



God Humbles Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4



LESSON GOAL

Students will humble themselves before God Most High.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- Nebuchadnezzar wanted to know the meaning of his dream.
- Because the king was proud, God humbled him.
- God made Nebuchadnezzar think and act like an animal for seven years.
- After the seven years, the king humbly praised the Lord.

KEY VERSE

“They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses ” (Daniel 4:25).

APPLICATION

- Repent of being prideful.
- Use God’s blessings in a way that pleases Him.
- Trust that the Most High rules over earthly kingdoms.

NEXT WEEK

God Judges Belshazzar for His Pride
Read Daniel 5.

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

4

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul....You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Introduction

God’s character had not changed even though the location of His people had. While in Babylon, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed–Nego continued to grow in their knowledge of God. Living in the midst of a pagan people and serving a pagan king gave the young men many opportunities to trust God. The young men trusted the Lord when they obeyed His Law and did not eat the king’s meat (Dan. 1), when they prayed that God would reveal the king’s dream and its meaning (Dan. 2), and when they refused to bow to the idol and were thrown into the fiery furnace (Dan. 3). The Lord proved Himself faithful again and again. Even though the Jews were under Gentile domination, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed–Nego experienced God’s power to preserve His people. God was not only the God of Israel, but the God of the whole earth.

Unlike Daniel and his friends, King Nebuchadnezzar was slow to learn how great God is. When Daniel revealed the meaning of the king’s dream, Nebuchadnezzar confessed that Daniel’s “God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets” (Dan. 2:47). Although he confessed God’s greatness, Nebuchadnezzar was still full of pride. Before long, the king commanded his officials to worship the idol he had erected. When Meshach, Shadrach, and Abed–Nego disobeyed, he threw them into the fiery furnace. The king was certain that no god could deliver the men from his hand (3:15). When God rescued his servants, Nebuchadnezzar again praised God. He said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed–Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him” (3:28). He even said, “There is no other God who can deliver like this” (3:29). Nebuchadnezzar should have understood that God is not only a great god, but the only great God. But Nebuchadnezzar was unwilling to give God the glory for his kingdom. Although it would take seven humiliating years, Nebuchadnezzar eventually believed that the “Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men” (4:17).

Nebuchadnezzar’s Letter (Dan. 4:1–3)

People throughout the Middle East must have been surprised by the letter making its way throughout Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom (Dan. 4:1). The king began his letter with a clear purpose: “I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me” (4:2). The people would have remembered that this same king had once called all his officials to worship the idol he had built. But now Nebuchadnezzar was testifying not to his own greatness, but to the greatness of God Most High. Instead of exalting his kingdom, Nebuchadnezzar exalted God whose “kingdom is an everlasting kingdom” (4:3). Instead of wanting to be praised for his power, Nebuchadnezzar praised God whose “dominion is

from generation to generation” (4:3). The people must have wondered what had brought this change in proud Nebuchadnezzar. The letter went on to explain.

Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream (Daniel 4:4–18)

To begin his testimony, Nebuchadnezzar took the recipients of the letter back at least eight years. Nebuchadnezzar began his letter by telling what had happened when he had a terrifying dream. Although it is impossible to pinpoint the date of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, it is likely that as many as 30 years had passed since the building of the idol in Daniel 3. Nebuchadnezzar told how the troubling dream demolished the peace and rest he was experiencing while his kingdom flourished (Dan. 4:4–5). Much as he had done over 30 years prior, Nebuchadnezzar called for the “magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers” to interpret the dream (4:6–7). When the magicians failed, Nebuchadnezzar was confident that Daniel, whom he had named Belteshazzar (which means “Bel protect the king”), would be able to interpret the dream because God’s Spirit was in Daniel (4:8–9). Nebuchadnezzar had once put Daniel in charge of the wise men because Daniel had revealed through God’s power both Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and its meaning (2:24–45). Nebuchadnezzar hoped that Daniel, still the chief of the magicians, would once again be able to explain his dream (4:9). (Daniel was probably around 50 years old.)

