

# Lesson 4

## Nebuchadnezzar Is Humbled

### Daniel 4

Begin today's lesson asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind and to teach you His precepts.

Before you start our questions for this week, read through all of Daniel 4.

1. According to Daniel 4, who wrote this chapter and to whom does he write? Do you think this is unusual? Discuss.
2. As you consider Daniel 4, what do you think is the theme of Nebuchadnezzar's decree?
3. What do you think would be a good verse to summarize this chapter?
4. What name for God does Nebuchadnezzar most frequently use in this chapter? What does this name mean to you? When did he first use this name? See Daniel 3:26.
5. Describe Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

*“Thus says the LORD,  
 ‘Let not a wise man  
 boast of his wisdom,  
 and let not the mighty  
 man boast of his might,  
 let not a rich man boast  
 of his riches; but let  
 him who boasts boast  
 of this, that he  
 understands and knows  
 Me, that I am the  
 LORD who exercises  
 lovingkindness, justice  
 and righteousness on  
 earth; for I delight in  
 these things,’ declares  
 the LORD.”*

*Jeremiah 9:23-24*

6. What was Nebuchadnezzar's opinion of Daniel, and what was Daniel's (new) position at this time?
  
7. What do you learn about angels (watchers, holy ones) from this chapter?
  
8. From Daniel 4:15 discuss the ways the angel instructed protection for the "stump."
  
9. What was Daniel's reaction to the dream? Do you think Daniel genuinely cared for Nebuchadnezzar?
  
10. What was Daniel's advice to Nebuchadnezzar? Did Nebuchadnezzar follow that advice?
  
16. Was God's judgment immediate or delayed? Why do you think this was so? How might you apply this to your life today?
  
17. What was the purpose of God's judgment? Was the judgment ultimately for Nebuchadnezzar's good?
  
18. What does James tell us to do in James 4:10? What about Peter in I Peter 5:5-6?
  
19. Consider all that Nebuchadnezzar had on earth: power, wealth and authority, etc. How do these compare to the sovereignty of God?

20. What does I Timothy 6:17-19 teach us about where to find life?
21. Consider the example of Jesus in Philippians 2:5-11. What is this attitude and how did His life demonstrate this?
22. We are not sure exactly when the events of chapter 4 occurred, but it was sometime between 603 and 562 B.C. Find it on the timeline on page 77 and add the details of the event.
23. As you look back over this lesson about Daniel 4, what do you want to remember?
24. Consider the following scriptures and meditate on them using the prayer exercise that is explained on page 81.
- ❖ Scriptures: **Philippians 2:3-4**
  - ❖ Word or phrase:
  - ❖ Amplification:
  - ❖ Invitation:

## Thoughts From Martha: God's Love

Can we ever understand the breadth and length and height and depth of God's love? I mean, here was a king who just wasn't getting it. Oh sure, at first it appeared as though he made it through some random pop quizzes, but turns out he wasn't quite grasping the basic concepts after all. Seems he couldn't make the transition from interpretation to application. So finally, after not getting it and not getting it, he really got it from God. Of course in my sophomoric mentality, I thought, "This is it! God is surely going to give him exactly what he deserves." (The ol' let-it-rip-and-show-HIM-whose-boss point of view with a vengeance.) Well, come on! I figured King Nebby had it comin' to him. He had his chance -- and more than once I might add!

But God didn't give him what he deserved. God gave him what he didn't deserve which was much more in keeping with the kind of God He is -- the same kind of God that Paul later described in his letter to the Romans: "Now it is an extraordinary thing for one to give his life even for an upright man, though perhaps for a noble and lovable and generous benefactor someone might even dare to die. But God ..." but God what? But God did (and continues to do) the unthinkable and the outrageous. He went after the sinners, the rebels, and the undeserving. Who has mercy on someone who thumbs his nose or turns his backs or runs away? We can understand Him going after the weak and the downtrodden, but who goes after the proud, the arrogant and the strong ... many times over and at great lengths? Answer: a Most High God whose love and compassion are beyond all human understanding.

Yes, God punished King Nebuchadnezzar, not to get even with him, but he did it to get him. He put him in his place all right, not to squash him beneath His feet, but to bring him to His side. He didn't want to take him out, but to lift him up to a new kingdom the power and glory of which made all earthly kingdoms pale in comparison. And if that weren't generous and merciful enough, God then, not only restored his majesty and splendor, but also lavished him with surpassing greatness. Oh, what a fairytale ending that made! What a story there was to tell! Is it any wonder that King Nebuchadnezzar broke out in spontaneous praise on more than one occasion as he penned his testimony to the world?

*"How great are His signs  
And how mighty are His wonders!  
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom  
And His dominion is from generation to generation.*

*...For His dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.  
All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,  
But He does according to His will in the host of heaven  
And among the inhabitants of earth...*

*Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven  
For all His works are true and His ways just,  
And He is able to humble those who walk in pride."*

*Daniel 4:3,34-35,37*

Amen and Amen!  
He finally GOT IT!!!

## Lecture Notes: