

WARM-UP

- What do you think is the value in recording history? What is the value in studying it?
- Who is the most honest or upfront person you know? Recall an instance explaining this.
- Do you consider yourself to be upfront? On a scale of 1–10, how difficult is it for you to tell a loved one what you think or feel? Explain your answer.

WORD ³⁴*At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;* ³⁵*all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"* **DANIEL 4:34–35**

(Read also **DANIEL 4:1–33, 36–37.**)

The perspective of Daniel 4 is an interesting departure from the rest of the book. This chapter tells a story from the point of view of King Nebuchadnezzar—ruler of the Babylonian empire and probably the most powerful man alive at that time. He had a dream, he received a horrifying interpretation from Daniel, and the dream was fulfilled to the detail. This dream and the humbling that followed were caused by Nebuchadnezzar's pride in himself and his kingdom. God reminded him that ultimately God is in control and all-powerful, no one else. Though Daniel was dismayed and alarmed by the dream (Daniel 4:19), he humbly declared the interpretation,

hoping the king would respond in repentance. In this lesson, we will glean three lessons from Nebuchadnezzar's story.

1 | God's truth needs to be heeded.

"The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men." **DANIEL 4:17**

Nebuchadnezzar's dream was about his own downfall. It was brought about because of his pride. God was holding him accountable by humbling and disciplining him. The goal was not mere punishment; rather, that people would know God rules over all and He sets and appoints rulers. God did not step back and allow Nebuchadnezzar to continue his pride, unrighteousness, and oppression (Daniel 4:27). What do you think will happen if we don't recognize and heed God's sovereignty and instead trust in others or ourselves? What does Proverbs 16:18 say comes when we are proud or have a *haughty spirit*?

2 | God's truth will come to pass.

Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws. **DANIEL 4:33**

No matter how horrifying the dream, Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar what would happen: The king would lose his power, his mind, and his ability to relate as a human. Daniel was hoping the king would repent and the dream would not

come to pass. But when the king spoke of his own glory and majesty (Daniel 4:28–32), the dream was *immediately* fulfilled, exactly as Daniel said. God’s truth is validated as it is fulfilled. What God says, He does. This was true for Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel, and it remains true for us. How does this give you assurance, humility, and hope?

3 | God’s truth will prevail.

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble. DANIEL 4:37

After experiencing God’s judgment, Nebuchadnezzar recognized that God (and no one else) is above all. Even the most powerful man at that time heeded to God, who is most powerful of all. Nebuchadnezzar praised the King of heaven for His righteousness, justice, and power, and in doing so, he was restored back to his kingdom. Whether or not people respond to God’s word with a repentant heart, God’s word always accomplishes the purpose for which it was sent (Isaiah 55:10–11). And when people respond with repentance, God acts accordingly and He is glorified. Why do you think such extreme measures had to be taken for Nebuchadnezzar to acknowledge God? What can we learn about humility and accountability here?

APPLICATION

- Why do you think this story had to be told from Nebuchadnezzar's perspective? How did his experiences change him?
- What could Daniel have been thinking or feeling at this time? What do you think enabled him to speak to the king and interpret the dream—at the risk of his own life? How can you be like Daniel to those you encounter?
- What did you learn from this story about God? What is your response to this revelation and how will it affect your life?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His sovereignty. Declare who He is and acknowledge His presence and goodness in your life.
- Ask God for wisdom and courage to proclaim the truth, as Daniel did. Pray that through your words and example, people will have opportunities to recognize God's truth and turn to Him.
- Pray for the rulers and leaders of your nation. Pray that they will trust God's sovereignty, that they would be held accountable, and that they would humble themselves before God.



VICTORY

Honor God. Make Disciples.

© 2022 by VICTORY®
All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®)
Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Contributor: Esther Suson

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.
victory.org.ph