

FAITH SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

DANIEL: APOCALYPTIC IMAGINATION AND EXILE FAITH | DANIEL 4:1-37 | OCTOBER 6/7, 2018

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"How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation." (Daniel 4:3)

A Terrifying Ruler Left Terrified (Daniel 4:1-7)

A Confusing Dream with a Confounding Interpretation (Daniel 4:8-27)

A Self-Centered King Dethroned and Reoriented (Daniel 4:28-36)

God Rules All and Will Set a Ruler in Place (Daniel 4:37, 1-3, 17)

STUDY GUIDE:

1. When have you seen God do something in your life or in someone else's life that was completely unexpected? What happened? How did people respond?
2. As we continue our series, "Daniel: Apocalyptic Imagination and Exile Faith," this week we look at Daniel, chapter 4. Take a moment to be still before God, then pray that He would speak to you through Scripture. Next, read Daniel 4 aloud before continuing with the rest of the study.
3. How would you summarize verses 1-3? What is Nebuchadnezzar telling us about himself and about God?
4. What is the situation that Nebuchadnezzar outlines in verses 4-7? How does the king feel?
5. Summarize the dream that the king tells Daniel/Belteshazzar in verses 8-18.
6. How does Daniel respond to this dream in verse 19? Why do you think this might be?
7. When was a time where you felt fear or trepidation after you realized something from Scripture or finally grasped a humbling truth God was speaking into your life?
8. What is Daniel's interpretation of the dream all about in verses 19-27? What is the final thrust of Daniel's exhortation to the king (verse 27)?
9. What happens after this in verses 28-33?
10. After the "seven times" of Nebuchadnezzar's time driven away from society, what happens to him and how does he respond to God (verses 34-36)?
11. Some people see this as a moralistic story about pride, but Nebuchadnezzar makes it clear in verse 37 that the important lesson is something else. How would you put that summary lesson into your own words?
12. What is one specific thing that God is speaking to you through this study? If you are with a small group, discuss that with one another and pray for one another. If you are studying on your own, write it down and share it with someone.

TAKE IT FURTHER:

Here are some ways you can take your study of the book of Daniel deeper this week:

- Explore resources on the book of Daniel at The Bible Project: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/daniel/>.
- Read "Prayer of Nabonidus," found in the Dead Sea Scrolls (4Q242), which echoes Daniel 4 here: <http://www.livius.org/sources/content/dss/4q242-prayer-of-nabonidus/>.