

Studies in Daniel – (Study 15)
“There before me was a messenger...”

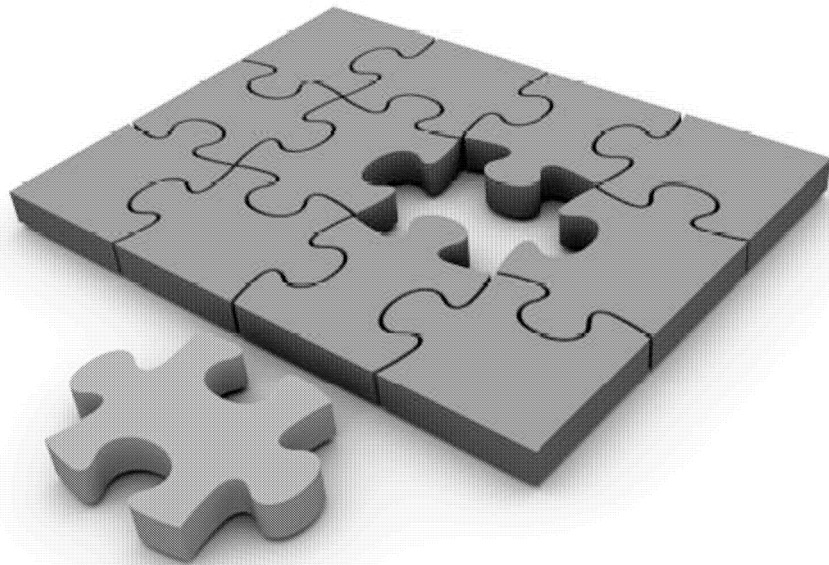
Reading: Daniel 4:10-16

Nebuchadnezzar proceeds to explain to Daniel the dream that has so troubled him. Whilst it may seem a strange illustration to us, a sacred tree was a symbol common in various religious traditions. It was also used to depict the fall of human power.

- 1) Read what Ezekiel is told to say to Pharaoh about Assyria in **Ezekiel 31:2-6**. *Drawing these verses together with verses 10-12 of Dan 6, what things does the symbol of a tree represent?*
- 2) Taking into consideration what has already been identified in the symbolism of a tree, what impression does the dream give of the Babylonian kingdom under Nebuchadnezzar at this time?

However there is another part to the dream!

- 3) What is it about the messenger in verse 13 that challenges the status quo of the previous verses?
- 4) How does the message of verse 14 contrast with what we have already suggested about Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom from verses 11-12?
- 5) What does verse 15 suggest about the tree? What or who does the stump represent (observe the use of the word ‘him’ and ‘his in these verses)?
- 6) The second half of verse 15 and then verse 16 are a departure from the symbolism used to this point and into the reality of what will happen to the king. *What do these two verses tell us about the purpose of this unfolding drama?*



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