Nebuchadnezzar related the content of his dream to Daniel (and the letter’s readers). The dream began with a vision of a tree which became so massive that it was able to provide food and protection for all the birds and beasts (Dan. 4:10–12). The peaceful scene was demolished when an angel, “a watcher, a holy one,” came down from heaven and proclaimed that the tree should be chopped down and stripped of its branches, forcing the animals in its protection to scatter (4:13–14). The tree was not to be completely destroyed. Instead, the stump and roots were to be left, and an iron and bronze band was to be set to protect the stump (4:15). The unsettling dream quickly became terrifying as the angel changed its proclamation from “it” to “him” (4:15). The tree was a symbol for a person. The person would be “wet with the dew of heaven” and would “graze with the beasts on the grass of the earth.” Not only would this person act like an animal, but his mind would also be changed to that of an animal until “seven times” (seven years) had passed (4:16). The angel finished his pronouncement by saying that the angels had decreed (under God’s sovereignty, [4:24]) that this would happen “in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men” (4:17). After relating the dream to Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar waited for the terrifying dream to be explained (4:18).

Nebuchadnezzar’s Warning (Dan. 4:19–27)

Daniel was “astonished for a time,” shocked by the judgment Nebuchadnezzar was facing (Dan. 4:19). Daniel was so troubled that the king had to encourage Daniel not to be worried. Daniel began by saying how he wished that the dream applied to Nebuchadnezzar’s enemies instead of Nebuchadnezzar. It had been easier for Daniel to identify the king as the head of gold (Dan. 2) than to identify him as the tree about to be chopped down.

Even though He was troubled by the interpretation, Daniel explained the dream. Daniel said to the king, “The tree that you saw...it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong” (Dan. 4:20–22). The first part of the dream pictured the king in his present power. But the dream also pictured the future. Daniel continued to tell the king the “decree of the Most High” (4:24), that the king would be driven from men and, like an animal, would live and sleep outside and eat grass. The king’s horrifying humiliation would continue for seven years until he knew that the

“Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses” (4:25). God’s punishment was not without purpose. Nebuchadnezzar would be like an animal until he came to “know that Heaven rules” (4:26). When he humbled himself before God, his kingdom would be returned to him because God was willing to let the stump and roots remain.

Daniel pleaded with the king to receive the dream and its interpretation as a warning. He boldly advised the king: “Break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor” (4:27). Unlike Jonah, who was out of touch with God’s sovereign mercy, Daniel was eager to see Nebuchadnezzar humble himself and obey God. Although he could make no promise, Daniel hoped that Nebuchadnezzar might experience a “lengthening of his prosperity” upon repentance (4:27).

Nebuchadnezzar’s Punishment (Dan. 4:28–33)

Nebuchadnezzar did not receive Daniel’s warning. Although God graciously granted Nebuchadnezzar one year to respond to Daniel’s call for repentance, Nebuchadnezzar would not bow his stiff neck and repent of his proud heart (Dan. 4:29–30). While walking about his palace, Nebuchadnezzar foolishly boasted, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?” (Dan. 4:30). While still exalting himself, Nebuchadnezzar heard a voice from heaven (perhaps belonging to an angel) announce, “The kingdom has departed from you!” (4:31). God’s judgment was about to fall on Nebuchadnezzar. That same hour, Nebuchadnezzar’s mind became like that of an animal. No longer able to live among men, Nebuchadnezzar traded his palace for a field, his officials for cattle, his banquets for grass, his rich robes for hair matted like eagles’ feathers, and his elegance for nails overgrown and blackened like birds’ claws (4:33). The proud neck of Nebuchadnezzar hung in disgrace.

Nebuchadnezzar’s Praise (Dan. 4:34–37)

Although God could have left him in his deranged state, the Lord had planned to have mercy on Nebuchadnezzar. When the seven years declared by God had passed, He graciously allowed Nebuchadnezzar to lift his eyes in humility to heaven (Dan. 4:34). The Lord returned to Nebuchadnezzar his understanding, and Nebuchadnezzar “blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever.” In his letter to his kingdom, Nebuchadnezzar praised God whose dominion is unending and before whom the “inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing” (4:35). The king who dared to exalt himself above the King of kings learned that God “does according to His will,” both among angels and men. Men have no power to thwart God’s will.

Just as God had promised, the stump and roots had not been destroyed. God returned Nebuchadnezzar to his kingdom (Dan. 4:36). The king was even more majestic than before. Even more significant than his kingdom being restored is that Nebuchadnezzar’s heart had been changed. In his letter, the king confessed, “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice” (4:37). Nebuchadnezzar had no complaint against God for the judgment he had received. The king ended his testimony with a warning to all: “Those who walk in pride He is able to put down” (4:37).

