

Neb Conversion

My Notes June 11, 2024

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[Daniel 4:24-27](#) This *is* the interpretation, O king, and this *is* the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:

25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

26 And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule.

27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.

Alright, here we are in that 4th chapter again. You know, far be it from me to belabor a point, but I'm hardly done with this 4th chapter. There's so much about dramatic conversion that's involved here, so we wanted to look a little bit deeper in. So let's begin with the word of prayer, Lord we look forward to your meeting us here at these meetings, and that you give us your blessings. You help us, Lord, to understand the use, and applications. We pray that we'll all be blessed by it in Jesus name Amen.

All right, we'll go to the video, and this will give us kind of a setup for what we want to teach next. All right I was at rest in my house, and flourishing in my palace. I saw a dream which made me afraid. The thoughts upon my bed, visions of my head troubled me. Thus were the visions of my head in my bed I saw and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great. The tree grew and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth. The leaves thereof were fair. The fruit, they're of much, and it was meant for all. The beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt, and the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed a bit, and I saw the visions in my head upon my bed, and behold, a watcher a holy one came down from heaven. He cried. Not allowed. Said thus. Shoot down the tree and cut off his branches. Shake off his leaves and scatter his fruit. Let the beast get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches. Nevertheless, leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass of the tender grass of the field, and let it be wet with the dew of heaven. About his portion be with the beasts

and the grass of the earth, that his heartbeat changed from man, and let it be smart be given unto him. The let seven times Passover him. This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones, to the intent, that the living may know that the Most High rules in the Kingdom of men, and giveth it to do so ever He will. All this came upon the King, that Commissioner. At the end of 12 months, he walked in the palace of the Kingdom of Babylon. The king spake and said, Is not this great Babylon that I have built for the House of the Kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty? While the word was in the King's mouth their fell a voice from heaven saying, Oh, King Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken. The Kingdom has departed from thee, and they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, as seven times shall Passover. The until don't know that the most high rules in the Kingdom of men, and give it to whomsoever he will. The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon them, Commissar, and he was gripping from the men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like Eagles feathers, and his nails like birds claws. There you are. Never cease. The greatest king and lowliest man on God's earth. See where your pride has brought you and us. You could have set us free. Now we are as prepared as you. Sure. Shut up. Yeah. New king is coming. Please God, let him deliver us after the seven years of madness passed, God restored Nebuchadnezzar to His throne from what's He honored, and exalted the Lord by practice and edict. Let it be recorded. That I never cease to praise, exalt and glorify the King of Heaven because everything he does is right, and all his ways are just, and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

[Daniel 4:24](#) Alright, so in that 24th verse this is Daniel giving the interpretation of the dream to the king, and then offering his advice. So this is the interpretation of king, and this is the decree of the Most High which has come upon my Lord the king. [Daniel 4:25](#) That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as an oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee till thou know that the most High ruleth in the Kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. [Daniel 4:27](#) Wherefore, O King, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thy iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, if it may be the lengthening of thy tranquility. So Daniel here is setting up the opportunity for him, telling the king what he needs to do. To make things right, and to avert this terrible judgment of seven times. Well, seven times, meaning seven years. So all of this comes ahead of it, and this demonstrates the great mercy of God, what I call prevenient grace. Prevenient grace simply meaning that God blessing people before they even know who he is. This is seen throughout the Scripture. [Psalm 145:9](#) The Lord is good to all: And his tender mercies are over all his works. [Matthew 5:45](#) That you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil, and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just, and on the unjust. So we know that the goodness of God leadeth a man to repentance. I think I have the verse coming up here shortly. So [Acts 14:17](#) Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. So all around us we have the the loss, the blasphemers perverts cursing God living contrary to His law, but we must never lose sight of the fact that God loves the Sinner, and God has every desire to reach them. As [2 Peter 3:9](#) tells us, it's not his will that any parish, but that all come to repentance. So opportunities are given, just as we see here, to avert the judgments.

