

SERMON OUTLINE

In Daniel 4:1-37 we are shown the humbling of an earthly king through 11 sovereignly directed acts of the Heavenly King.

- I. The king begins at the end (vs. 1-3).
- II. The king dreams a dream (vs. 4-6).
- III. The king seeks an interpreter (vs. 7-9).
- IV. The king explains his dream (vs. 10-18).
- V. The king receives the interpretation (vs. 19-26).
- VI. The king receives counsel (v. 27).
- VII. The king ignores counsel (vs. 28-30).
- VIII. The king receives his sentence (vs. 31-33).
- IX. The king repents (v. 34-35).
- X. The king receives his kingdom (v. 36).
- XI. The king praises the King (v. 37).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 3, 2017 **Passage: Daniel 4:1-37**

Memory Passage: Daniel 4:34-35

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Dan. 4:1-37.** To whom does the king address his proclamation (v. 1) and why is this important (cf. 3:4)?

(b) Verses 1-3 represent the king's thoughts after the events about to be revealed in the following verses. How does this affect the way you read the following narrative?

(c) What theological points are being made by the fact that Daniel is the last of the wise men to come before the king (v. 8)?

(d) What does the king believe about Daniel when he says that he is one "in whom is the spirit of the holy gods" (vs. 8, 10)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Dan. 4:1-37.** What similarities do you see between the king's dream and Genesis 11:1-9?

(b) What do the images in the dream convey about Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom? How is the curse related to this reign?

(c) Who are "the watchers" (vs. 13 [singular], 17 [plural]), and is the decree from the watchers (v. 17) or God (v. 24)?

(d) What is the purpose of the dream (vs. 17, 25, 26, 32)? Was this purpose accomplished?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Dan. 4:1-37.** Of what must the king repent in order that his prosperity might be lengthened (v. 27)?

(b) In what ways does Nebuchadnezzar exhibit pride in this chapter?

(c) How do you explain these exhibitions of pride in light of all that the king has seen, heard, and confessed in chapters 2-4?

(d) This is the last we see of King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel. Considering his confessions (vs. 1-3, 34-37), would you say King Nebuchadnezzar has finally come to faith in the One True God, or is he still a pagan recognizing Yahweh's power but not worshipping Him exclusively? Explain your answer.

(e) In what ways does God exhibit mercy in this chapter? In what ways does God exhibit his sovereignty in this chapter?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Dan. 4:1-37.** It seems incredulous that the king could refuse Daniel's call to repentance for 12 months, and then act in a way that provoked God to carry out his judgment, especially after what he has seen in chapters 2-4! And yet we *can most certainly* understand it! Personally. Experientially. Vividly. For God has revealed Himself to us in even clearer ways. He has revealed our own sinfulness to us in clear and unassailable ways. And yet we still hold on to pride, arrogance, idolatry, and many forms of sin flowing from these roots.

(b) Pray, right now, for God to reveal all the ways you exhibit pride in your own life. Record what He brings to your mind.

(c) In what ways has God revealed Himself to you in His power and glory? In what ways have you ignored that revelation (both of Himself and of your sin) and embraced your own pride instead?

(d) In what ways does God's mercy and sovereignty as revealed in this chapter (review your answer to Day 3 (d)) help you repent of your pride and crucify it so there would "be a lengthening of your prosperity" (v. 27)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Psalm 73 & Phil. 2:1-11.** Read and meditate on Psalm 73 and record how it helps you (1) give voice to your frustration toward pride and arrogance in the world, (2) speak truth to your own pride and arrogance (including as you complain about pride in others), and (3) understand and apply to your own life the truths about God found in Daniel 4.

(b) Read and meditate upon Philippians 2:1-11 and write down how the life, death, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus requires and equips you to live humbly before both God and man (in your family, your church, your job, your school, your social groups, etc.), as you bring Him glory in both the ordinary and extraordinary days of your life.

DATE: December 3, 2017

PASSAGE: Daniel 4:1-37

The Rule of the Most High God