Conclusion

Nebuchadnezzar learned the hard way that “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6). He had been given visions from the Lord, had seen the

Lord do miracles, and had been called on by Daniel to repent, but still Nebuchadnezzar would not humble himself before God. After seven miserable years of living like an animal, Nebuchadnezzar repented and humbled himself before the Lord. The Lord was gracious to humble Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar finally learned that “the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He will” (Dan. 4:17).

POINT TO THE TRUTH

*“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth”
(Psalm 78:1).*

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

What did King Nebuchadnezzar demand that all the people do?
He demanded that all the people worship a gold image.

Who disobeyed his command?
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.

What did the king do to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego?
He had them thrown into a fiery furnace.

Who protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego?
God protected the three men. He sent His angel into the furnace with them and stopped the fire from burning them.

What did the king do when he saw how God had protected the three men?
The king praised God for protecting the three men.



Warning Signs

After Daniel interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, he warned him to repent of his sin (Dan. 4:27). Nebuchadnezzar should have listened to Daniel’s warning. To help the students think about correct responses to warnings, bring in some pictures or symbols or warnings—various street signs, signs hung on private properties (“Beware of Dog,” etc.), medicine labels, poison stickers, etc. Show the students each sign, and then what the correct response is to its warning. Then ask them what the correct response is to a verse such as Daniel 4:27.



Who’s in Control?

King Nebuchadnezzar was so powerful that he became filled with pride and forgot his position under God. To illustrate this, bring to class a puppet, and have the puppet introduce himself to the students and then begin telling them how wonderful he is and what great things he has done. Remind the puppet that he could do nothing without you. Pretend to argue with the puppet about what he is able to do without you. Then pull your hand out of the puppet, and let the puppet hang limply. Read 1 Corinthians 4:7 to the students: “What do you have

that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?" Remind them that we are nothing and can do nothing without God. In today's lesson, we will learn about a king who forgot this and will see how God reminded him.



"The Big Tree" Review Game

Copy the tree image (at the back of the lesson) onto an overhead transparency. Cut the transparency, separating the tree from the stump, and tape it back together again. Next, project the image onto a wall covered with butcher paper. Divide the class into two teams. One team should be named "birds" and the other "fruit." Bring bird and fruit stickers. Create review questions from the last few Daniel lessons. Whenever a student answers a question correctly, he can place a sticker for his team on the tree. The team with the most stickers wins. After the game is over, untape the transparency to "cut down" the tree as the tree in Nebuchadnezzar's dream was cut down.



Big Pride and Little Humility

Bring to class some objects that are the same except for their size (for example, a small apple and a large apple, a small picture frame and a large picture frame, etc.). Show the students the pairs of items, and ask them what the difference is between them. Bring in a magnifying glass, and have some students look through the wrong end to see how small things appear. Explain that when we are proud, we make ourselves out to be bigger than we really are; we focus all our attention on ourselves. Humility, on the other hand, makes God out to be big. It focuses attention on Him and not on self. In today's lesson we will learn about a proud man and how God humbled him.



Pass the Letter

This game is played like "Hot Potato," but instead of passing a potato, the students should pass a rolled-up paper scroll. When the music stops, the student holding the scroll should name something that God has done for him, giving Him praise and thanksgiving.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Daniel and his friends were Israelites who had been captured and brought to work for King Nebuchadnezzar. They honored the Lord in their work, and He allowed them to be blessed even in a foreign land. More than once, King Nebuchadnezzar had seen God's miraculous power demonstrated through Daniel and his friends. The first time was when he had a dream, and God told Daniel what the dream was and what it meant. The second time was when the king threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego into the fiery furnace because they would not bow down to the golden idol he had built. God showed King Nebuchadnezzar that He was more powerful than any manmade god by rescuing the young men from the furnace. Many years later, the king still remembered what God had done, and he knew that God was worthy of worship, but he still had a lot to learn. He understood that Daniel's God was great, but he did not believe that He was the only true God. He thought of God as just another great manmade god. Also, he would not give God the glory for his kingdom. King Nebuchadnezzar wanted all the glory and credit for himself.

