

## **Bible Study**

### **Daniel Chapter 4:1-27**

#### **Opening Question:**

1. When people aren't listening to you what do you do to get their attention?
2. Have you ever had to deliver someone bad news?

#### **Read Daniel 4:1-27**

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Observation & reflection
  - (a) What word or idea stands out to you, what did you struggle to understand?
  - (b) What is the theme of the passage?
  - (c) Is there any shift or change or difference from previous chapters?
2. What similarities are there between this and the last time Nebuchadnezzar had a dream?
  - (a) Why do you think he would turn to the ineffective "wise" men again?
  - (b) Did he believe Daniel could solve this problem? Why didn't he turn to Daniel sooner?
  - (c) Can you think of any comparable situations in the world where people keep turning to something ineffective?
    - (i) Why do people not want to turn to God/Church/Believers more?
3. How does Nebuchadnezzar's proclamation in 4:1-3 differ from what he expressed in Daniel 2:47, 3:15, 3:28-29?
4. As you read Nebuchadnezzar's description of the dream (v. 9-18), what aspects of the dream might have caused the king to be "terrified" (v. 5)?
5. In verse 8, Nebuchadnezzar talks about Daniel by the name "Belteshazzar." What might we learn from this passage about Nebuchadnezzar and his relationship to Daniel and to the one true God?
6. Three times in chapter 4 God's purpose for giving the dream is repeated (V17, 25, 32). Why do you think God was so intent on impressing Nebuchadnezzar with his sovereign authority instead of his grace or his love?
7. What do you think an angelic watcher might be? And what role do they have?

8. What do you think 7 periods of time might refer to?
9. In verse 4:19, Daniel seems fearful to say the interpretation of the dream. Why?
  - (a) What was the primary message of Nebuchadnezzar's dream?
10. If Nebuchadnezzar repents of his sins as Daniel advised, do you think God would withhold his judgment, or is his decision irrevocable at this point (v. 24-27)? Why?
11. Baruch Spinoza, a medieval Jewish philosopher, wrote that, "Pride is thinking more highly of yourself than is warranted." How does pride manifest itself in your life or in the life of people you know?
12. When things are going well in your own life, does this make you more or less vulnerable to various problems? And more or less open to God?

### **Thought Points**

- God rules and is Sovereign over all.
- Our choice is either to acknowledge God's sovereignty or face judgement.
- Delivering the gospel message in full is not always easy
- Faith means obeying God regardless of our fears.
- God works through his people to be witnesses in the secular/pagan world
- Nebuchadnezzar talks about being prosperous, the text uses the word *ra'anan* (Aramaic). It can also be used of a plant flourishing.

### **Extra Reading**

Psalm 92:1-2, Psalm 66:16-18, Psalm 72:18, Proverb 11:2, Proverb 12:15, Isaiah 44:24-26, Isaiah 10:33-34, Isaiah 14:12-15, Jeremiah 9:23-25, Hosea 10:12-13, Joel 2:32, Obediah 3-4, Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 12:19-21, 1 Corinthians 15:33-34, 2 Corinthians 4:18, James 1:5, James 4:4-10, 1 John 2:15-17,

### **Personal Reflection:**

- Thinking of yourself as a tree, have you ever been cut down to size? What were the circumstances? Do you think that God was involved? How did you feel afterward?
- Nebuchadnezzar's pride is the focus of Daniel 4. Do you consider yourself a proud person? If not, why not? If so, why?