

DANIEL
CHAPTER

4

DAY | ONE

1. Read or listen to the chapter being read aloud at least twice before beginning to answer. Do not forget we have all the chapters and the extra verses at the end of each study guide.
2. This beautiful chapter has a very distinctive element. This chapter opens and closes in the same way. Read Daniel 4:1-3 and Daniel 4:34b-37
What do you see the King doing in these verses?
3. After reading verses 1-3, it sounds like the King has an understanding of the Most High God. Is the fact that he acknowledges God's ability, power, and eternal kingdom, the same as personally trusting God as Lord?

I heard this example years ago.

As a man entered the room, he looked around and saw several chairs which all looked alike. He walked over, chose one and sat down. What action was required as proof he truly trusted the chair?

Read verse 4-8

What are some things this king might still be trusting in?

4. As we read the words of verses 1-3, we see Nebuchadnezzar is recalling the events concerning his second disturbing dream. So far, in Daniel 1-3, he has experienced some amazing acts of God.
 - In Daniel 1 we read about his triumph in taking captive Judah and how Daniel and his three friends came to be advisors to this Gentile king.
 - In Daniel 3 we saw the amazing deliverance of Daniel's three friends from a fiery furnace.

One would think all of this would be enough to change this king's heart but obviously not. God has some things to say to this king. King Nebuchadnezzar has a head-knowledge of God but not a repentant change of heart. As we will see, God has a message for him. We get a bit of insight into this king's heart in verse 4.

How does he describe himself in verse 4?

5. Think about the last time you shared these same feelings. They are not bad feelings. However, we must keep them in check so that we do not drift from our dependance on God. All too often when we have everything we need and nothing is rocking our boat, we can become complacent and self-sufficient. Read Proverbs 30:7-9. Write out these verses in your own words as a prayer. Now, go back and read it...do you really mean the words you wrote?
6. Once again, the king is given a dream concerning the future, but he does not understand it. Even though he does not understand what emotions does he experience because of this dream?
7. Who does the King turn to for an interpretation?
8. This can be a valuable lesson for us. We should be very careful when seeking counsel. Where do you turn when you need help understanding something that is causing you anxiety?
9. We see the advisors who were first to arrive are unable to interpret his dream. What are these men relying on to give their interpretations?

10. If this was a movie, the music would change as Daniel walked in. Most translations of Daniel 4:8 begin with the words, “Finally” or “At last. Daniel is called Belteshazzar (this is his Babylonian name which means Bel protects) What is the truth about this Israelite?

Do you remember what the name Daniel means?

Even though others referred to Daniel by this name, did it truly describe him?

11. The King appears to be very happy to see Daniel arrive. What does he know about Daniel?
12. When something causes anxiety to your friends and family do they seek you out as one who knows God intimately?

What do you do when those around you are anxious or fearful?

How we respond in a troubling season can be our greatest testimony.

13. In verses 10-18, the king shares his dream. Make a list of each point the king refers to from his dream. Tree described-(10-12)

Holy messenger says-(13-15)

The stump changes to a-(15-16a)

Period of time-(16b)

14. Daniel 4:19 (NIV) tells us Daniel “*was greatly _____ for a time, and his thoughts _____ him.*” This is one of those verses that is very interesting to read in several translations. Take a minute to check out some of them. You can find them online.

15. When one first reads Daniel 4:10-19, they might wonder why this dream caused such distress. After all, it is a dream about a tree, not a furious beast.

Since you have read the entire chapter already, what is the reason for Daniel’s anxiety?

What do we know about King Nebuchadnezzar?

(Remember how he treated Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in Daniel 3.)

16. The King sees Daniel’s anxiety and he really wants to hear the interpretation of this dream. What unusual act of compassion and empathy do we see at the end of verse 19?

17. Have you experienced something similar?

You needed to tell someone something and you really did not know how they would react; did you hesitate a bit?

Did you send up a quick prayer asking God to give you just the right words?

Did you experience the peace of God?

18. I find Daniel's response to the king in verse 19 such an example of humility and grace. Remember that Daniel is not here on vacation or by any choice of his own. He did not apply for this position as a Babylonian advisor. He is a captive under a very unpredictable king. Daniel understands the sovereignty of God and is saddened by the fact that the dream is about King Nebuchadnezzar. Notice how he refers with respect to the King.
Who did he say he wished the dream had been meant for?