The people in the kingdom knew this about their king, so they must have been surprised by a letter that he sent out for everyone to read. In his letter, Nebuchadnezzar praised God for his great works and told of how God had humbled him and taught him that the one true God is the only one worthy of glory. At the beginning, Nebuchadnezzar stated, "I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me. How great are His signs, and how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation" (4:3). The king went on to tell the story of how God had worked in his life over the last eight or more years. His story began while he was resting at his palace, enjoying all the things that a very rich king has. He was so relaxed that he dozed off and had a dream. This was not a good dream; it frightened him. He wanted to know what this scary dream meant, so he called all the wise men in his kingdom to come listen to his dream and then tell him what it meant. They listened carefully, but none of them could explain the dream's meaning. Daniel, who was in charge of all the wise men, finally came to hear the king's dream. The king said to Daniel, "I know that the Spirit of the Holy God is in you, and no secret troubles you, explain to me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and its interpretation" (4: 9). The king went on to tell Daniel what he had seen in his dream. The dream began with a tree that was so big that even large animals were able to be shaded by it. The tree was as tall as the sky! There were leaves and fruit for everyone to eat. Then an angel came down and said, "Chop down the tree and cut off its branches, Strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts get out from under it, and the birds from its branches. Nevertheless leave the stump and roots in the earth" (4:13-14). The angel continued by saying that the stump of the tree would be turned into a beast and tied up, and forced to

eat the grass for seven years. The angel said that the decision had been made to do this so that everyone would know that God rules the kingdoms of men. Nebuchadnezzar finished telling his dream and again asked Daniel to tell him what it meant. Daniel knew what the dream meant but was alarmed by it. The king urged him to tell him what he knew. Daniel told the king that he wished this dream was about the king's enemies, but it was not. The dream was not good news for the king. Daniel told the king that the tree in the dream was him, King Nebuchadnezzar. It was a great and beautiful tree, just like the king and his kingdom were. The angel, however, said that the tree must be chopped down, meaning that the king would be removed from power, and that he would be tied up and live outside and eat grass like an animal. He would stay there for seven years until he realized that God alone is great. When the king humbled himself before God, he would get his kingdom back.

Daniel begged the king to take the dream as a warning from God and to stop sinning and be merciful to the poor. Daniel desperately wanted the king to humble himself and obey God. Nebuchadnezzar did not listen to Daniel. God gave him a whole year to respond to the warning, but he did not. He remained prideful, and boasted, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" (4:30). While he was saying that, a voice came from heaven and announced, "The kingdom has departed from you!" God's judgment, as promised, came down on Nebuchadnezzar. Within the hour, the king went crazy and began acting like an animal. He was sent away from the kingdom and lived in the fields and ate grass. God humbled Nebuchadnezzar since he would not humble himself.

Nebuchadnezzar still was able to enjoy the mercy of God. Seven long years later, he finally looked up to heaven and praised God as the one true God. He stopped acting like an animal, and his kingdom was restored to him. Nebuchadnezzar had learned his lesson. God judged him harshly, but then mercifully allowed him to repent. Nebuchadnezzar told about all this in the letter that he wrote for everyone in the world to read. He finished his letter by praising God. He said, "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are the truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down" (4:37).



Lesson Questions

What did King Nebuchadnezzar ask Daniel to do?

The king had another dream and wanted Daniel to tell him what the dream meant.

What was the dream about?

King Nebuchadnezzar saw a huge tree that provided food and protection for all the birds and beasts. An angel came and said that it was to be chopped down and stripped of its branches. This would force all the animals to scatter. But the tree would not die.

What did Daniel say the dream meant?

Daniel told the king that he would be humbled before God for seven years, living like an animal because of his pride.

Did he stay that way?

Just like God had promised, after seven years, he lifted his eyes humbly toward heaven. His senses came back to him, and he praised God.



Presentation Ideas

A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards®

Use appropriate A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards® with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannel Graph

Use appropriate flannel graph pieces with the lesson.



Skit: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Materials: pictures, overhead transparency sheets, king costume

Directions: Before class, find pictures that correspond to various aspects of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (listed below). Photocopy the pictures onto overhead transparencies. During class, have an assistant dress in a king costume and lie on a table as though he is asleep. As you teach, use an overhead projector to project scenes from Nebuchadnezzar's dream above his head.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 3:10–11 | large, tall tree |
| 3:12a | leaves and fruit |
| 3:12b | bird nest on branch, animals shaded below |
| 3:13–14 | ax |
| 3:15 | tree stump and roots |
| 3:16 | heart with a picture of a beast in the center |
| 3:17 | crown with "God Reigns" written on it |

Praise and Worship

Create in Me a Clean Heart

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord

Make Me a Servant

My God Is So Great

This Is My Father's World

Trust and Obey



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

The king was alarmed when he had an odd dream,
(Place hands under head as though sleeping; "wake up" with alarmed look on face.)

