NEBUCHADNEZZAR

Read this information about King Nebuchadnezzar...

King Nebuchadnezzar II was king of Babylonia for nearly 50 years, from 606BC to 562 BC, and was a very powerful man. He grew up to believe in the Babylonian gods Nabu and Mardok.

History tells us that he was brutal and ambitious. His father, King Nabopolassar appointed him general of his army. He fought against Egypt and Assyria and made the Babylonian Empire the most powerful in the Middle East at that time. While he was away in battle his father died and he returned as king. He is famous not only for his fighting but for rebuilding Babylon, creating among other things the Great Ishtar Gate, part of which is in a museum in Berlin, and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. (Look up images of both online)

Over a period of time he invaded, conquered and destroyed most of Jerusalem, deporting most of its residents to Babylon which was 500 miles away. The Jewish people taken into captivity were held there for 70 years. The prophets of the time spoke of God's judgement on them for continually turning their backs on him.

He is mentioned by name around 90 times in the Bible and is the main character, alongside Daniel, in the book of Daniel chapters 1-4.

In Chapter 2 the king has a dream about a huge statue and Daniel interprets the dream for him. The bible tells us that Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged God's greatness and promoted Daniel to become one of his leaders and most influential advisors. However, he didn't decide to follow God or change his ways.

In chapter 3 we learn that he thought a lot about the huge statue and decided it would be good if he had one built that was similar but made of pure gold. He gave an order that everyone had to bow down to it whenever certain music was played. Daniel had three friends - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who all worked in the court with him. They believed in God as much as Daniel did and would not worship the king. Because of that Nebuchadnezzar ordered that they be thrown into a fiery furnace. The king was astounded because they were not burnt. Instead, an angel appeared inside the fire with them and protected them from harm. After this, Nebuchadnezzar made a decree that no one was allowed to speak against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, for 'there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way' (Daniel 3:28-29).
use the clues to unscramble the words from the story of
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

1. NIDALE ____________________________
   (their friend)

2. BALSONYNBIA ____________________________
   (the people who captured them)

3. DRAAME ____________________________
   (the king had one of these and Daniel helped him understand it)

4. ERAESDL ____________________________
   (another name for people in charge)

5. EAUTST ____________________________
   (the king had one made)

6. GLDO ____________________________
   (a precious metal)

7. EIFR ____________________________
   (something that can burn you)

8. RIHOSPW ____________________________
   (to bow down and treat someone as if they are a god)

9. NAELG ____________________________
   (God sent this spiritual being to save the men from being burnt)

10. OFUR ____________________________
    (the number of people the king saw in the fire)
Now find the answers to the following questions in Daniel Chapter 4 to find out what happened to Nebuchadnezzar next.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**What Babylonian name did the king give Daniel?**  (v8)

Belteshazzar

The king had another dream. He saw a tree loaded with fruit. Wild animals lived in its shade and birds nested in its branches. What else does verse 12 tell us about the tree?

The whole world was fed from this tree

The king then saw a messenger who shouted that the tree had to be cut down. What does it say in verse 16?

For 7 periods of time let him have the mind of a wild animal instead of the mind of a human.

How did Daniel feel about telling the king what the dream meant?  (v19)

He was frightened.

Read verses 24-26 and write in your own words what the dream meant

The king would be driven from human society. He would live with animals. Seven periods of time would pass until he learned that God ruler of all the earth. Then he would be restored as king.

What was Daniel's advice?  (v27)

Stop sinning and do what is right.

Verse 33 tells us how the king's appearance changed. What does it say?

His hair was as long as eagles' feathers and his nails were like birds' claws.

When the king was restored, after this terrible experience, what did he say (v37)

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honour the king of heaven. All his acts are just and true and he is able to humble the proud.