

THE BOOK OF DANIEL
LESSON 11—QUESTIONS
DANIEL 4:4-18
THE MOST HIGH IS RULER OVER MANKIND

Read Daniel 4:4-18

1. In verse 4 what was King Nebuchadnezzar doing?

a. “*At ease*” denotes the feeling of security and contentment. For a believer, what can be the danger of living with the sense of being *at ease* (or at rest), secure, content and satisfied with how things are going in your life?

b. Have you ever been so wrapped up in your comfortable, busy life that you found yourself complacent in your walk with the Lord? Please describe this time. What did the Lord reveal to you? _____

c. Reread verse 4. “*Flourishing*” indicates prosperity and “growing green” like a luxuriant flourishing tree. Study the following cross references to this verse (Ps. 30:6; Is. 47:7; Is. 47:8). What appears to be the attitude behind this verse? _____

2. Complacency is defined as being “*satisfied with the current situation and unconcerned with changing it.*” “*A feeling of calm satisfaction with your own abilities or situation that prevents you from trying harder.*” It is described as being “*calmly content/smugly self-satisfied.*” The underlying attitude of complacency is pride (as demonstrated in verse 4). What warnings do the following scriptures teach about complacency?

Deut. 8:11-14 _____

Prov.1:32 _____

Is. 32:9-11 _____

Hos. 13:6 _____

Zeph. 1:12 _____

Luke 12:16-21 _____

Rev. 3:14-19 _____

3. Believers are not immune to complacency. As John Stott writes, *“We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behavior.”* Let’s focus a little deeper on complacency by taking an account of our hearts. Take some time thinking about this and reflecting on it. Many of us may not regularly consider or think about the sin of complacency in our lives. Prayerfully ask the Lord, “Do I have a heart of complacency in any area of my life? Am I lukewarm in some aspects of my faith?” Consider the following attitudes of complacency, do any apply to you? Can you think of any others? What is the Lord showing you and how will you respond?

- Am I satisfied with where my relationship is with God right now?
- Are my prayers centered around me and my family or are they centered around God and others?
- Is there sin in my life that I know the Lord wants me to deal with and I am not?
- Am I content spending time with just me and my family or do I invite others to join us?
- Is there anything in the Word of God that I do not believe and disregard, or “brush off” because the world says it’s okay? Have I gotten tolerant of sin?
- When I know that another sister or family is sick, or hurting do I minister to them or let others do it?
- Am I satisfied with where my relationships stand with my husband, children, parents, family, sisters in Christ, etc? Am I okay with not trying harder to deepen them, fix them or reconcile them?
- Is faith and knowledge of God growing in my spiritual life or am I content where I am at?
- Does my busy and hectic schedule prevent me from reading the Word of God every day? Praying? Am I actively pursuing Him? Or do I simply forget?
- Do I have any wrong or misplaced priorities and affections that I am not dealing with and allowing to flourish?

- Do I have an attitude of self-sufficiency (i.e., I can handle life and what it throws at me). Or do I depend solely on the Lord for everything?

a. What scripture do you find helpful when dealing with the sin of complacency?

4. What disturbed Nebuchadnezzar's peaceful life? What emotions was he experiencing (v. 5)? _____

a. Can you describe a time when the Lord has troubled your heart to get your attention? What lessons did you learn from this experience?

5. What did Nebuchadnezzar do as a result of being so troubled (4:6-7)?

6. Daniel then came before the King (v. 8-9). How does Nebuchadnezzar describe Daniel? Daniel's qualification for giving the interpretation of the dream is mentioned 3 times in this chapter (verses 8, 9 & 18). What is it? _____

7. What did King Nebuchadnezzar observe in his dream, and how did he describe it in verses 10-12? _____

8. According to verses 13 & 14 what did he see and what did the holy one say to do with the tree? _____

9. What instructions were given regarding the stump (v. 15)?

a. How does verse 15 provide hope for the tree, even beyond the stripping and cutting?

b. What do you notice about the switch of pronoun's concerning the tree in verse 15?

10. What happened next and how long would this last (v. 16)?

a. Looking back over the dream (v. 10-16), what aspects of it might have caused the king to be alarmed and terrified (v. 5)? _____

11. *"In order that the living may know,"* Nebuchadnezzar states the purpose of this event and theme of this chapter, by describing God's sovereignty in 3 ways (v. 17). Describe each and include added scriptures in your explanation.

1. (Ps. 9:16; Ps. 83:18; Rev. 11:15) _____

2. (Jer. 27:5-7) _____

3. (1 Sam. 2:8) _____

12. Nebuchadnezzar concludes the description of the dream with an appeal to Daniel to provide the interpretation. For the third time he affirms Daniel's ability by stating what he knows to be the truth, saying what? _____

13. We will study the interpretation of the dream next week, but from our scripture today why do you believe the Lord sent Nebuchadnezzar the dream of the tree? What was He trying to accomplish through this dream? _____