdom is departed from thee...." (v. 31).

The king was driven from the palace and ate grass like an ox. His hair and nails grew long. At the end of seven years the king came to his senses and admitted that the God of heaven is in control. As he told what had happened to him, King Nebuchadnezzar reported:



And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honored him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation.

The king returned to his former power as the leader of Babylon after he finally gave God the glory, rather than taking it for himself.

## To Help Us Understand

We have already learned that God does not work in the same manner today as He did in the days of Daniel. We have the completed Word of God, and there is no need for miracles to prove that our God is the one and only true God. But God still expects us to obey and honor Him!

### 1 John 2:

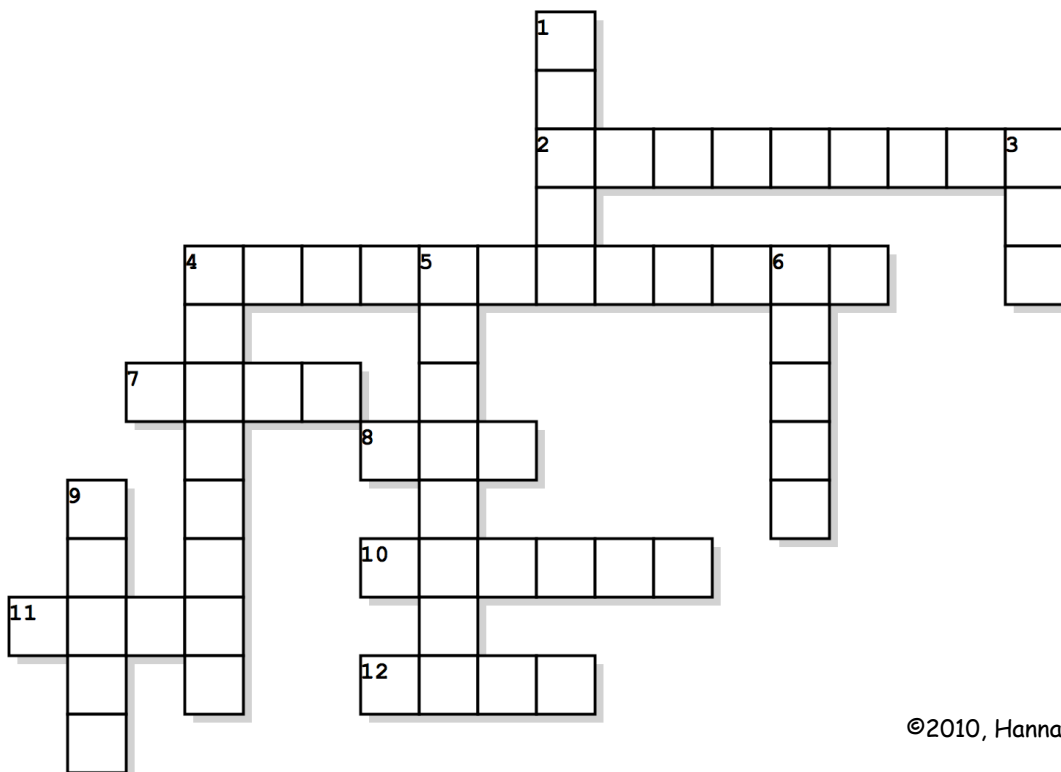
1 My little \_\_\_\_\_ (4D), these things write I unto you, that ye \_\_\_\_\_ (3D) not. And if any man sin, we have an \_\_\_\_\_ (5D) with the \_\_\_\_\_ (10A), Jesus Christ the \_\_\_\_\_ (2A).

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the \_\_\_\_\_ (9D) \_\_\_\_\_ (1D).

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we \_\_\_\_\_ (12A) his \_\_\_\_\_ (4A).

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a \_\_\_\_\_ (7A) and the \_\_\_\_\_ (6D) is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the \_\_\_\_\_ (11A) of \_\_\_\_\_ (8A) perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.



## 9. NEBUCHADNEZZAR BECAME A BEAST



Nebuchadnezzar was driven from his kingdom and lived like an animal, eating grass, for seven years. At the end of seven years the king came to his senses, praised and honored God and was restored as king.

## 9. NEBUCHADNEZZAR BECAME A BEAST

### Word Bank:



seven tree heaven grass king God

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ had a troubling dream.
2. The dream was about a strong \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The king was to eat \_\_\_\_\_ like an animal.
4. The king heard a voice from \_\_\_\_\_ and his kingdom was taken from him.
5. The king lived as an animal for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
6. In the end, the king praised \_\_\_\_\_ and returned to power.