Daniel gives him the remedy and that is to repent and to seek God. That will be ignored after about 12 months passes, and this is how people are. They get their warnings, and then at first, oh, they behave themselves for a season, but then they become accustomed to the fact that the the trouble has passed. So no need now to continue on in some kind of worship of the Lord, so they revert back to evil ways. Sad to say, nonetheless. God is faithful and provides good to those that even curse Him. Let's see, [Romans 2:4](#) should be up here somewhere. There it is. OK Or despises thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and long-suffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance. So prevenient grace, the Spirit of the living God, drawing all men in [John 12:32](#) And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me. To positional sanctification opportunities to be saved by the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. So, you know, brings up a kind of an intriguing point about the the days of old. We made the point, I guess last week about Melchizedek. [Genesis 14:18-20](#) I think this is pretty much where we stopped, but we had this very enigmatic figure of the Old Testament, Melchizedek. Who was called here the king of Salem, which would mean the Jerusalem, the city of Jerusalem. So here's the first king, and priest preceding Abraham, and so he is a type of Christ. He has no beginning of days, no end of life to his priesthood, unlike the Levitical order of priests. He has no father or mother in the sense of a genealogy that would give him some license to his position. Knowing all this, he is very much like Christ. So how did he know? He's seen here as the priest of the Most High God. He refers to God as the Most High. God El Yon is the title here. So how does he know this? And the answer is prevenient grace, that God apparently is speaking to him. Prior to any written revelation for that matter, same could be said of Moses father-in-law Jethro, known as a priest of Midian. So here he is benighted in the wilderness. No revelation has been given to this juncture. Moses, after all, is not written the Pentateuch yet, we might assume that Job is written. His volume, and I think that does in fact precede Moses, but other than that, information of who God is, is scant, but we would think again, as I mentioned last week, you know, there's such a thing as special revelation where God speaks. Where there is no written revelation perhaps the same could be said somewhat of Cyrus the Great, whose name was prophesied in [Isaiah 1:20](#) years before his birth where he could see his own name there in the Hebrew Koresh, and I could think of himself as being, you know, destined to power. [1 Kings 10:1](#) For whatever reason, he showed great mercies to the children of Israel, the Queen of Sheba comes up with a great distance from Ethiopia area, but down towards the middle of Africa it's a 1500 mile trek, but she's coming because of what she has heard. She searched something of the fame of Solomon. One could wonder how how did the news meet her there so at such a great distance? So we would look again to this notion of prevenient grace that God willing to save. Had, even in the days before a written revelation, means of communicating. [Jonah 1:16](#) The Mariners that were aboard the ship when Jonah was on his back sliding journey to Tarsus. They know something about the Lord. The men feared the Lord, it said exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows that's all rather intriguing. So how would they know to do this? Uh, what revelation did they have that they understood the Lord being a God above all gods? Now we know they're pagans. We know they're individuals here that are polytheist, but there's something that they seem to understand about the primacy of the living God. The God of Israel is the God above all of these lesser gods, so to speak. [Matthew 2:1-2](#) The wise men make a great journey to visit the Christ child, and how would they know? Well, they're stargazers, we would say. Maybe more astronomer than astrologer; nonetheless they seem to understand something of great import was happening. The birth of a nova you know, the birth of a new star in the heavens would

indicate some great event on Earth, but they had to have some other revelation that they knew to make this journey. [Acts 8:27](#) The Ethiopian eunuch is obviously a proselyte. He arrives just in time to meet the yeah evangelist Phillip in the deserts, and apparently also had some revelation that the God of Israel was the true God. [Acts 10:3](#) Same could be said of Cornelius in Acts chapter 10. Who even built a synagogue to worship the living God, and because he had given alms. Because he was devoted to somewhat the cause of Israel. The Lord was very merciful in sending Peter to him. [Acts 16:14](#) Lydia is on a riverbank in Philippi. She and others are praying they're seeking. So these are those diligent seekers that we can be assured that one that seeks will find even with a piece meal, partial revelation. They are, their heart is seeking something more. They're vain religion, their idolatry is not enough. It's not satisfying them. They are looking to something much greater. At any rate, all of this leads us to this conversion of the, what would have to say the veritable king of the world at this juncture?