So Daniel was called to tell what it might mean.
(Hold hands out at sides, palms up.)

He said to the king, "How I wish it weren't true!
(Clasp hands; shake head.)

The tree that you saw in your dream—it is you!
(Hold hands over head like a tree; point outward.)

Because of your pride, the Lord gives this command:
(Stand erect and lift head proudly; tap palm with index finger.)

Your kingdom and power will slip from your hands.
(Flex biceps; hold out hands and pretend to drop something.)

And that is what happened; the king lost his mind
(Hold sides of head with hands.)

And lived seven years like a beast in the wild.
(Hold up seven fingers; hold up hands like claws.)

Till, humbled, he lifted his eyes to the Lord,
(Hang head low; then lift head upward.)

And then both his kingdom and sense were restored.
(Sweep hand outward; point to temple.)

This lesson he told all the people to know:
(Tap palm with index finger; nod head.)

That those who walk proudly, the Lord will bring low.
(Walk in place, holding head high; hang head low.)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



“Nebuchadnezzar’s Warning”

Materials: copies of the “Nebuchadnezzar’s Warning” craft page, scissors, glue, crayons

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft page. Have the students cut out the shape along the solid lines and then fold the flaps in along the dotted line. Then have them glue the circles on the appropriate flaps to create a stoplight. They can color the surrounding area on the outside and inside of the craft black. They should color the circles yellow, red, and green. Discuss what each light means. Then read and discuss God’s messages to Nebuchadnezzar with the students.



“God Warns Nebuchadnezzar in a Dream”

Materials: copies of “God Warns Nebuchadnezzar in a Dream” craft pages, brads, scissors, crayons

Directions: Have students color the tree and decorate it with fruit and birds. Have each student cut out his tree and attach it to the stump using a brad. The tree will be able to fall over, leaving the stump.



Pride and Repentance

Nebuchadnezzar's sin was pride. Children and adults both struggle with this sin. Whenever we desire to do anything out of God's timing or will, we are being proud and thinking that we know better than God. Help the students to recognize pride in their lives by discussing times when they choose to do what they want instead of what God desires. Explain what Nebuchadnezzar did when he realized that he was proud and had done wrong. The only correct response is humble repentance for sin. Explain to the students that repentance is turning away from sin, not just leaving sin for a short time. Ask them how they can repent from their sin of pride and humbly ask God for His forgiveness.

Coloring Pages

Give each student a copy of the coloring pages at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble'" (James 4:6).

Nebuchadnezzar's Warning

Stop Pride

"Therefore, O King,
may my advice be accept-
able to you; break off your
sins by being righteous, and
your iniquities by showing
mercy to the poor. Perhaps
there may be a lengthening
of your prosperity"
(Daniel 4:27).