"My _____, if only the dream applied to your _____ and its meaning to your _____!"

19. There will be times when circumstances in our life feel very "out of our control." Let's think about that for just a moment; are we ever really in control?

Have you come to a place in your walk of faith where you realize and acknowledge there is only One who is in control, and it is not you?

If so, how has this knowledge changed how you approach your day?

20. No more putting things off. It is time for Daniel to interpret the dream. Who does the tree represent?

What does he acknowledge about the reign of his king in verse 22?

21. Who do you believe this "watcher" or "messenger" is, coming down from heaven. These beings are used of God for many purposes.
What does Hebrews 1:14 say about them?

22. What did the messenger declare is about to happen to the tree?

_____ the tree and _____ it, but _____ the stump,
_____ with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field,
while its _____ in the ground." Daniel 4:23

23. Did you notice the switch in the pronoun in the second half of verse 23?

Let _____ be drenched with the dew of heaven; let _____ live with the wild animals, until seven times pass by for _____.

24. We cannot say with certainty but what period do you believe is meant by "seven times"? (Vss. 16 and 25)

25. The King has been told that the dream applies to him. He has also been given the duration and what will bring an end to the judgement. In verses 24-27, what did Daniel warn the King will happen?

26. What did Daniel say that the King needed to acknowledge (vs 25)?

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- 27. Daniel extended an invitation to repent. What did he say the king needed to repent of (vs 27a)?
- 28. What did he say the King needed to start doing (vs 27b)?
- 29. Isn't this the point we all must come to, at one time or the other, in our life?

We may not be a king of a vast kingdom but what do we all need to acknowledge?
Define the word 'sovereign.'

- 30. I believe this would be a good place to pause and look up a few verses from other books of the Bible, which speak about God's sovereignty.
Read the verses and write down what you learn.

Scriptures	Truth taught
Proverbs 16:33	
Colossians 1:16-17	
Psalms 103:19	
Romans 11:33	
Jeremiah 32:17	

- 31. Would you say you are living in such a way that acknowledges God's sovereignty?

What are some characteristics of this type of living?

What are some signs that one might be drifting from acknowledging God's sovereignty to self-sufficiency?

- 32. After all this bad news, Daniel finally has a bit of good news for King Nebuchadnezzar. Read verse 26 again.
What is the good news?

What was the condition which would bring about good once again?

- 33. Look back at verses 19, 22, 23, 24, and 27. In what way did Daniel address the King?

Pause for a moment and think about how you address those in authority over you.


Are you careful to speak with respect, considering a leader's position, and not contingent on your opinion of their character?

Read I Peter 2:17-18 and Romans 13:1

What do these verses say concerning those in a position of authority?

- 34. Daniel is about to give the King his advice. If we listen carefully, I believe we can hear the faint "Amen" of Daniel's flare prayer, sent up just before giving this advice. Let's look at 4:27 again.

Renounce _____ by _____ what is _____ and your _____
by being _____ to the _____.



Do you believe this would have taken boldness of faith for Daniel to advise the King like this?
What have we seen of the character of King Nebuchadnezzar in the first three chapters of Daniel?

Would you describe him as having a teachable spirit?

What are some words that might describe the previous actions of this King?

35. Daniel points to the nature of God's mercy and grace, as he advises the King, *"It may be that then your prosperity will continue."*
Obedience is always the path to God's favor. We will never know what might have been, had this King immediately humbled himself. Our greatest concern should always be how quickly we repent and turn from our wickedness and sin, when God speaks to us.

Think of the last time God spoke to you about some change he longs for you to make. Were you quick to obey?

36. Daniel 4:29 speaks to the long-suffering and patience of our God. As a parent it can be hard to wait even a day to see our requests carried out. However, here we see King Nebuchadnezzar has rocked along for another twelve months with absolutely no change. Where do we see the King and what is he doing in verse 29-30?

37. In your Bible, underline or highlight the pronouns in verse 30.
What character flaw is exposed by his words?

Who is receiving glory and praise?

38. Do you hear the alarm going off? Time is up Nebuchadnezzar!!!

Daniel 4:31-32 NIV

Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from _____, *"This is what is _____
_____ for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your _____ has
been taken from you. You will be _____ from people and will live with
the wild animals; You will _____ like cattle. Seven times will pass
by for you _____ you _____ that the Most High is
_____ over all the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes."*

39. No more time. No need to pack a bag. No need to phone a friend, your time of grace is up.

Verse 33 says, "Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled."