## 9. NEBUCHADNEZZAR BECAME A BEAST

1. After seven years of living like an animal, the king came to his senses and realized the God in Heaven is in control. What had happened two other times to convince the king that God was real? (Refer to Chapters 2 and 3 of Daniel.)
2. Look at Daniel 2:47 and 3:29 and write below what the king said about God those two times.
3. In Daniel 4:37 we can read another statement made by King Nebuchadnezzar about God. Write what the king said below.
4. Why do you think the king needed to be convinced of God's power more than once?
5. Did the king have warning before he lost his kingdom? (Daniel 4)

6. Did the king have opportunity to repent after he was warned by the dream? (Daniel 4:27-30)
  
7. Do you think the king had a problem with humility or recognizing God's authority over him? (Daniel 5:30)
  
8. Do people today have problems recognizing God's authority over them?
  
9. God sent Nebuchadnezzar a dream and God gave Daniel the power to interpret it. Can you think of other Bible characters who had dreams or visions with meanings?
  
10. Do people today receive visions or dreams from God?
  
11. How does God communicate with us today?
  
12. Is the Bible enough for us today? (Gal. 1:8; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; Rev. 22:18,19)
  
13. Can we know what God wants if we do not study His Word?

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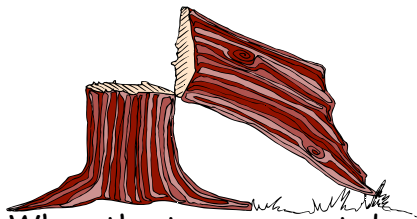
Nebuchadnezzar's dream foretold the future for him.

Match each part of the dream to what it meant.



The tree represented...

the number of years the king would live as a wild beast, before he came to his senses.



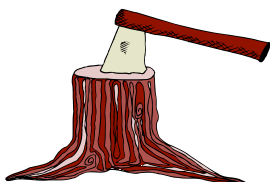
When the tree was cut down, it meant...

the king, who had grown strong so that his power reached all over the earth.

7

The holy one said "and let seven times pass over him."

that the king would get his kingdom back when he came to his sense and realized that God is the real ruler.

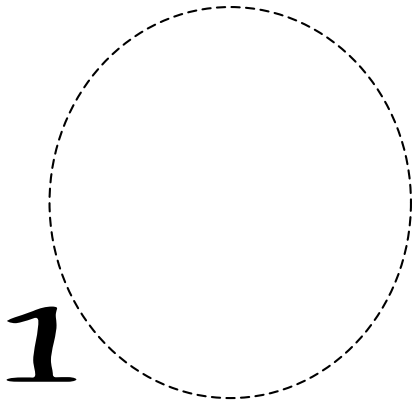


The stump represented...

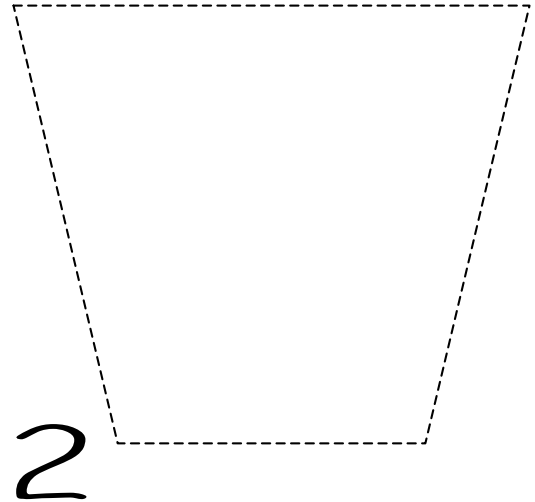
the king would be driven from his kingdom and would live in the fields like

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Illustrate the story.



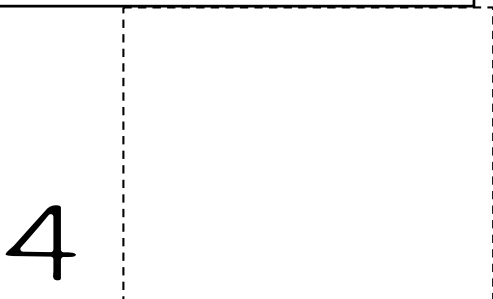
King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that troubled him.



