

Daniel 4:1-37

Because **GOD** is bigger . . .



. . . He humbles the proud

“Because GOD is Bigger...”

Studies in Daniel

Text: (Daniel 4:1-18)

Big Idea: God’s sovereignty involves the judgment of earthly kings.

Outline:

- I. Nebuchadnezzar praises God (4:1-3)
- II. Nebuchadnezzar tells Daniel his dream (4:4-18)
- III. Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (4:19-27)
- IV. God judges Nebuchadnezzar (4:28-33)
- V. Nebuchadnezzar praises God (4:34-37)

Highlights

A. Nebuchadnezzar praises God (4:1-3)

B. Nebuchadnezzar tells Daniel his dream (4:4-18)



Looking Within

This section contains some questions that might arise from this study to help me personally examine and apply the principles that I have learned from this lesson.

1. What do you think was the primary message of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream?
2. Verse 4 states that the king was “at ease” and “prospering”. When things are going well in your own life, does this make you more or less vulnerable to various problems?
3. When were some times when you remember God humbling you? What did that look like? How did you respond initially and eventually?
4. How do you understand it when you hear someone say, “I received a word from the Lord”?
5. Do you believe that God speaks through dreams and visions presently? Why or why not?

6. If you were in Daniel's position (without reading ahead), how would you respond to the king's request?



Digging Deeper

Need to know more about what you've just learned? Below are some verses to help you explore what scripture has to say about these topics, events and people.

Pride/Humility

- Judges 14-16 (Sampson)
- Proverbs 11:2; 16:18
- Matthew 23:1-12
- James 4:1-10

Trees as symbols

- 2 Kings 14:8-10
- Psalm 1:3; 37:35-36; 52:1-9; 92:12-15
- Ezekiel 17, 31

Angelic messengers

- Genesis 19:1-22; 31:11-13
- Job 33:19-28
- Matthew 1:20-23; 2:13-15, 19-20
- Luke 1:11-20

Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

- Genesis 1:1-2; 6:3
- Isaiah 11:1-5
- Ezekiel 39:25-29
- Micah 3:5-8



Additional Resources

For those desiring more information below are some optional resources that would be beneficial.

1. Websites

- This website discusses the general topic of symbolism in Scripture. Unless otherwise clearly stated in Scripture, all symbols are open for interpretation. <http://www.psalms11918.org/articles/72-symbols-in-scripture.html>
- Great description of apocalyptic literature: <http://bible.org/node/5651>. Scroll down to the "Apocalyptic Character" section.

2. Article

Available at CBC's website <http://www.cornerstoneborean.org> by Byron Burkholder "Literary Patterns and God's Sovereignty in Daniel 4".



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Highlights

C. Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream (4:19-27)

D. God judges Nebuchadnezzar (4:28-33)

E. Nebuchadnezzar praises God (4:34-37)

Lessons

- ⬆️ God humbles the proud
- ⬆️ Personal God
- ⬆️ Our acknowledgement of God's sovereignty over us
- ⬆️ God's grace needed to change us



Looking Within

This section contains some questions that might arise from this study to help me personally examine and apply the principles that I have learned from this lesson

1. How persistently are you praying for and pursuing non-believers? Who do you have in your life that you can be more intentional with?
2. Can you remember an instance when God had to humble you or bring you low before you looked up to Him? How long did that take and what was your reaction after it was over?
3. How well do you remember a conviction from God as time goes on? How often should you be in the Word to help keep God's convictions at the forefront of your mind? What can you do to help with this (journaling, etc.)?
4. Could it have been possible for Nebuchadnezzar to avoid the humiliation predicted in the dream?
5. What was Nebuchadnezzar's response to God at the end of the seven periods?



Digging Deeper

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Lifting one's eyes to see God

- Genesis 22:9-14
- 1 Chronicles 21:14-17
- Psalm 121:1-2
- Matthew 17:1-8

Boasting

- Psalm 10:3
- Proverbs 16:18
- 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
- 2 Corinthians 10:13-18

Repentance

- Proverbs 28:13
- Jeremiah 18:7-10
- Jonah 3:5-10
- Acts 8:22

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1. Description and artistic renditions of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon: http://www.bible-history.com/babylonia/BabyloniaNebuchadnezzars_Babylon.htm