

The Book of Daniel
Lesson 10 Daniel 4:1-3
From Pride to Humility: The King's Proclamation

***“Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble His way.”***

Psalms 25:8-9

Establishing Context:

In chapter 4 we find that many years have passed since the incident of the fiery furnace. Daniel is likely in his 40's or 50's at this time, and Nebuchadnezzar has been on his throne for over 30 years. While Daniel has been writing in the first person up to this point, in chapter 4 we see a change in the authorship. Nebuchadnezzar himself steps in, and begins to record his own spiritual journey. This is obviously quite significant and highly unusual for it is the only chapter of the Bible written under the authority of a pagan! Clearly, God has a significant message he is trying to communicate through the life of this Gentile king. With this in mind, let's take some time to review how God had already been seeking to humble the heart of Nebuchadnezzar.

1. In chapter 1, how did God demonstrate his love for Nebuchadnezzar? Who did he send to be His ambassadors and what did they teach the king about the character of their God? _____

2. In chapter 2, God caused Nebuchadnezzar to have a terrifying dream about the latter days. What are some truths about God that were revealed to the king through Daniel and the dream's interpretation? _____

3. In chapter 3, Nebuchadnezzar constructs an enormous golden image and demands that all of His subjects bow down and worship it. Yet, as we know, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to compromise. What are some truths that God reveals to Nebuchadnezzar through this situation? _____

4. Up to this point, has Nebuchadnezzar shown signs of true repentance? Why or why not? Use Scripture to support your answer. _____

Read Daniel 4:1-3.

5. In verse 1 what do we see Nebuchadnezzar doing? _____

6. Why does he do it? (vs 2-3) _____

7. Have you ever felt compelled to give your testimony? Explain. _____

8. In verse 2, Nebuchadnezzar calls God, **“the Most High God.”** The Hebrew word used here for God is El Elyon. Using a Bible dictionary, research what is communicated about God through this name. Why is this significant and how does it further emphasize the key themes of Daniel? _____

9. What truths about God does Nebuchadnezzar choose to highlight in verse 3? _____

10. The expression **“signs and wonders”** is a familiar phrase in Scripture and occurs in many passages. In short, these events can be described as miraculous manifestations of divine power. Obviously, the king had witnessed remarkable supernatural events, similar to the Israelites who were led out of Egypt. In both cases, were the signs and wonders enough to cause the onlookers to truly believe? Why or why not? Explain. (Heb. 3:16-19, Ex. 7:3-4, John 6:66, Matt. 16:17, Eph 2:5) _____

11. Using the following Scriptures to help, explain in your own words what it means that **“His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to**

generation.” In short, what has Nebuchadnezzar come to grasp? (Psalm 10:16, 93:1-2, 103:19, 145:1, 11-13, Dan. 4:17, Jer. 27:5, Col. 1:15-17) _____

Application

12. Just like all of us, Nebuchadnezzar had a big struggle with submitting himself to God’s authority. Where does this heart issue express itself in your life? Be Specific . What types of attitudes and actions come out? _____

13. What truths about God help you get back on track? Use Scripture to support your answer. _____

“Lord, high and holy, meek and lowly, Thou hast brought me to the valley of vision, where I live in the depths, but see Thee in the heights. Hemmed in by mountains of my sin, I behold Thy glory. Let me learn by paradox that the way down is the way up. That to be low is to be high. That the broken heart is the healed heart. That the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit. That the repenting soul is the victorious soul. That to have nothing is to possess everything. That to bear the cross is to wear the crown. That to give is to receive. Lord, in the daytimes, stars can be seen from deepest wells, and the deeper the wells, the brighter the stars. Let me find Thy light in my darkness, Thy life in my death, Thy joy in my sorrow, Thy grace in my sin, Thy riches in my poverty, Thy glory in my valley” from Valley of Vision

