

Joyful Life Bible Studies

Daniel 4:1-37

Lesson 6

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Take the opportunity today to refresh your mind and heart concerning the content of the first three chapters of Daniel. Read each chapter and record an insight, truth or miracle that especially blesses you from:

Chapter One

Chapter Two

Chapter Three

2. Daniel 4 is the fascinating personal testimony of King Nebuchadnezzar. You will discover it contains three distinct divisions. Read Daniel 4:1-37 and write your first impression of each of the following divisions:
 - a. The Dream - verses 1-18
 - b. The Interpretation - verses 19-27
 - c. The Fulfillment - verses 28-37
3. To benefit the most from your study begin with prayer. Ask the Lord to teach you and help you apply what you learn from His Word. Write your prayer here.

*All these events happened to them as examples for us.
They were written down to warn us,
who live at the time when this age is drawing to a close.
I Corinthians 10:11 NLT*

SECOND DAY: Read Daniel 4:1-3

1. This unique chapter of Daniel begins with a remarkable proclamation made by King Nebuchadnezzar. Read his opening statement in Daniel 4:1-3. To whom did the king address this proclamation? verse 1
 - a. The king's message is also to us. What reason is given in verse 2 for his proclamation?

2. Print each of King Nebuchadnezzar's declarations concerning God from Daniel 4:3. Selah - pause and think about these.
 - a. What inspiration do you receive from these declarations?

3. In response to today's study, take a few moments to reflect on what God has done in your life. Share a *wonder that the high God has wrought toward you.*

*They will tell of the glory of Your kingdom
and speak of Your might,
so that all men may know of Your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.
Psalm 145:11,12 NIV*

THIRD DAY: Read Daniel 4:4-18

1. Today we will focus on the first part of King Nebuchadnezzar's amazing testimony. Note the background and introduction to the king's dream by summarizing Daniel 4:4-9.

- a. From verses 8,9a what was the king's opinion of Daniel?

 - b. What did he ask Daniel to do? verse 9b
2. In Daniel 4:10-17 the king conveyed his unusual dream to Daniel. Use phrases from these verses to describe what he saw and heard in this dream.
- a. Pastor Chuck says: *The watcher* (verses 13,17) *was probably an angel*. From verse 17b what was the central point of the angel's message?
 - (1.) Why do you think this was an important message for King Nebuchadnezzar?

 - (2.) Why is this message also important for us?
3. Notice the following declaration the king gave to Daniel (*Belteshazzar*) in Daniel 4:18b: *all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known unto me the interpretation: but thou art able*. Why did Nebuchadnezzar believe Daniel could interpret his dream? Answer from verse 18c.
- a. How is Daniel an example for you?

FOURTH DAY: Read Daniel 4:19-27

1. Through our study today of Daniel 4:19-26 we will discover the interpretation of the king's dream. According to Daniel 4:19a what was Daniel's first reaction?

- a. *Belteshazzar replied, Oh, how I wish the events foreshadowed in this dream would happen to your enemies, my lord, and not to you!* verse 19b NLT How does this reveal Daniel's concern for the king?
2. In Daniel 4:20-23 the *tree* is the predominant feature of the dream. Summarize what you learn about the *tree* from these verses.
3. Consider the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 4:24-26 and the courage it took for Daniel to reveal it to the king. Write the interpretation in your own words. (You may want to use other versions to help you with this.)

Optional: Comment on what the following verses reveal about pride and humility:

- a. Proverbs 16:18,19
 - b. Proverbs 29:23
 - c. James 4:6
4. Through the dream and its interpretation, the Lord gave this powerful man a warning and an opportunity to repent and humble himself. Pastor Chuck says: *God wanted Nebuchadnezzar to realize that his kingdom and power were given to him by God. After revealing the meaning of the dream, what counsel did Daniel give the king? See Daniel 4:27.*
 - a. How would obeying this *counsel* demonstrate a repentant heart?

*The high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, the Holy One, says this:
"I live in that high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble.
I refresh the humble and give new courage to those with repentant hearts."
Isaiah 57:15 NLT*

FIFTH DAY: Read Daniel 4:28-37

1. Today's study brings us to a fascinating series of events. Instead of humbly repenting what does Daniel 4:28-30 reveal about the attitude of Nebuchadnezzar?

Advanced Students: Research the accomplishments of King Nebuchadnezzar in the ancient city of Babylon. Write a brief report of your findings.

2. Try to grasp the king's incredible experience as you read Daniel 4:31-37. Describe this from the following verses:
 - a. verses 31, 32 (Note: the phrase *seven times* means *seven years*.)
 - b. verse 33
 - c. verses 34-36
 - d. In what way is Nebuchadnezzar's experience a warning for us against the sin of pride?
3. Pause and think about the king's declarations of praise to the *most High* as you record a few phrases from the following verses:
 - a. Daniel 4:34
 - b. Daniel 4:35
 - c. Daniel 4:37
 - d. Which of these is most meaningful to you today?
4. How does praising God help ensure our hearts stay humble before Him?