[Daniel 4:29](#) Uh, so Daniel chapter 4 verse 29 at the end of the 12 months. So Daniel gives his warning to the king. The king has this upsetting dream apparently the Lord here warning him of future, and impending judgment, and perhaps for 12 months. As I mentioned earlier, Nebuchadnezzar is a good boy, right? He decides that there was so much of a warning in that dream that frightened him, that his power would be stripped from him, and then he would be debased in a bestial form. [Daniel 4:29](#) Well, all of this seemed to really sober him up for a year, 12 months, and that was it, but he reverts back. Now we could do, we could see the situation in Nebuchadnezzar, and certainly have sympathy because we do the same things. We have periods of revival. We feel drawn closer to the Lord some exigency occurs in our life it takes us to our knees. We find ourselves seeking the Lord as we've never sought Him before, and then the problem goes away. The problem is resolved in some fashion. There's no immediacy now, and no urgency, and so, little by little, complacency settles into the heart, and we revert to old patterns. Let us learn the lesson on Nebuchadnezzar's dime. So let us understand God, very long-suffering, very merciful, and patient, but at a certain point, God returns to judge Nebuchadnezzar. His pride, his arrogancy gets the best of him, and [Daniel 3:20](#) The king spake, and said, is not this great Babylon that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty? Well, there it is the original sin. It's the sin that drove Lucifer out of Heaven. The center of pride and arrogancy, lifting up our throne above the stars of God, and being like the Most High. Nebuchadnezzar will learn the lessons. So the lesson being in [John 12:25](#) he that loveth his life shall lose it. That he lived his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

[Daniel 4:16](#) Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him. [Daniel 4:33](#) The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' *feathers*, and his nails like birds' *claws*. So back to our texts. We find the kind of the combination here of what's going to happen in the 16th and 33rd verses. [Daniel 4:16,33](#) So let his heart be changed from man's, let it beasts heart be given unto him. Let seven times passover him, and then we find the seven at the same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from men he did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hairs were grown like eagles feathers, and his

nails like birds claws. So now we're dealing with what psychiatrists call lycanthropy, and it's described as when people act like animals. It is indeed a rare phenomenon, but not unique. There are historical evidences of people who have undergone this kind of psychiatric schizophrenia. So I have here notes. So we have clinical lycanthropy is defined as where a psychiatric syndrome that involves a delusion that the affected person can transform into has transformed into or is a non human animal, and so it begins acting in bestial fashion. So, um you know when we view the circumstances of what's happening about us now. We see some people, really who are raging maniacs they are fully out of their minds, and they act so, and we see it, and sometimes it's quite shocking to us to recognize what the devil can do with people, but it's not really necessarily full formed lycanthropy, but people do begin acting brutish. There's that expression that we find in Jeremiah and in [Proverbs 12:1](#) here. Whoso loveth instruction, loveth knowledge, but he that hateth reproof is brutish. Uh, now we truncated the word to brute, you know, but brutish means to be barbaric, animalistic, in other words. People without the knowledge of Christ, and the Holy Spirit who tempers people, and brings self-control to them. Those that have not the Spirit of God are capable of brutal acts, and certainly that will be illustrated in the life of Nebuchadnezzar. A Jew predicts in the last days, but these speak evil of those things which they know not, but what they know naturally as brute beasts. In those things they corrupt themselves. I think last week I just threw it out there, and I just wanted to make some comments you know, there's some evidence of Nebuchadnezzar losing his mind. It's mentioned in a historical work by Brosinars. Uh, but it isn't well defined, it just speaks of a hiatus where there was a vacuum of power, and Babylon, interestingly enough, for seven years. There is also this clay tablet it's on display in the British Museum. Um t's broken. It's just fragment, and so much of what you find, you know, archaeological evidence is you have fragments which are tantalizing, but you know you don't have enough that you can put the jigsaw pieces together, but you can read that there's certain things being said here, and you can try to fill in the blanks. At any rate, as you can see here in this cuneiform tablet .It has been translated, at least loosely translated, to Nebu. Of course Nebu is it's almost a title Nebu. It was a title given to all the kings of Babylon. Nabonidus do we have that? We have that coming, you know, 2 kings removed from Nebuchadnezzar. So it's difficult necessarily to completely identify if this is the Nebuchadnezzar of the Bible? But it well could be, and when you begin to see here, the pieces of the puzzle, his life appeared of no value, and then there's this, there's the break in the tablet, and the Babylonian speaks bad counsel to evil mirror doc. Then he gives an entirely different order, but then, you know, there's there's all this ellipsis because tablets broken. He does not heed the warning from his lips. He does not show love to son and daughter. Now we have some other steels, and archaeological finds that tell us that there was this vacuum of power, and justice before there's the vacuum of power, there was the imprisonment of Nebuchadnezzar's sons. So why did this happen? Well, we don't have all the details of it, but we're indicating what had happened was that there was, with Nebuchadnezzar out of power, there are those that would immediately try to rise to the top, and seize power in what's called a coup de tat, military officials, and so forth. That would seek to gain power, and advantage during this lapse, and so the sons of Nebuchadnezzar would have been imprisoned they would have been considered dangerous. Then we have part of the fragment. This is the interesting part. Is that his attention was not directed towards promoting the welfare of Babylon. He praised the Lord of Lords, he raised his hands in supplication, and then it falls off at that point. So there's so much to be said here. I mean, if they keep digging, they'll find the rest of the tablet, but I think there's at least some intriguing evidence to what the Bible has told us. Not that anybody should need that. If the Bible says it, it's true, but the critics of the Bible will mock such a thing, and say, well, whoever heard of