There was a huge, strong tree that could be seen all over the world.



The tree was cut down but a stump and roots were left in the ground.

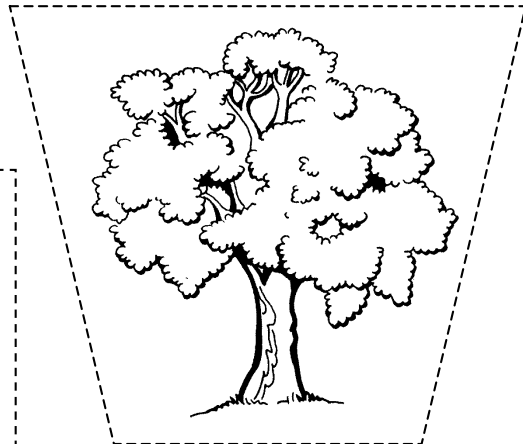
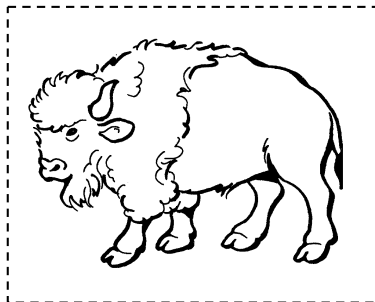
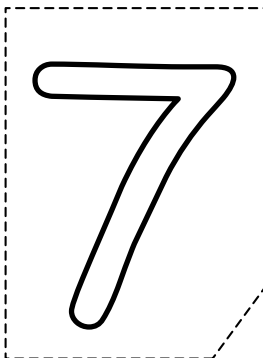
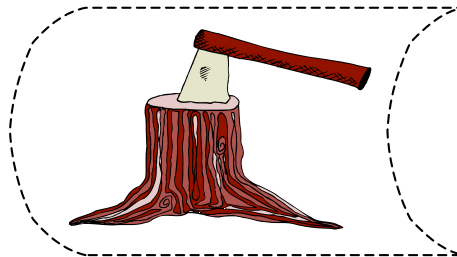
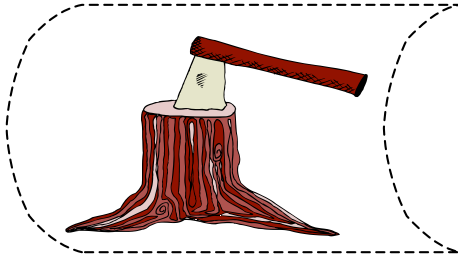
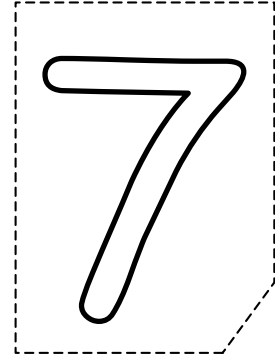
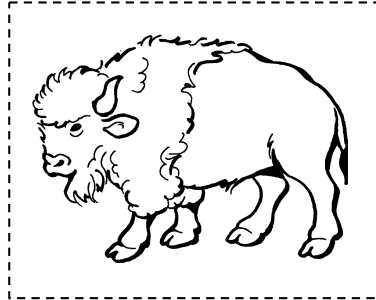
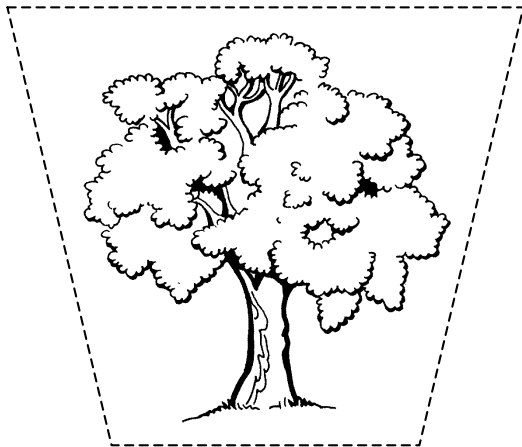


The tree stump became an animal that ate grass.



5

The dream told the future of the king and he lived as an animal for seven years.



Teacher: Cut out these shapes and let the children use them to illustrate the story page.

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Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was like a great tree, full of fruit and used as shelter for birds and animals.

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Teachers: In the instructions it is explained that younger students may put stickers of apples (or other fruit) and birds in the tree. And animals on the ground. Some of the spacing in the above activities may not be exactly correct.