

Daniel Study

Chapter 4: Nebuchadnezzar's Second Dream (11:29- end)

Opening Prayer

Review Chapters 1-3: Daniel and his friends, Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of the statue, The Fiery Furnace
Read something you wrote on your summary sheet from last time. Also, research results! What is the Talmud?

Introduce the Chapter: In Chapter Four, possibly 10 years later, Nebuchadnezzar has another dream. Again, Daniel is called upon to interpret the dream. The purpose of this dream? The King's pride... and his salvation! As we read the chapter aloud, note any questions you might have.

Play Video: 11:29-end. Also, Supplemental Video from the Website.

Group Discussion:

1. What is your greatest take away from this chapter?
2. In your opinion, will we see King Nebuchadnezzar in heaven? Why or why not?
3. According to the Talmud, Daniel is the one who cared for Nebuchadnezzar during this time. Why do you think this "God Assignment" was given to him?
4. What was God trying to teach Nebuchadnezzar?
5. What do you think the other wise men in Babylon thought of this "proclamation?"
6. How does this experience Nebuchadnezzar had relate to America today?
7. The king was given 7 years of insanity. Was this a punishment or a blessing? Why or why not?
8. What was happening back in Jerusalem during this time? What was happening with Ezekiel?

Conclusion and Final Prayer: Make sure the women have written their titles and takeaways for each of the four sessions. For next week, read chapter 7.

Video Notes Chapter 4

The next event in Daniel's life is actually written on a scroll by King Nebuchadnezzar himself.

- It was written as an edict, which meant it would have gone all over the empire in 562 BC.
- A foreign king actually writes a chapter of the bible!

The Dream:

- The king was sitting at rest in his palace, when he had another dream
- , he called the wise men of Babylon to interpret the dream, but none of them could do it.
- Finally, Daniel entered.
- By this time, Daniel was referred to as, "the master of the magicians."
- He gingerly went on to tell the dream and interpretation, which was strange indeed.
- It told of a great "tree" (the king himself) who was growing tall and prospering, bearing fruit, and providing a home for many animals.
- However, an angel, which was called a "watcher" came down from heaven, and cut down the tree (the king) , shaking its leaves and scattering its fruit.

- Only a stump of its roots was left. The interpretation?
- The king would be changed into a beast and would live that way for seven years, tied to a tree, and living in the grass of the field.
- Daniel relayed that Yahweh wished to humble Nebuchadnezzar, reminding him that HE was the one who had given him his kingdom!
- The king would remain that way until he knew that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.
- His kingdom would be restored to him after he came to know that Heaven rules.
- Daniel advised the king that a humble attitude might change his future. He encouraged him, “ Be righteous, show mercy to the poor! The dream may possibly be a warning.”

One Year Later:

- One year went by and the king forgot about the dream.
- He said this. “Is this not **Great Babylon**, that **I** have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of **My** power, and for the honor of **MY** majesty?”
- While the words were still in his mouth, God reminded him of the dream.
- Within an hour, the king had been transformed into a beast.
- His hair grew like feathers, and his nails became as bird’s claws. He ate grass as oxen, and was hidden from men. (33)
- It is said that Daniel, himself, took care of the king during that time, but no one knows for sure
- .However, just as Yahweh had foretold, the king lifted up his eyes to heaven after seven years, and blessed the Lord of Heaven.
- He finally praised Yahweh, who lives forever!
- After this experience with God, Nebuchadnezzar was never the same.
- He had learned his lesson! He testified of God’s glory and power, his ways of truth, and ability to discipline the proud.
- He was completely restored back to his right mind and body, and reinstated as monarch over the kingdom for one more year.
- At his death, his son, Evil-Merodach (what a name!) became king in 562 BC. (2 Kings 25:27)

Conclusion:

- During the lifetime of King Nebuchadnezzar much happened to my people, Israel. The captives who had been taken by the Babylonians during the three sieges of Jerusalem were settling into life in Babylon now.
- Mordecai’s great-great grandfather Kish and Ezekiel the prophet, along with the group of exiles living by the Chebar River, were hanging on to hope, as were other pockets of Jewish people settled in other places across the realm.
- Our people had been told by the prophet Jeremiah in a letter, that the Jewish remnant would be in Babylon for 70 years.
- They were not surprised when Jerusalem fell in 586 BC. The country was gone.
- But the captives had hope! This hope would be realized 24 years after the death of King Nebuchadnezzar, shortly after the Persians defeated Babylon.
- But what would become of Daniel? Be sure to come back for Section 2: Daniel and Belshazzar!