such nonsense? And there's no historical proof in evidence. With all the evidence that we've gathered, we don't find any place that indicates Nebuchadnezzar's seven years of madness. Well, the answer to that really uh is whether or not we have this tablet, and explained it or not, whether or not we have the Bible, the point is that um there's just fragmentary evidence of Nebuchadnezzar to begin with, we're talking about digging in the sands, and looking for what what happened thousands of years ago. How much evidence do we have about anything that Nebuchadnezzar did? And the answer to that is it's all fragmentary. It is quite limited compared to the deeds of a king like Nebuchadnezzar, there would have been volumes that would have been placed on clay tablets, and the steels, and all the rest that still have not been found. They're not extant so that can answer that to some degree, but again, this is an intriguing element that might actually be pointing to biblical evidence of this seven years of madness. Uh there's also the Jewish Seder Olam Rabbah, which is it's a chronological chart, and this hails back to the 2nd century AD., and so that's the word itself about Seder Olam Rabbi is the great order of the world. So it is a chronological chart essentially that historians consider to be valid, and in that chart, if you can see it right in front of you, there's seven years of hiatus there. We've got Nebuchadnezzar, but then you see in red there on the top line during this period, evil has called guards on his father, claiming him a madman intruder while his father, the king, is away on, quote, business. So hum this perhaps also is somewhat historical evidence. Alright so the real point of the story, and why it's included, is to demonstrate what the Bible insists upon, and that is self abasement. None of us can come to Christ, who are coming in pride, and arrogancy. We come humbly, we come recognizing our sinful condition. There's no other way to come to the Lord for pride, and arrogance stands against salvation. When Paul writes in [2 Corinthians 12:11](#) He says at the end there I though I be nothing. So he owns nothing, of course, before this Saul of Tarsus arrogant he's uh, he's the Marshall of the Almighty. He kills the Christians because this is God's commandment. He boasts of his self righteousness, but all that after he became a Christian, he said all that he was is a member of the Hebrews, he said in [Philippians 3:8](#) I count, but done that I might win Christ, and so he he amplifies that truth here, [1 Corinthians 13:3](#) it profiteth me nothing. first Corinthians 13. I am nothing he says, I think third verse. So it's a good place to remind the Saints of God. The closest to God were those who were abased. Jesus himself said in [Matthew 23:13](#) And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. [Genesis 18:27](#) Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I've taken up upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes. Similar statement here. In [Exodus 3:11](#) And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? You know, this stands in stark contrast of what we have today with this promotion of egoism self love, self esteem the Bible really, there's no place in the Christians life for pride, and arrogance. We recognize that whatever we are, and what whatever we have accomplished would only be because of the mercies of God because of his abilities vouchsafed to us. [2 Samuel 7:18](#) David says then King David came in, and sat before the Lord, and said, Who am I O Lord God? and what is my house that thou hast brought me hitherto? I never forgot his humble beginnings as a shepherd boy, and [Mark 1:7](#) um, it's John the Baptist that says there cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down. and unloose, and later in the Gospel of [John 3:30-35](#) He says He must increase, but I must decrease, speaking of Christ. Again, the apostle Paul says in [1 Corinthians 15:9](#) For I am the least of the apostles. I'm not meant to be called an apostle because I persecuted the Church of God. So those are some illustrations of humility, and this will be the lesson that is extracted. So here we have this mad king in [Psalm 2:1-4](#) Why do

