

Studies in Daniel – (Study 18) “Twelve months later...”

Reading: Daniel 4:28-33



Living a godly life in an ungodly world

Home Fellowship Group Bible Study notes
Tuesday 11th / Wednesday 12th November

- 1) What does verse 28 suggest about Nebuchadnezzar's response to the dream?
- 2) In verse 29, why do you suppose that God allowed a year to pass before fulfilling the dream?
- 3) What does verse 30 reveal about the reasons that the king refuses to follow Daniel's advice in previous verses?
- 4) Verses 30 and 31 both have a voice speaking. *What are your observations as you compare the words of each voice?*
- 5) Notice in verse 32 that there is still a time limit on this judgement ('seven times'). *What does this reveal to us?*
- 6) Verse 33 is very descriptive and there could be much speculation as to what the king's condition was and might represent. *What would you say that this description reveals to us?*

Homegroup Leaders Notes – Study 18

Question 1

- a) The king did not acknowledge his sin against God or take practical action to show the fruits of repentance that Daniel had suggested in verse 27.
- b) It also shows that God keeps his word.

Question 2

- c) In Jonah, God held back his judgement on Nineveh to give them a chance to repent. They had only forty days, and their king did not waste a moment,
- d) Here, God in his mercy gives Nebuchadnezzar a glimpse into the future if he was to continue in his sin. The king is given a year of grace.
- e) God is patient with the king who in the end shows no sign of being humble until judgement comes. It will then be too late.
- f) Note God's patience in salvation which will culminate in the return of Christ and judgement **2 Peter 3:9-10**.

Question 3

- a) The sentiments accurately reflect Nebuchadnezzar's attitude of pride.
- b) Nebuchadnezzar says of this great Babylon, that it was built by 'my mighty power' and 'for the glory of my majesty' rather than God's mighty power or for God's glory.
- c) Archaeological discoveries have confirmed the massive and overwhelming splendour of ancient Babylon.

Question 4

- a) The king's words were a barometer of his heart's condition; desperately arrogant in spite of many warnings.
- b) The voice of heaven simply overrules the words of Nebuchadnezzar.
- c) Here we see again where true sovereignty lies. We see just how dependent the king is on the actions of God.
- d) The words of verse 31 show that the matter has finished. It is now too late.

Question 5

- a) This is not just about what God is doing in judgement on one man. The king is going to act as an example of God's sovereignty over all the earth.
- b) He is also going to use the change in the king's attitude as a witness to the world.
- c) Although like the example earlier of Nineveh we see God's mercy in giving the king another chance to repent, it must be remembered that there comes a time for everyone when it is too late and therefore should not be put off.

Question 6

- a) It has been suggested that the medical condition the king had was 'Clinical lycanthropy'; a syndrome which involves a delusion that the affected person can or has transformed into an animal.
- b) The point for us here is much more the utter helplessness and humiliation of the great king.
- c) How often we have to be brought down to the lowest point so that we can look up. Note the opening words of verse 34 about looking up!