

# Daniel 4

## **EXAMINE**

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

*Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.*

The Lord wants to speak to you personally from His Scriptures!! Before you begin the remainder of the homework, read this chapter of Daniel slowly and carefully. Prayerfully ask the Lord to be your Teacher, and make a note of the things He shows you. You may want to ask Him to instruct you specifically in some of the following areas:

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin for me to avoid?
- Is there a command for me to obey?
- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- What do You want me to learn about You as God the Father, God the Son and/or God the Holy Spirit?
- Is there something for which to praise or thank You?
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- How do You want the lessons I have learned to affect my life today?

## **EXPLORE**

1. In this chapter, King Nebuchadnezzar comes to know the Lord personally and shares his *testimony*. A testimony usually involves answering the three questions listed below. Read Psalm 66:16 and reflect on your own testimony as you briefly answer these questions.
  - What was your life like before you came to have a personal relationship with the Lord?
  - How did you come to hear about the Lord and commit your life to Him?
  - What is your life like now and how has it changed since you became a Christian?

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2. Summarize what you learned about King Nebuchadnezzar from the first three chapters of the book of Daniel. Please read Acts 9:1-22. What similarities do you see between the lives and conversions of Saul and Nebuchadnezzar?
  
3. Consider what you learned about the lives of King Nebuchadnezzar and Saul from the previous question. Based on his previous actions, each might have been the "last person in the world" anyone would have expected to humble himself and commit his life to the Lord. In what ways were *you* the "last person in the world" others thought would commit her life to the Lord? Are there people whom you have *given up on* because you believe they will never surrender their lives to the Lord--family members, neighbors, successful businesspeople, movie stars, notorious criminals, world leaders...? Take some time today to pray for them. With God all things are possible!!
  
4. The fourth chapter of Daniel is written in the first person so apparently King Nebuchadnezzar wrote it himself. Please look at verse 1. Nebuchadnezzar began by saying, "Peace be multiplied to you." Before coming into a personal relationship with the Lord, Nebuchadnezzar ruled the entire world but he had no peace in his life. Define peace. Many of us have seen a bumper sticker that says, "No Jesus, No Peace...Know Jesus, Know Peace." How do these words describe your own experience?
  
5. What did Nebuchadnezzar say about the Lord in verses 2-3?
  
6. Answer the following questions based on verses 4-9.
  - What was King Nebuchadnezzar's condition before he saw the dream?
  
  - How did he feel after seeing the dream?

- Whom did he ask first to tell him the interpretation of the dream and why do you think he asked them before asking Daniel?
7. Think about King Nebuchadnezzar's description of Daniel (Belteshazzar) in verses 9 and 18. This is the blessed condition of every Christian. What does it mean to you to know that *the Spirit of the Holy God is in you*?
  
  8. Briefly describe the king's dream and its interpretation from verses 10-26.
  
  9. Verse 19 indicates that Daniel was *astonished* and *troubled* by the dream and/or its interpretation. Has the Lord ever asked you to deliver a difficult message to someone? What happened?
  
  10. What was Daniel's advice to King Nebuchadnezzar in verse 27?
  
  11. King Nebuchadnezzar was given twelve months to heed Daniel's advice and repent. What happened in verses 28-30?
  
  12. Explain what happened to King Nebuchadnezzar in verses 31-33.
  
  13. The king refused to heed Daniel's warning even though he knew that the Spirit of the Holy God was in Daniel. It is very important for us to be open to God's warnings in our lives. Can you think of a time you were given godly advice and ignored it? What were the consequences?
  
  14. Define *pride*. What do you learn from the following verses about pride?

- Proverbs 6:16-17
- Proverbs 11:2a
  
- Proverbs 13:10a
  
- Proverbs 16:18
  
- Proverbs 21:4

15. The opposite of pride is humility. Define *humility* and then note what you learn about it from the following verses.

- Micah 6:8
  
- Romans 12:3
  
- James 4:10
  
- 1 Peter 5:5

16. Consider your answers to questions 12 and 13. Take some time today and ask the Lord to search your heart. Is there an area of your life where you are proud? If so, confess your sin to Him, repent, humble yourself before Him, and rest in the peace and joy of His forgiveness.

17. Fill in the blanks from verse 32, which describe what needed to occur before the kingdom would be restored to King Nebuchadnezzar. "...until you know that the Most High \_\_\_\_\_ in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever \_\_\_\_\_." (See also verses 17 and 25.) What does it mean that "God rules"? How does this knowledge influence your daily life?

18. Look at verse 34. The words *Most High* are used several times in this chapter to describe the Lord. What things in your life try to compete for the position of "most high"? How do you make sure that the Lord continues to hold this position?
  
19. As you read verses 34-35, make a list of all the ways Nebuchadnezzar described the Most High. Which of these is most important to you today? Why?
  
20. Verse 36 says that King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was restored to him and *excellent majesty was added* to him as well. Can you share a time when, after a humbling experience, the Lord blessed you with something excellent?

## **ENJOY**

Take time today to sit with the Lord and enjoy and adore Him. Delight yourself in the God of your salvation!! Bask in His love, rest in His protection, and take pleasure in a time of intimate fellowship with Him.

What have you learned from Him and about Him this week? How has this knowledge drawn you closer to Him? Make a note below. Now praise Him for who He is and thank Him for all He has done for you.