the heathen rage, And the people imagine a vain thing? Let's understand first before he's driven into seven years of isolation, and insanity he was already a madman, and by this we mean that he raged, he brought evil devices to pass the conquering of the enemies were so violent we think of the raging waves of the sea foaming out their own shame, Wandering stars to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. Well, that rhetorical question asked by the psalmist in [Psalm 2](#), Why do the heathen rage? And why do the people imagine a vain thing? And it's because, well, the answer in [Psalm 2](#) is that they have rejected their Messiah. Nebuchadnezzar is a raging, violent tyrant. The armies of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, descend on Jerusalem with the wrath of an angry God. Tell me so we think of the three fearful visits. Nebuchadnezzar comes to Jerusalem, and in the final visit, burns the temple routes the people, takes their king. Is that acquah anti uh? Burns out that his eyes as he slays the Princess in front of Zedekiah, his sons are slain. Their throats are cut, and then he is taken, and blinds the eyes of the king. That would be the last thing that the king would see so brutal, bestial, whatever description. We're not violent raging, and here's the person that is, at this point, the king of the world. What we've seen such violent temperament exercised by those in power, we think of the Popes of the Inquisition from 606 to the present time, it is estimated by careful, and credible historians that more than 50 million people have been slaughtered for the crime of heresy by Catholic persecutors. Now, this isn't a book called History of Romanism or Catholicism, Roman Catholicism. Uh, so someone might immediately take umbrage with the figure 50 million people. So it's an incredible number, but one must keep in mind the absolute authority with which the Pope executed his office, and when I say Pope, the Pope's plural. So this went on for a number of generations, and to some degree, even to the state of the office of the Inquisition has never been dissolved. It still exists rather clandestinely, but nonetheless exists. We think of the the human beast called Adolf Hitler who took 10 million people, 6 million of them being Jews, Jews, gypsies, black people. These were considered the inferior races. His view, Hitler's view, was a view of Arianism. It was fostered by the belief of evolution, and eugenics, the idea that there are superior types of people, and that the inferior of the world are holding us back, and they need to be eliminated, and that's what the concept of the Third Reich was, and the notion of Arianism, and that's that justified the slaughter of 10 million people considered inferiors that needed to be eliminated so that society could continue to evolve to its highest form chilling stuff. Let's not forget though, that's being taught in public schools, and in colleges to this day, that the notion of evolution, they won't tell you the beginnings of this, and the manifestations of the evolutionary concepts, they hide that the Fabian Society. Margaret Sanger, and these people that believed in aborting inferior babies, and creating this supreme race of people. We have it in different forms as well today, the Islamic Republic has their slaughtering agents. ISIS was quite well known up until about the Trump administration, and didn't hear anything about ISIS after that but what they were doing before that was incredible. There's a picture of a Jordanian pilot that was captured, and they would burn him alive in a cage. So they're ruthless beast dual that perhaps aren't crawling on all fours, but they act barbaric, and without conscience. The same could be said of Hamas, and the slaughters that came in, and took that kidnapped the people out of Israel back in October. We have an American mass murderers one would have to say, look the demon possessed to do what they do, they have no conscience, apparently. They act, as [Jude 13](#) says, as brute beasts. So, well, there's descriptions, and this is what sin will do if it goes unabated, and we're all, by the way, anyone of us are capable of the same. Perversions that have not been for the intervention of the Holy Spirit [Romans 1:30-32](#) describes the final days, and what people will be like in the last days. Most people don't see Romans one as eschatological, but it certainly does speak of one of the signs of the times that this is

what people will be backbiters, haters of God spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 Who, knowing the judgment of God that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but had pleasure in them that do them. Well, lest any of us get all caught up in pride, we're capable of any of these sins, and worse, but the intervention of the Holy Spirit, and the impartation of His Spirit into our hearts has re-birthed us, and has converted us. God is able to convert, and that's what the lesson of Daniel chapter 4 truly is all about.

