

18 August

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Daniel – week 4



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member what the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's second dream was?
2. What does v.3 tell us about God's kingdom? (**His Kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion endures from generation to generation.**)
3. What does v.17 tell us about the Most High? (**The Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom He will and sets over it humble men.**)
4. Why is Daniel able to interpret the king's dream according to v.18? (**...You are able, for the spirit of the holy gods "Holy Spirit" is in you.**)



Let's go deeper

5. How did Daniel respond to the dream in v.19a? (**He was dismayed "sad" for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him.**)
6. What was Daniel's counsel in v.27? (**Break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed.**)
7. How did the king express his pride in v.30? (**Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty.**)
8. What happened to the king in v.33b? (**He was driven from men, ate grass like an ox, his hair grew long as eagle's feathers, his nails like birds' claws.**)
9. What did God restore in v.36? (**His reason, kingdom, majesty, splendour.**)



Let's apply this

10. Daniel 4:27; Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you; **break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed**, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.

Nebuchadnezzar fails to repent, turn from his sin, and acknowledge his need for a Saviour, and he starts to go crazy and needs God's help to deliver him.

- Do you find it hard to say sorry, or to acknowledge sin in your life?
- What is the result of a hard heart, pride, and rebellion?
- God restored Nebuchadnezzar, and will restore those who repent?

SUMMARY:

Daniel: Week 4 – Nebuchadnezzars dream

Read: Daniel 4:1 – 37

vv.1 – 3; These verses talk about the Kingdom of God over and over, in comparison to Nebuchadnezzars empire. We are all building something (family, career, business, ministry, etc.) and it is either part of God's Kingdom or not. Nebuchadnezzar has built the most impressive, powerful empire on earth, but it is not part of God's Kingdom, it is not for God's glory or God's design.

vv.1 – 3; These verses talk about the most high over and over, and the Babylon concept was that they have many gods and goddesses, but over all of that was Nebuchadnezzar, he was the lord and king. Daniel comes and says there is a higher God, Jesus Christ, who rules over all lesser human and divine rulers.

vv.4 – 18; God rules over human rulers. God sets up kingdoms and take them down, God sets up kings and takes them down. God is in control of who is in control.

vv.4 – 18; There is an unseen world that God sees, God rules both unseen and seen realms, and occasionally, He will send a divine being from the unseen realm, to a human being in the seen realm. Divine beings are created beings, but they are spirit beings. And these are mentioned here in chapter four, a watcher (angel), and a holy one or the holy ones. These are God's divine servants in the unseen realm.

vv.19 – 27; Repentance is a change of mind, I was wrong, it is a change of heart. I need to change. It is a change of life. Things need to change. Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar, you are a sinner, and you need a Savior.

vv.19 – 27; God warns then waits. God has been warning Nebuchadnezzar for 30 years through Daniel, that shows He is patient. And God comes through a dream, and He gives him 12 more months to repent, acknowledge and turn from his sin.

vv.28 – 33; Nebuchadnezzar fails to repent, turn from his sin, and acknowledge his need for a Savior, and he starts to go crazy. What he needs is deliverance. Deliverance is where God shows up in power, and in an instant deliver someone in a supernatural way to where they are forever changed and set free. Nebuchadnezzar is so hard-hearted, proud, rebellious, that he has opened himself up to demonic power and possession. Nebuchadnezzar is proud, and now he eats grass. We don't become humble by focusing on humility, you become humble by looking up to the Most High God, because then you know your place – under Him.

vv.34 – 37; The true test of your worship of God is whether you are happy when God gives grace to your enemies. Daniel is happy that God gives grace and restores Nebuchadnezzar, his enemy.