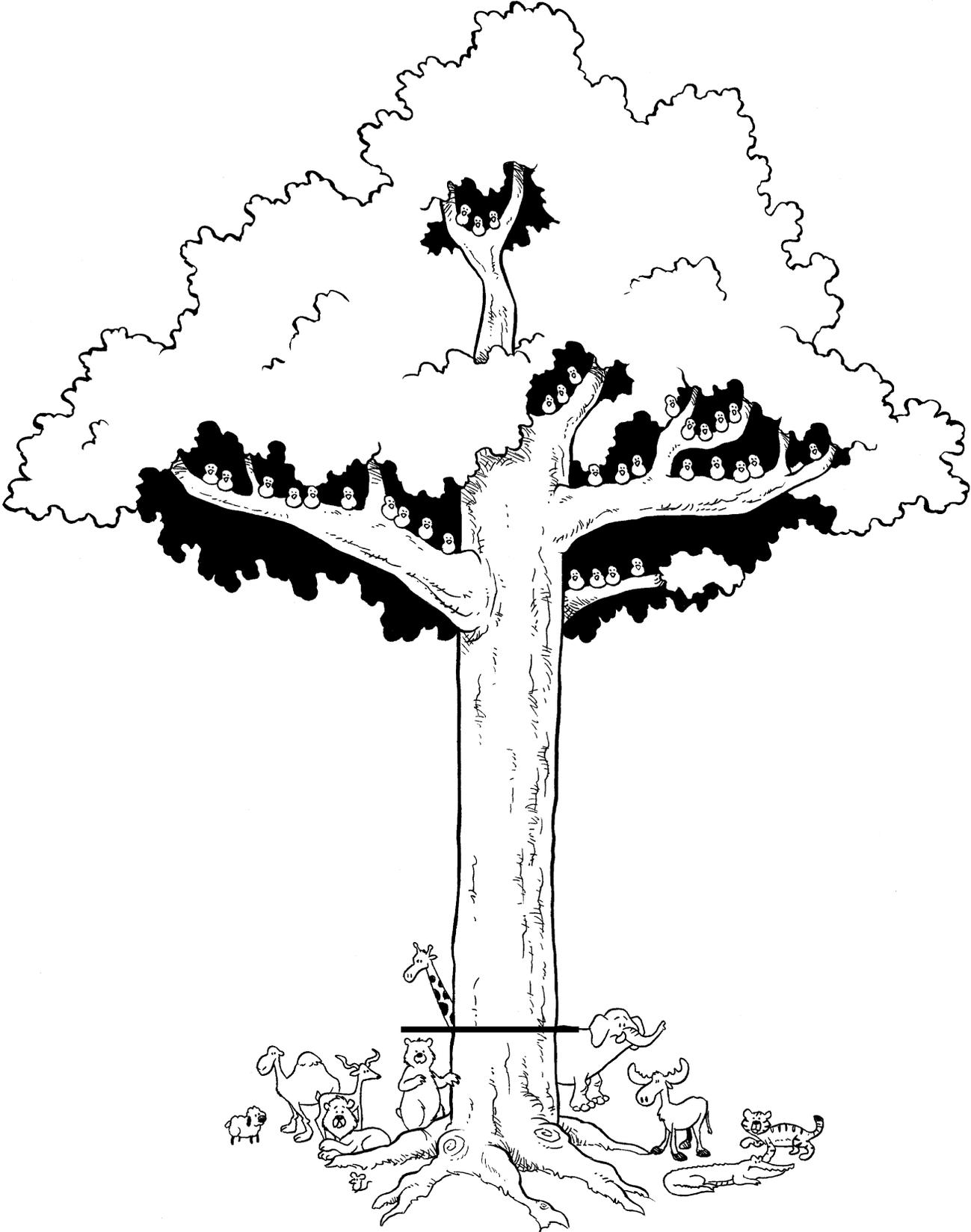
Be Humble

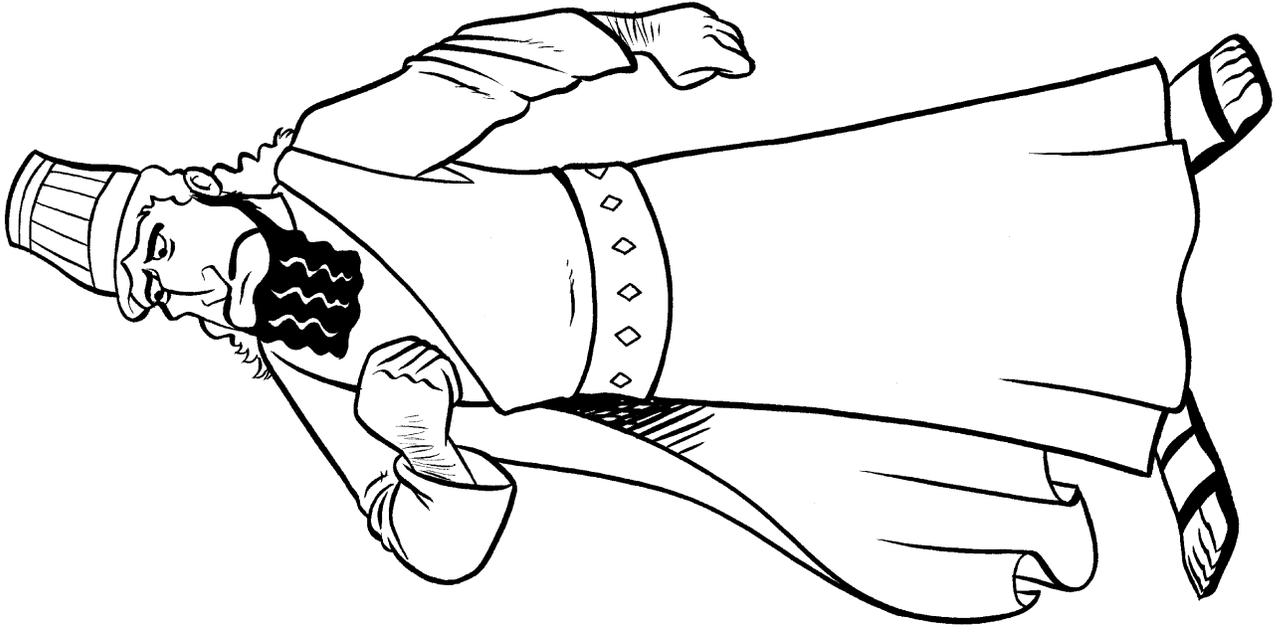
God Warns Nebuchadnezzar in a Dream

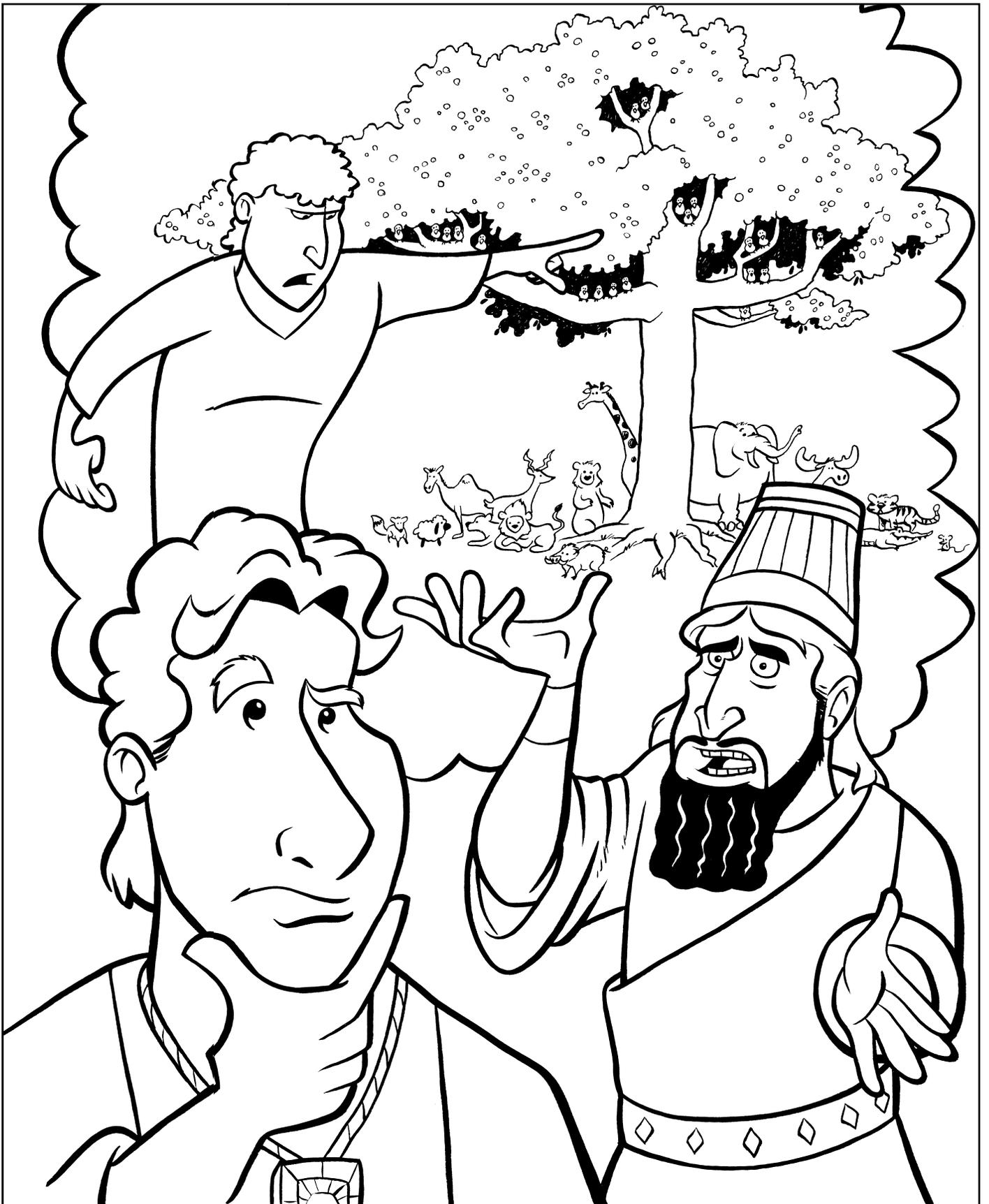
“These were the visions of my head while on my bed: I was looking, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew and became strong; its height reached to the heavens, and it could be seen to the ends of all the earth. Its leaves were lovely, its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, the birds of the heavens dwelt in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it” (Daniel 4:10–12).