[Daniel 4:37](#) So, um here's Nebuchadnezzar at the end of the experience comes forth, I think is a vessel of honor. He says now I can praise and extol and honor the king of heaven, all whose works are truth, his ways judgment, and those that walk in pride he is able to abase. So we would have to say at one point Nebuchadnezzar could have been called the chief of sinners, at least in his generation, but, uh, we marvel at the grace of God that could take sinful people like this, and bring conversion in the ministry of Christ. In [Luke 8:39](#) We think of the demoniac, his sobriquet, his nickname Legion. Where we are mentally, the demons speak out of this man, but once Jesus finds him, and cast the devil out this man is ordered to return to thy own home show how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him. What about the prisoners that were kept in they innermost sanctuary of the jail, Paul and Silas, and they're singing praises unto God in [Acts 16](#) And then they the jailer comes in with the lights, and he's wondering what you know, great earthquake has opened all the gates, and he's coming to see the disorder, and he's ready to kill himself, and commit suicide. Put your sword up, Paul says we're all here, and the jailer asks Sirs, what must I do to be saved? So here's a man that was just hours before taking the whip, and beating the servants of God. Now begging for the knowledge that Paul and Silas had to impart. Well, we have so many illustrations of great conversions. I'm going to have to I guess passed through some of these. I've got so many of them I could give you illustrations of crazy people that were miraculously saved. I used this quite frequently, but this is Evil Knieval. Imagine having a name Evil Knieval, but he came to Christ in a rather dramatic way. Everybody knows his excellence, and has had trouble believing in that Jesus Christ, the Son of God I don't know why I fought it so hard. I was empty. I was just empty. The God I was praying to was the God that I thought maybe you could answer my prayers, but I didn't realize that I needed to go through a living God, and I have. I did I'm just beginning to really get the feeling of Jesus Christ inside of my body, and has grown, and grown, and grown. It's become such a wonderful thing since then I'm so complete now that I'm not even afraid to get on an airplane fly back to Tampa. That's how I feel. I think maybe it was the power of prayer. Maybe God just got sick, and tired of me fighting it so much. He reached out, and grabbed me, and said, look, I just want you. You've got to stop this nonsense. You just, you just come with me anyway. The power of God and Jesus just grab me. It just took a hold of me so strong I can't tell you how strong it was, and I became a person who was filled was just filled with Christianity. All of a sudden I just believed in Jesus Christ. I did. I believed in him. I just I don't know what happened to me. I just I rose up in bed in Daytona the second night I was there, I rose up in bed and. I was by myself and I I said devil get away from me. I cast you out of my life. I went to the balcony of my hotel room. I said I will take you, and throw you on the beach. You will be dead. You will be gone. I don't want you around me anymore. I did everything I could I just got on my knees, and prayed that God would put his arms around me, and never ever, ever let me go. I just all

of a sudden was just overcome by the spirit of God Almighty, I know that there's more to life than what I've had. I wrote a book called Evil Ways. I said I've had a life better than any king, any president, or any Prince. Hogwash I didn't have Jesus Christ in my life. I was talking about the Rolls Royce's. I had five of them. The Ferrari's, I've had five of them. The stitches, the Lamborghini's, the the jet airplanes, two of them. I flew one alongside of the other so I could read my name on the side of it. Yeah, evil Knieval, my dad said who you going to impress at 40,000 feet at 600 miles an hour? Why don't you go down, and buy a truck, drive along the freeway? I know I just all the diamonds, and the gold, and the race horses, and the women, and the booze. I want to tell you something. I've been a Sinner. You're looking at a real sinner, but not anymore. You're not looking at the sinner anymore, and I've had everybody in my family tried to help me. My son-in-law, my wife came here today from Montana, and Las Vegas, and friends that came to see me, and be with me, and I just, I just I'm so happy. This is the biggest step that I've ever taken in my life. Doctor Schuler is right. I'll tell you the difference between a Christian, and an atheist a Christian wants to believe. They want to believe everything about Christianity, and Jesus. An atheist does not believe in God because he doesn't want to. He stays away from it. He gets mad. He doesn't want to hear about it. That's what an atheist is. Do not let us come with any patronizing thoughts in our mind to say, oh yes, Jesus was a minister of his time or a biblical person, a person who believed in God, who taught us he was a teacher, a great human being. Jesus did not offer us that. He didn't offer us that. He was the Son of God. He is the Son of God, and if you don't believe that Jesus Christ is what he says He is you will surely die you'll die in your sins believe me. You've got to believe. Oh, you've got to believe in Jesus Christ. As far as I'm concerned, they're all excuses because I didn't feel accountable to anybody, I didn't feel that I had to face what I had done, ever, and so you have there comes a point where a person has to. Has to be accountable for what he's done. Can't go, can't go around making excuses blaming other people or other things. So I alone, am the one who's responsible for what's happened. Let me ask, when did you first feel that that everyone is accountable for actions? Well, thanks to you for for sending that book The Creation Science material because I always, I always believed the lie that evolution is truth, the theory of evolution is truth that we all just came from the slime, and when we when we died, you know that was it there was nothing so the whole theory cheapens life, and I started reading books about that show how evolution is just a complete lie. There's no basis in science to prove it, and I've come to since I've come to believe that. That the Lord Jesus Christ is the true creator of the heavens and the earth. It just didn't happen, and I have accepted him as my Lord Savior, and I believe that as long as well as everyone else, will be accountable to him. Growing up, did you feel that you were accountable to your dad or to your mom? As the authority, yes. If you're in the house, yes. Alright, David Berkowitz terrorized New York City in 1976, and 1977. He used a 44 caliber handgun to commit random shootings across the city. In all, Berkowitz killed 6 people, and wounded seven others. Police eventually arrested him exactly 40 years ago today. He was convicted and sentenced to more than 300 years in prison. Maurice Dubois spoke with Berkowitz for as CBS News special here's a preview of tomorrow night's broadcast. People never understand where I came from, and how much I try to explain it. They wouldn't understand what what it was to walk in darkness, and when I was reading this, I'm 34, and I read the scripture [Psalm 34:6](#) where it says this poor man cried and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles, and suddenly once again it was around midnight I was alone in my cell with my little reading lamp on, and I read that Psalm, and I started to cry, and I just shut off my light because I didn't want any of the other inmates in the gallery to see me crying, you know, getting all in individual cells, and I had this tremendous, got this tremendous urge to get down on my knees,

