

Daniel - Lesson 4

"ELECT *Exiles*: Trusting in Daniel's God"

Daniel 4

Day 1 – Read Daniel 4

Pray: Thank God for His Word. Ask the Spirit to teach you as you study the book of Daniel. Pray for transformation, not just information.

Read Again: Daniel 4:1-9

The literary shape of this passage will help us organize our thoughts around the long narrative. The introduction is a conclusion. The narrative is sandwiched between the testimony of Nebuchadnezzar's praise to God.

Opening testimony: proclamation, first person (1-3)

Report of content of dream, first person (4-18)

Report of interpretation of dream (19-27)

Report of fulfillment of dream (28-33)

Closing testimony: restoration, first person (34-37)

1) What do the first three verses of Daniel 4 reveal about what Nebuchadnezzar is going to learn in this story?

2) To whom is Nebuchadnezzar proclaiming in Daniel 4:1-3?

What exclamation does he give, recorded in Daniel 4:1?

Define peace.

¹ Dale Ralph Davis, *The Message of Daniel* (Intervarsity Press Academic, 2013), 51.

3) What happens to Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:4-5? Note the change in his feelings/emotions.

4) Who does Nebuchadnezzar bring before him, and what does he ask them to do?

How does his request differ from the request he made in Daniel 2?

5) Who is the last one who comes before King Nebuchadnezzar?

What specifically does Nebuchadnezzar say about his name?

For what reason does he say Daniel can interpret his dream? (This is in Daniel 4:9 and repeated in 4:18)

Why are these comments about Daniel significant?

Day 2 – Read Daniel 4:10 - 19

- 6) Summarize Nebuchadnezzar's dream by answering the following questions:

According to Daniel 4:10, what does he see?

Describe it.

Read Genesis 11:4. What similar phrase do you see in Daniel 4:11?

According to Daniel 4:13, what does he see next?

What is proclaimed in the dream, recorded in Daniel 4:15-16?

7) Why leave the stump and its roots?

8) List the 5 “Lets” listed in Daniel 4:15-16.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

9) What purpose of the dream is given in Daniel 4:17?

**Note this will be repeated in Daniel 4:25 and 4:32.*

Why would it be so important for a king to understand this?

Application: Why is it important for you and me to grasp this as well?

10) What was Daniel's response to the dream?

Day 3 – Daniel 4:19 - 27

11) According to Daniel, who is the tree and where does the decree to chop it down come from?

12) Summarize Daniel's interpretation in Daniel 4:24-27.

13) What hope is offered to Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:26-27?

14) Consider Daniel's response and words to his unbelieving king and friend. How does he show:

Love for the king?

Truth (honesty)?

Grace?

Glory (God's purpose in all this)?

Application: What can we learn about our own witness to unbelievers God has placed in our lives?

Day 4 – Read Daniel 4:28-37

15) What was King Nebuchadnezzar thinking, recorded in Daniel 4:29-30?

What does he hear and when?

What is the message?

According to Daniel 4:33, how quickly did this come to pass?

How is Nebuchadnezzar's appearance described in Daniel 4:33?

Whose words were more powerful and accurate, the king's or heaven's?

- 16) In Daniel 4:29, note the lapse of time between the interpretation of the dream and Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation?

What does this teach about God's ways with us? Consider the following verses:

Romans 2:4 – 8

2 Peter 3:9 -

Where do you see a need for repentance in your own life? Where are you currently seeing or have you seen in the past the Lord's patience with you in your own sin?

17) According to Nebuchadnezzar's personal testimony in Daniel 4:34, what 4 things happened at the end of the days?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Application: What do you think it means to lift your eyes to heaven?

18) What does Nebuchadnezzar proclaim about God?

19) Read 1 Peter 5:6. How is this truth reflected in Daniel 4:36?

20) What is particularly amazing about why Nebuchadnezzar says he praises, extols, and honors the King of heaven?

Application: “for all His works are right and His ways are just.” How do we see this in the cross?

Day 5 – Read Daniel 4

21) **Application:** Read Philippians 2:5-11. How is King Jesus different from King Nebuchadnezzar?

22) **Application:** Read James 4:6. What is the clear message about our pride?

What does God give and to whom?

23) What else do you learn about pride from the following verses?

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 –

Psalms 10:4 –

Psalms 75:4 –

Proverbs 16:5 & 18 –

Proverbs 18:10-12 –

Isaiah 2:11 –

Jeremiah 9:23-24 –

Romans 12:3 –

Galatians 6:3 –

1 John 2:16 –

Application: Where do you see pride in your own heart? (It can be subtle.)

Application: Where are you exalting yourself to the place of God?

Humble yourself, seek the Lord's forgiveness, and repent. He gives more grace!

24) **Application:** How might this story have been an encouragement to those who were exiled in Babylon?

How are you encouraged as you consider living as an exile?