

Daniel



Lesson 7-The Conversion of Nebuchadnezzar—Salvation

Focus: Daniel 4:1-37

- ❖ **King Nebuchadnezzar sends a message to the entire world to tell of his new found joy!! (v.1-3)**
 - **“Peace be multiplied unto you...” (v.1)—this is quite a change in tone for king Nebuchadnezzar!! The king has discovered who God is for himself—personally!! (v.2)**
 - **What had occurred to the King since we first met him? Chapter 1—a completely pagan king! Chapter 2:47—Daniel’s God is amazing!; Chapter 3:28,29—the king is defending THEIR God. Chapter 4:2—Now King Nebuchadnezzar has experienced the perfect peace of God for HIMSELF...personally!**
- ❖ **What brought Nebuchadnezzar to this point in his life? (v.4,5, 6-9)**
 - (v.4)—He was **“flourishing” in his palace (prospering)!**—So often, before we get to know who God is, we might feel like we’ve got it all...life is empty and we haven’t realized it. We’ve got it all we think. Life’s good we feel, **BUT it’s godless, and going nowhere!**
 - **(v.5)—Suddenly, God brings something into our life to trouble us....to make us realize that we don’t really have it all. (God has done this to many of us, to wake us up from our spiritual complacency and fast track to temporal and eternal ruin!)**
 - (v.6,7)—the king went to his worldly wise men AGAIN!!!! (perhaps he was afraid of the truth and he wanted something to ease his mind) But, **we don’t need to be afraid of the truth! “You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free!” (John 8:32).** Finally Daniel is brought in to give the king the real answer (v.8,9).
- ❖ **The king relates his dream to Daniel (v.10-18) This time the king is explaining his dream and allowing Daniel to just give him the interpretation. (He’s not asking for the dream itself to be revealed, like in Daniel 2).**
- ❖ **Daniel is amazed at the dream—He knows what it means but he hesitates a bit to tell the king what it really means! (v.19-21,22)**
 - Daniel knows this is bad news for the king’s ears to hear—but, it must be faithfully told. **SOMETIMES THE TRUTH HURTS A LITTLE—but, we need to know the truth so that we can be set free!! (Daniel lovingly tries to prepare the king for what he’s about to hear).**
 - **Finally, Daniel lays it on for the king—He tells the meaning!! (v.22)**
 - BIBLE PROPHECY generally only tells us the prophetic message and a biblical interpretation, then, we must go to history to find the answers! **This chapter reveals all three elements of Bible prophecy: the dream, the interpretation, and the historical fulfillment!**
- ❖ **Daniel explains the interpretation of the dream and gives the counsel that the king needs to follow (v.22-27)**

- For “seven times” or 7 years, the king was going to go crazy, because he had been proud, selfish, and abusive towards the poor. **God wanted to teach him the lesson of humility, and to ultimately save his soul.** (*God cares ultimately about our soul’s salvation, and sometimes He has to do things in our lives to wake us up from our sinful complacency and actions!—It is out of his mercy that He would do so*)
- **(v.26)—God showed his mercy towards the king** and foreknowledge of the king’s repentance, in that He would save the king’s throne for him.
- **“LET MY COUNSEL BE ACCEPTABLE UNTO YOU...” (v.27)—We should always listen to the words of the Prophets when they rebuke our sin!** (We should accept and follow their godly counsel to us—to fear and “tremble at” the word of God (Isaiah 66:5)). Today we have the voice of the PROPHETS given to us in the Word of God—the Bible!
- **“break off thy sins by righteousness” (v.27)—we must choose to DO what is right—to break off our sins, to separate from them by God’s holy grace working within us—we must yield to the Spirit’s conviction of sin, and REPENT!**
- “Show mercies unto the poor” and it may lengthen your time of peace! (v.27)
- ❖ **The divine sentence comes upon the king (v.28-33)**
 - After **“one year”** the king still had not changed his ways although he knew what was right! **God is long-suffering (patient) and merciful BUT punishment for sin will come!** (v.29)—the king had been procrastinating!!! So many people will be lost this way, not because they didn’t know the truth, but because they kicked their feet and hesitated to follow the truth that they knew of—DON’T be one of them! **“I made haste and delayed not to keep thy commandments” said David (Psalm 119:60).**
 - (v.30) *The king’s words were SELFISH and PROUD!* This closely resembles the spirit of Lucifer (Satan) who lived to serve only himself (ref. Isaiah 14:12-14).—*This is the spirit of the unconverted heart. The king may have known some prophecy, etc., but his heart was still unconverted!! The king had exploited the poor to magnify and build up himself and his kingdom—not a few are guilty of this same sin (ref. v.27).*
- ❖ **The king learns his lesson—God rules in Heaven and ALL must one day answer before Him (v.34-37).**
- ❖ **How can we find personal peace like King Nebuchadnezzar did? We must...**
 - **A-accept and realize the fact that we are all sinners—we have sinned (Romans 3:23).** *We must realize the problem we’re struggling with before it can be cured.*
 - **B-believe in the Lord Jesus Christ who can and will save us from all our sins (Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23)**
 - **C-confess our sins to God through Jesus Christ** so that we may be forgiven and cleansed (1 John 1:9)
 - **D-Decide or choose to follow and obey the Lord’s voice out of love for Him (John 14:15).**

Question (s) for the Heart:

Would you like to have the personal peace of God in your life today? _____ Will you receive Jesus Christ as your personal savior? _____