and talk to God, and so I did in the darkness by myself, I got down on my knees on the concrete floor, cold concrete floor, and I'm like a little kid. I put my hands on the on the bunk. I think he's typical prison bunk bed, and I just began to pour my heart out to the Lord, and I was crying like a baby, but I was talking quietly because don't want anyone else to hear me, but I was pouring my heart out to the Lord, and I was telling I saying God, Jesus, whoever you are I'm so sorry for everything that happened. I hurt so many people hurt my family, and I brought so much pain to people, and on, and on I just poured my heart out to you know crying as if I was crying for my mother when she died, and maybe I was on my knees 20 minutes, 1/2 hour, I don't know, and then I got up off my knees, and it felt like a tremendous load had lifted off. A couple of days later I met my friend Rick in the in the yard, and we live in different cell blocks so we could only meet when we have yard time, recreation time in the yard, and we hang out and talk, and maybe walk around, and so we would that day, we were sitting on a bench at the end of the yard, and we're just sitting there talking, and I says, hey, Ricky, guess what I did the other day, and he said, what did you do? I said, well, remember how you've been telling me, you know, to ask Jesus to forgive me of my sins, and to come into my heart, and things like that, and he goes, yeah. I said, well, I did that, and he looked at me, he was like shocked. He goes you what? And I was I was surprised by his reaction. So I said, well, you know, you told me that I should ask Jesus to forgive me of my sins. I should put my trust in him, and and things like that, and I said I did, and he says, are you serious? He was so excited. Are you on the level, and I said, well, yeah, yeah, what's the big deal? He said, oh boy. He jumped up, and he jumped off the bench. He started jumping up, and down like a kid screaming, Praise the Lord? I was so embarrassed. I said, Rich, what are you doing? What are you doing? He says, Dave, don't you understand? You know what this means? I said, what does it mean? He said, you've been born again. You've been born again. I have. He says, yeah, yeah. And like, I didn't know what was going on. He was so excited, and he said, listen, I know you don't understand it right now, but one day you'll understand all these things. He says, you got Jesus in your heart now, and you, you want my words. Your life is never going to be the same. So I said, oh, but you know, he was right. I mean, I started to read the Bible. I couldn't put it down. I started to go to the Chapel, and the chaplain gave me a whole Bible, knew all the New Testament was like a study Bible as a gift, brand new study Bible, and I just couldn't put the Bible down. I would read it every chance I got, whenever I come from my work assignment, whenever I had free time, and was in my cell. I'd opened up my Bible, and read I really started a whole new life. I met other men in the Chapel who, you know, glad to see me, and welcomed me, and I began to fellowship with other Christians who were fellow inmates like myself, and met the chaplain, and spoke with him, and prayed with him, and the rest is history. More than about 27-28 years have gone by since I was on my knees that one night asking Jesus to forgive me, and to come into my life. Well, of course you'll never get out of jail, and he knew that.

