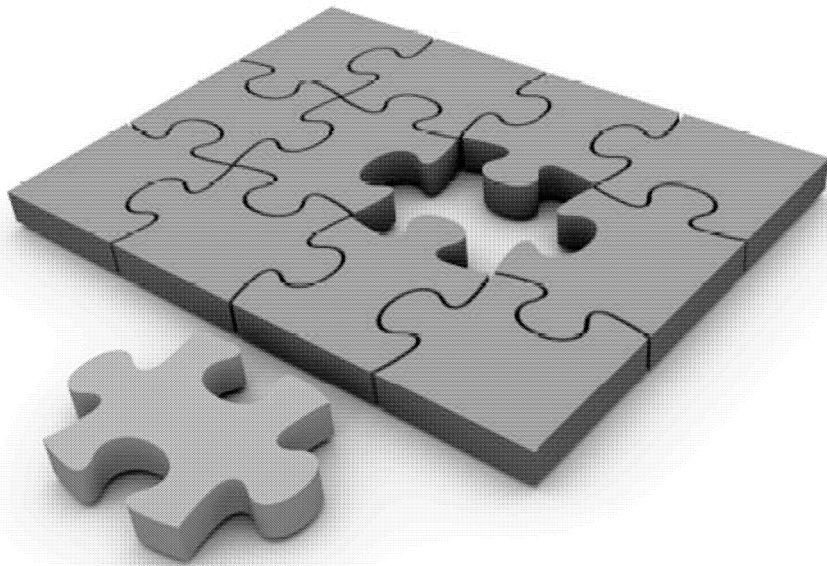


**Studies in Daniel – (Study 16)**  
*“There before me was a messenger...”*

Reading: Daniel 4:17-23



## Living a godly life in an ungodly world

Home Fellowship Group Bible Study notes  
Tuesday 14th / Wednesday 15th October

- 1) Verse 17 closes the dream with a clear announcement that cannot be revoked. As in verse 13 we see the idea of the Old Testament picture of the heavenly court (compare **Psalm 82:1; Job 1:6; 1 Kings 22:19**). *What does this tell us about God's activity in the world?*
- 2) The second part of verse 17 gives a key 'statement of intent' from God that underlines one of the main character defects displayed by Nebuchadnezzar. *What does the Bible say about pride and what damage it can have?*

**In verse 19 the narrative now moves temporarily from the king's testimony to the passage written in the third person.**

- 3) Why is Daniel so perplexed?
- 4) The description reinforced by Daniel in verses 20-21 is vivid. *Why is the detail so important for Nebuchadnezzar?*
- 5) In verses 20-22 there are hints of the arrogance which inspired the building of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11. *What other similarities are there between the two events?*
- 6) Why is it significant that Daniel reminds the king in verse 23 that *“you, O king, saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven...”*?

## Homegroup Leaders Notes – Study 16

### Question 1

- a) The sovereign God watches over the world and also makes judgement on the world.
- b) These verses fly in the face of the idea that God is a distant, indifferent and inactive deity.

### Question 2

- a) James 4:6, Prov 16:18, Hosea 13:6
- b) It can destroy relationships.
- c) Our perspective on God, and his place in our lives and the world, is all wrong.
- d) In his inscriptions, Nebuchadnezzar boasted that he had personally cut down some of the huge cedars from the forests of Lebanon. He even had a picture of himself cutting a cedar inscribed on stone. He obviously saw the fact that he could cut down such a towering giant as a sign of strength. This king who delighted in cutting down trees would himself be cut down.'
- e) Note the king's conclusion in Dan 4:37.

### Question 3

- a) A once majestic tree reduced to a stump was a fearful sign for the king and the nation.
- b) This was about judgement from God.

### Question 4

- a) In the barren desert-like landscape of much of Babylon such a tree was a magnificent sight.
- b) It also builds up the shattering moment when Nebuchadnezzar sees a messenger descending from heaven and giving the order for that tree to be chopped down.

### Question 5

- a) God is not included. In fact it is a direct challenge to God.
- b) The picture of both the Tower and the king's greatness reaching the skies, speaks of complete power and control.
- c) Both speak of security and making a name (see Gen 11:4).

### Question 6

- a) Again we are reminded that in contrast to the tree growing up from the earth, this messenger comes from heaven. God is in control.
- b) The king's supreme power is not as strong as he thought.
- c) There is a false sense of security.
- d) There is a greater power that can destroy everything he has achieved and become.