Do you know anyone who is living as if they have forever?

They are clearly not interested in humbling their heart to God.

How should we be living each day?

Our daily activities and responses are a witness to what we believe.

When we live life on our own terms and according to our own desires, what does that say to those who do not have a personal relationship with Christ?

40. Jesus told a parable in Luke 12:16-21, speaking to this very thing. Read the parable and answer these questions: According to the rich man, what was the problem?

What did he do to remedy things?

What did God say was this man's real problem?

This rich man knew all about storing up material things to make life easy for himself on earth. But what had he neglected to think about?

There is a poem written by Linda Ellis. I have read many times, it is called "The Dash." It is referring to the little dash between the date of one's birth and the date of their death. It is what one does with the time in between those two dates that matters for eternity. You might pull it up online and read it. Look at Luke 12:21 once more, what was Jesus' warning?

41. According to Daniel 4:33, what happened to King Nebuchadnezzar?

42. At the end of God's appointed time what did the king do and say to acknowledge the Most High God? Look at Daniel 4:34 and highlight the pronouns in this verse below.

"At the end of that time I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High, I honored and glorified him who lives forever."

43. God knows us better than we know ourselves. God knew exactly how long it would take for Nebuchadnezzar to come to himself and see the truth. God is long-suffering and patient. However, as in the case of King Nebuchadnezzar, there will be a day when God's season of mercy is over. Are you prepared for that day?

44. I love thinking back on the day I stepped down from the throne of my heart and asked the Lord to come in and rule and reign. It was a day very much like any other, yet, I was forever changed. God's Spirit has been with me, doing a work in my mind and my heart ever since.


The more of God's word I hide in my heart, the sweeter life becomes. Please do not misunderstand me, it is not problem-free. It would be cruel to tell someone their life will be without trials if they follow Jesus. This life will always have its share of problems. However, now I am doing life with the Problem Solver. The Holy Spirit is always there to help. Let's look up a few verses I believe will encourage our hearts. Read the verses below and comment on them.

John 14:26	
John 16:7-8	
Romans 8:26-27	
I Corinthians 2:10-11	
Galatians 5:16-18	
Galatians 5:22-23	
Acts 1:8	

45. Daniel 4:35 is an amazing acknowledgement of our God. God used Daniel's faithfulness to bring light to this Gentile king. How might God use you in your neighborhood?

School?

Work?



46. Daniel 4:34-37 are some of the sweetest verses in the entire book of Daniel; they are Nebuchadnezzar's words of adoration and insight. After reading these two verses again, do you believe this king was just adding another god to the list of idols that had been brought into his kingdom as he conquered other lands and people, or do you believe he had a true understanding and heart for the sovereign God of the universe?

47. After studying this chapter, what can be said of God's word and his judgements?

If God's judgement is slow, does that mean he has forgotten or changed his mind?

If God does not bring calamity immediately what does that show?

48. In Luke 15, Jesus told three parables about finding something valuable that had been lost. The first was a parable about a lost _____. The second was a parable of a lost _____. The third was a parable of a lost _____.

How far will the Lord go to reach the lost?

Have you repented of your sins and invited Christ into your life to be your Lord and Savior?

If you have not done this yet, please contact me, I would love to talk to you about this.
Kathypatton16@gmail.com

If you are a believer, to what lengths will you go to reach the lost?

49. How would you describe the God of Daniel 4?

50. As I was working on this study guide, I spent a few minutes discussing it with my sister. She later emailed me to say this chapter reminded her of the words of Amazing Grace. She reminded me that the words of this beautiful old hymn were written by John Newton. He had previously been a slave trader, but one night during a terrible storm at sea which threatened to take the lives of every man on board the ship, John began to think back over his life. He recalled his wasted life and his selfish and cruel treatment of others. Just as he felt all hope was lost, he recalled the words of his mother many years earlier: "God loves to show mercy even to people who feel they are beyond redemption." He cried out to God for mercy and found God to be true to his word. God's mercy, forgiveness, and grace are never far away from a repentant heart. He later would write these words, "Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed."

The book of Daniel proves God's grace is available to all who come to him with a humble heart.