So it's really, it's a miraculous change. The chief of sinners coming to know the Lord. You know the Bible gives us some illustrations of these dramatic conversions. Not just people that are drawn out of violence, and evil, but also people that were self-righteous like Nicodemus in the third chapter of [John 3:5-10](#) Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? And Jesus answered and said unto him art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? So Jesus had challenged him. Unless a man is born of the Spirit of God, he cannot see the Kingdom of heaven. So Nicodemus pondered that. I don't think that was an immediate conversion, but it was the beginning,

and you'll follow the evolution of this in Chapter 7 of [John 7:50-52](#) and you'll see in Nicodemus is in the Sanhedrin and he's defending Jesus. Nicodemus saith unto them, he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them. Doth our law judge any man before it hears him. And they answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search and look for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet, and we kind of see the end of the story there in the 19th chapter of [John 19:39](#). So after they have crucified Jesus, Nicodemus being one of the dissenting votes. Few dissenting votes in the Sanhedrin. Uh we find him coming out of the shadows, and making himself plainly aligning himself with Christ as Messiah, and purchases the mixture of myrrh, and aloes. To anoint the body of Jesus. So in a sense, there we see the progress that took place there in the Gospel of John. The salvation is indeed the miracle of a moment, but it may be a process of a lifetime. It may it may take time before person actually comes to saving knowledge. Case in point will be here Nebuchadnezzar, who has what I believe to be 3 phases that ultimately lead to his conversion, 3 experiences that brings him to his knees. We wonder about Saul of Tarsus, the conversion of the Apostle Paul. Well, we know that before the 9th chapter, there in [Acts 7:58](#) chapter he is part of the condemning Council of Steven. In fact, he seems to be the man in charge of that particular martyrdom. They lay the clothes of Steven at Saul of Tarsus feet. That would indicate that Saul was the one in charge of this. This mark martyrdom, but then the 9th chapter. [Acts 9:5-8](#) We find him on his way to Damascus, breathing out threatenings against the Christians, but we're wondering already. The witness of Stephen is still fresh in the heart, and mind of Saul of Tarsus. The conviction is there in some cases. What happens by the way a person is actually more adamant, and angrier after they've been exposed to the truth, because they're wrestling with that truth, and so they become more insistent in their disobedience, but that's where it leads us to the 9th chapter in this rather dramatic conversion. When the Lord himself appears in the Damascus, Saul, Saul, why persecute thou me? Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus, whom thou persecute us in his heart, for the to kick against the pricks. And notice he trembling and astonished, said Lord what wilt thou have me to do? Now we have here, we can't look into the councils of the heart, but apparently there is this change that happens, the surrender. He's been humbled, he's been brought down to the desert floor, thrown off of his horse, he's blinded. This proud and arrogant Sanhedrin, member of the Sanhedrin, is now in direct confrontation with the Living God, and we find the surrender. So the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man, and Saul arose from the earth, and when his eyes were opened he saw no man, but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus, and he was there three days without sight. So one can only imagine what's happening in the heart, and mind of this once proud, and arrogant Pharisee. [Acts 9:17-20](#) Then Ananias went his way and entered into the house, and putting his hands on him, said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. 18 And immediately there fell from his eyes, as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. 19 And when he had received meat he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus, and straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. Well, one could say again as the case of Nicodemus, these were righteous men that were brought down low, and humbled. Well, I would have to think in the case of Saul of Tarsus. In many ways he was a cruel mad man. He was angry against the Christians. He had every intention to destroy them, and to stamp out the name of Christ. So it was a radical change of heart, and mind. The same could be said of the Jews at Pentecost. [Acts 2:36-38](#) When Peter begins preaching to them, and he says, therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God had made this same Jesus, whom you have

crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter to the rest of the apostles, men and brethren, what shall we do? Now these were the same people there 50 days before this they were shouting, let him be crucified, and let his blood be upon us, and our children. So we have this 180° turn. This radical change that takes place under the anointing of Peter's preaching. Well, of course Peter gives them the answer. 38 Repent, and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. So I'd have to say that this also is a great illustration of radical conversions.

Well, I'm afraid I'm not done with the topic. I'll have to give you one more week here. I want to say a few more things about conversion, and some of the wonderful experiences of people that came to Christ from Pentecost all the way to the modern times, but our time has run out.

So Lord looking for your blessing here upon everyone who has showed up today, hopefully Lord will enjoy our time together, and that we'll be blessed in every way, and help us, Father, to be thankful for our dramatic conversion. Perhaps not as dramatic as Saul of Tarsus or Evil Knieval, our son of Sam, but nonetheless Lord there was rejoicing in heaven over one Sinner that repents that would include all of us. So do bring your blessings to us Lord. We're glad that we could have assembled in this fashion, and hopefully Lord it proved profitable for all the hearers in Jesus name amen.