

Daniel Dialogue 4

Reading Guide for Daniel 4

God Rules it all!

Group Discussion

Have you ever met a famous or important person? Who was it, how did you meet and what was the person like?

Kids Activity

Experience the story together. Adults could read the story while the kids provide the sound effects—and then the kids fill in the activity sheet or colour in the picture.

God is really the one in charge!

Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful leader of the world in his day—with huge wealth and influence. His military genius was second to none, but even he discovered that God is really the one who is in charge of it all!

NEBUCHADNEZZAR PRAISES GOD verses 1-3

Daniel was not the main author of this chapter. Daniel 4 was written by king Nebuchadnezzar as a testimony to the greatness of God. The king wrote, “It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me.” Daniel 4:2

Nebuchadnezzar was led to acknowledge “that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men.” Daniel 4:17

NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S DREAM verses 4-18

List the main points of the dream:

1. A _____ that reaches to the sky and shades the whole earth. Vs. 10,11
2. Its leaves and fruit provide shade and fruit for _____ Vs. 12
3. A heavenly messenger declares:
Vs. 14 _____
Vs. 15 _____
Vs. 16 _____
4. The purpose of the dream: “So that the living may know that the _____ over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.” Vs. 17

DANIEL INTERPRETS NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S DREAM verses 19-27

5. Vs. 21,22
The tree represents _____
6. Vs. 22
The vastness of the tree represents _____

7. Vs. 23-26

The meaning of the watchman's message is _____

8. Vs. 26,27

Advice given to the king: _____

DREAM FULFILLED verses 28-37

10. Nebuchadnezzar's defiance of God. verses 28-30

11. Voice of judgement from heaven. verses 31-33

12. Nebuchadnezzar praises the God of heaven. verses 34-37

The simplicity of God's method of saving people is illustrated in verse 34:

“ _____.”

“The once proud monarch had become a humble child of God; the tyrannical, overbearing ruler, a wise and compassionate king. He who defied and blasphemed the God of heaven, now acknowledged the power of the Most High and earnestly sought to promote the fear of Jehovah and the happiness of his subjects. Under the rebuke of Him who is King of kings and Lord of Lords, Nebuchadnezzar had learned at last the lesson which all rulers need to learn - that true greatness consists in true goodness. He acknowledged Jehovah as the living God, saying, ‘I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and His ways judgement; and those that walk in ride He is able to abase.’

“God's purpose that the greatest kingdom in the world should show forth his praise was now fulfilled. This public proclamation, in which Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the mercy and goodness and authority of God, was the last act of his life recorded in sacred history.” - E.G. White, *The Story of Prophets and Kings*, page 521. Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1917.

DISCUSSION

1. In Daniel 2 God is revealed as the only One who can tell the future:

the true _____

In Chapter 3 He is revealed as the only One who can deliver:

the true _____

In Chapter 4 He is revealed as the only One who really controls the destiny of nations:

the true _____

2. What practical lesson do you see in Daniel's response, recorded in Daniel 4:19?

3. Why do you think God allowed Nebuchadnezzar 12 months of mercy after Daniel interpreted the dream? What does this chapter teach you about God's character?

4. **Kid's DISCUSSION:** If you were to get Nebuchadnezzar and God into a argument who do you think would win and why?

5. **Read Daniel 4:37—a key verse in this story.** What important things did Nebuchadnezzar learn about God? What do you learn from Nebuchadnezzar about how to live everyday?

6. Think about some famous people. Does fame, power and wealth bring happiness?

FINAL PERSONAL WORD ...

While Daniel 4 shows the lengths to which God will go in reaching out to people, chapter 5 reveals the limitations within which God has chosen to work - the will of man! Belshazzar persistently resisted the influences of God, who, of course, refused to force him to surrender or conform to Him. However, the day came when God in justice allowed final judgement to fall upon the rebellious, drunken, pleasure-seeking king and his empire of Babylon.

In our studies so far we have seen that ...

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|------------------------|----------|
| God Cares ... | Daniel 1 |
| God Knows ... | Daniel 2 |
| God Rescues ... | Daniel 3 |
| God Rules ... | Daniel 4 |

In the next chapter, God **Responds**. In His final message to Belshazzar God reveals the basis of His final judgement of all men and women.