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# Exhortation: The King’s Decision
# 4: 27

**Exhortation: The King’s decision DIG: Did Nebuchadnezzar think he was invincible? Are God’s plans set in concrete or are they somewhat contingent upon our actions? Do we have free will in God’s universe? What are the implications of verse 27 in this regard?**

**REFLECT: Can we say “No!” to God and make it stick? Since we are saved, does this affect our eternal security? Can we gain our salvation through works? Can we lose our salvation through works? What decision have you made? Who can you pray for this week?**

**The decree the king had dreamed about could be delayed or even cancelled,**
**but only if he made the right decision.**




The horrifying fate described for **Nebuchadnezzar** in **his dream** (**to see link click Bv – Interpretation: The King’s Danger: The meaning of the decree**), was not inevitable, though. The purpose of **the dream** was to provide **the king** with a warning, so that **he** might **repent** of **his** pride. **He** could demonstrate that

repentance by **doing what was right** and showing concern for the oppressed. **Therefore, Dani'el pleaded** with **him, "Your Majesty, please accept my advice: Stop sinning and do what is right, repent from your wicked past and be merciful to the poor. Perhaps then your tranquility** (Hebrew: *shelevah*, meaning *prosperity*, *tranquility*, or *security*) **will continue" (4:27 NLT).** If **Nebuchadnezzar** humbled **himself**, then **ADONAI** wouldn't have to humble **him**. If **he** did not **repent**, however, then **the Babylonian monarch** would find out who was really in control of the universe.[163]

**Dani'el's advice** for **Nebuchadnezzar** consisted of two points: First, **the king** was to **repent** of **his** sins by **righteousness**. In both the TaNaKh and the B'rit Chadashah, the terminology of this advice points to justification by faith through the **putting on of righteousness.** In discussing the return of **Yeshua** just before the start of the Messianic Kingdom, **Isaiah** says that **Messiah** will **put on righteousness as His breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; He put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak (59:17).** This pictures **Yeshua** getting ready to intervene. **Paul** would later take this verse and use it when describing **the full armor of God** (see **Ephesians Cb – The Armor of God**). Because many people are more familiar with the B'rit Chadashah than the TaNaKh they believe that **Paul** was describing a Roman soldier. But **Isaiah** had written this long before there were any Roman soldiers. **The full armor of God** in **Ephesians 6** is either a direct quote or paraphrase from the TaNaKh. **His** point is that we should resist Satan as **Messiah** did in the wilderness, with Scripture **(Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13,** and **Luke 4:1-13).**[164]

Second, **Nebuchadnezzar** was to **repent of his wickedness** by **being merciful to the poor**. Following justification by faith, **he** should do good works that follow salvation **(James 2:17-26)**. Justification by faith and its consequences would lead to the continuation of **the king's tranquility**. Of course, **Dani'el's** counsel to **the king** was not a "plan of salvation," for neither **Nebuchadnezzar** nor anyone else can be saved by works. Salvation involves a personal experience with the living **God** with right living naturally flowing out of a changed life. In this instance, **Dani'el** was **pleading** for **the king** to follow what **Isaiah** had said centuries before: **Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow (Isaiah 1:17).**[165] This was the dilemma that **Nebuchadnezzar** faced. The decree **the king** had **dreamed** about could be delayed or even cancelled if **he** made the right decision.

In ancient times, an Eastern monarch exercised supreme authority and was master of life and death. **Dani'el** knew that **Nebuchadnezzar** had a violent temper **(2:12** and **3:19)**, and **he** was taking a dangerous path as **he** confronted **the king** with **his** sins; and yet the faithful **prophet** must proclaim **the Word** and leave the consequences with **the LORD**. **Moses** learned that in the court of Pharaoh, and so did **Nathan** in the court of **David** when **he** boldly told **the king, "You are the man" (Second Samuel 17:7)**. **Elijah** boldly confronted wicked **King Ahab** and **Queen Jezebel (First Kings 18:17ff)**, and **John the Baptist** told **King Herod** to break off **his** evil relationship with **Herodias (Mark 6:14-29)**.

Unlike the Jewish rulers, who were supposed to be accessible to their people and serve them as shepherds, Eastern kings lived in splendid isolation and heard only the good news. Being a high official in **Babylon**, **Dani'el** knew that **Nebuchadnezzar** had not been concerned about the poor or shown mercy to those in need. **Dani'el** also knew how many times that the Torah of **Ha'Shem** spoke of **Himself** as the protector and defender of the poor, the aliens, and the oppressed. Perhaps **Nebuchadnezzar** had exploited the people in pursuing his extensive building operations, and wealth that should have helped the poor had been used to gratify the selfish appetites of the proud king.

**Dani'el** was calling for repentance. **He** wanted **the king** to change **his** mind, acknowledge **his** sins, turn from them, and put **his** faith in the true and living **God**, **the Most High God of the Hebrews**. **Nebuchadnezzar** knew enough about **Dani'el's God** to know that **Dani'el** spoke the truth,[166] but what decision would **Nebuchadnezzar** make? What decision will you make?

In 1960, sensing that believers needed a resource to help them navigate the ever-changing world, Billy Graham launched *Decision* magazine. At the end of every crusade, Billy would have an altar call for people who had made a *decision* for **Christ**. Over the years, the publication has continued to proclaim the Good News of **Jesus Christ**. **King Nebuchadnezzar** needed to make a *decision*, and today the entire world needs to make a *decision* about **Yeshua Messiah**. If you have not made that decision yet, **indeed, now is the "right time." Today is the day of salvation (Second Corinthians 6:2b)!** The Bible says **that Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (First Corinthians 15:3b-4).** If you believe that and have never asked **Yeshua** to be your **Lord** and **Savior** would you pray this simple prayer **right now**: **God, I admit that I have sinned. I believe that Yeshua Messiah died for my sins, and I want to trust**

**Him to save me right now.** Finally, why should **God** let you into **His** heaven? That’s right, because **Yeshua** has died to pay for your sins. Now you need to find a good messianic synagogue or church that teaches **the Word of God** faithfully so you can grow in your faith, exercise your spiritual gift(s), and have fellowship with other believers.