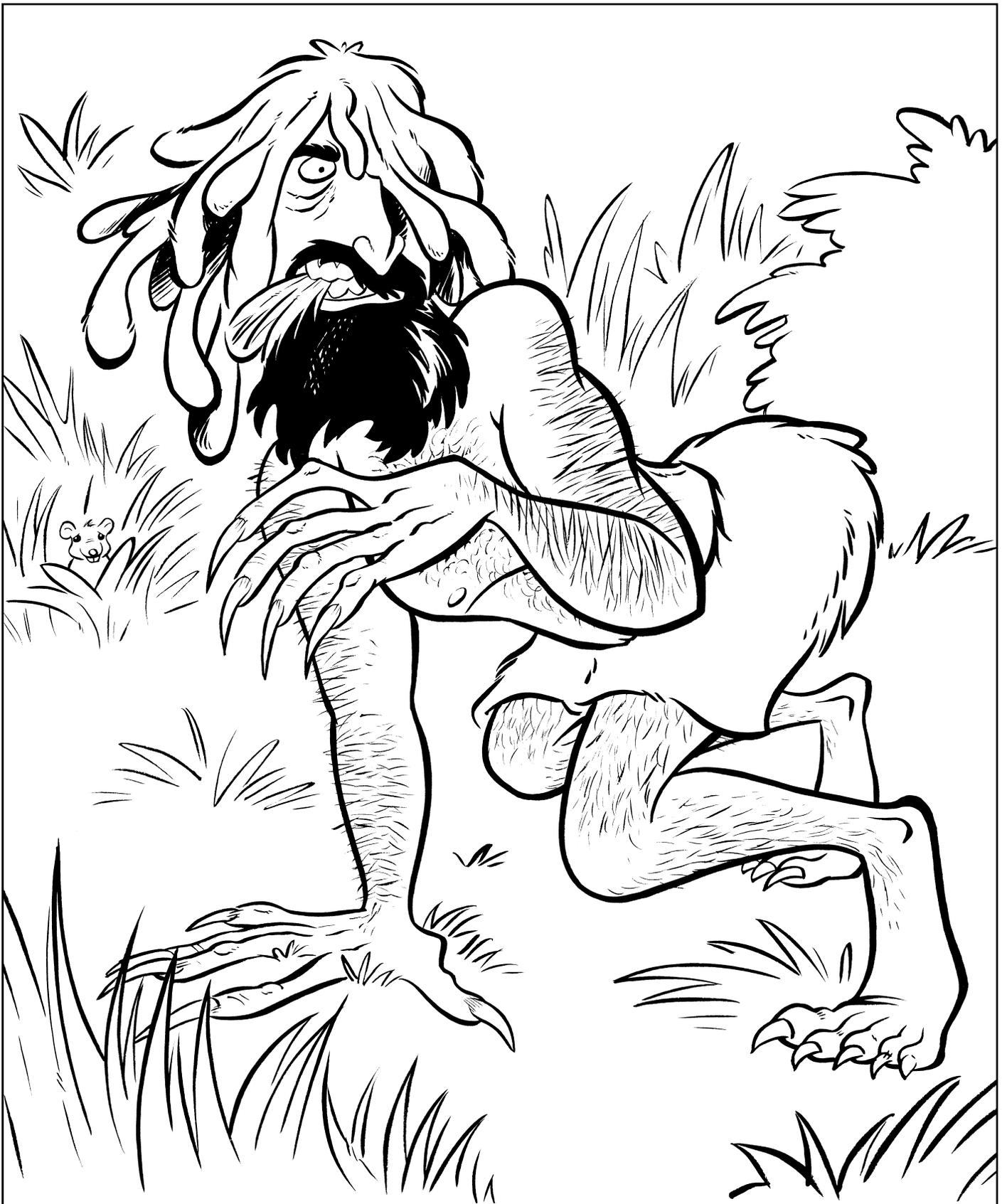
God Warns Nebuchadnezzar in a Dream







God used Daniel to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Because of Nebuchadnezzar's pride, God was going to punish him for seven years by driving him away from his kingdom and making his mind like an animal's (Daniel 4:23).



“They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses” (Daniel 4:25).

