

The Book of Daniel Bible Study Lesson 8

Daniel 3:1-7 Questions

A Heart for Self or a Heart for God

Before you begin, pray that this knowledge of God would penetrate to the depth of your heart, to allow your faith in God to grow in who He is, our God almighty.

1. From the following Scriptures, what specific knowledge did king Nebuchadnezzar receive, hear, or witness of the God of heaven? Daniel 2:27-30; 2:37-38; 2:44-45; 2:47

2. Look at the following Scriptures and write down the main point.

a. Hebrews 3:12-19; 4:1-2; 4:9-11 _____

b. 1 Corinthians 2:2-5; 1 Thessalonians 2:13 _____

c. Hebrews 11:1-3; 7-10; Romans 1:16-17 _____

Read Daniel 3:1-7

3. After contemplating all the above Scriptures, write down the biblical understanding of king Nebuchadnezzar’s heart in his relation to the God of heaven. Write down the reason why? Consider what the king’s hope and faith were invested in. Could the king find rest in his own pursuits?

4. Daniel does not record the amount of time between the events in Daniel 2 to Daniel 3. But based on the condition of king Nebuchadnezzar’s heart, why do you think he made an image of gold, standing ninety feet tall, for every leader in the Babylon empire to come and worship? Look at the following Scriptures for help: Romans 1:18-23; 2:4; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

God revealed the Truth of Himself to king Nebuchadnezzar in a powerful way. God shows us from Daniel how He reveals Himself to a lost and dying world, desiring for them to find salvation rest for their souls in His Son, Jesus Christ.

King Nebuchadnezzar struggled to find comfort and rest in the hopes and dreams of this life by choosing to find more power and self-assurance in this world’s wisdom rather than the God of heaven.

5. What warnings do you find in these Scriptures? Exodus 20:1-6; Deuteronomy 32:15-18; 1 Corinthians 10:11-14; 20; Galatians 4:6-10; 1 John 5:19-21

6. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-14 and write down what caused Israel's weakness and rebellion to God and why.

(Ken Sande) An idol is anything apart from God that we turn to in order to feel happy, fulfilled, relaxed or secure. In biblical terms it is something other than God that we set our heart on (Luke 12:29; 1Cor. 10:19), that motivates us (1Cor. 4:5), that masters and rules us (Ps. 119:133; Eph. 5:5), or that we trust, fear, or serve (Isa. 42:17; Matt. 6:24; Luke 12:4-5). In short, an idol is anything we love, pursue or depend on more than God (see Phil. 3:19).

Love. Fear. Trust. These are words of worship! Jesus commands us to love God, fear God, and trust God alone (Matt. 22:37; Luke 12:4-5; John 14:1). Anytime we long for something apart from God, fear something more than God, or trust in something other than God to make us feel happy, fulfilled or secure, we are worshipping a false god.

God revealed Himself to king Nebuchadnezzar and he chose to not love, fear, and trust in the one and only true God.

7. What makes it so very hard to take God's eternal knowledge of the Truth of His precious Son and have it percolate deep into our hearts so that our thoughts, actions, and motivations would be a wonderful fragrant aroma to God? Reread 1Corinthians 2:5; Hebrews 3:12-14, 18-19; 4:1-2

8. Living in this fallen world, we are all easily consumed by so many things that can captivate our attention more than faith in Christ. Even though Israel fully experienced the presence of God in the wilderness, they still allowed their own earthly affections to drive their hearts to disobey the God of heaven. Below is a

heart examination for idols in our hearts by Ken Sande. Pray Psalms 139:23-24 before answering these questions.

a. Examine your habits by asking “X-Ray Questions” like: “What do I do most naturally when I’m bored, restless, anxious or worried?” “What do I turn to most frequently for comfort, relaxation, or pleasure?” “Do I turn to these things more naturally and frequently than I do to prayer, Scripture, spiritual meditation, or Christian fellowship?”

b. What specific God-oriented routine will you follow whenever you experience the cue that typically triggered the idol-fueled behavior?

c. Who will you ask to serve as an encourager and accountability partner as you seek to conquer this idol and change this habit?

9. Thanks be to God we are not alone in our walk of faith as we will see in Daniel 3. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. We have a cloud of witnesses today who help us to love, fear, and trust God with our hearts. We need each other in this race to encourage and uphold one another. How will you lay aside any encumbrance (see Question #8). Write in your own words how you will fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith.
