

## Studies in Daniel – (Study 19) “Then I praised the Most High...”

Reading: Daniel 4:34-37



## Living a godly life in an ungodly world

Home Fellowship Group Bible Study notes  
Tuesday 25th / Wednesday 26th November

- 1) Our passage in this study begins with an important phrase: “at the end of that time...” (cf verses 16, 25 and 32). *What would you say is the significance of this phrase in relation to what follows?*
- 2) As the king looks up; his reason, his well-being and his throne are restored to him. *What is the significance of the order of events here?*
- 3) How would you compare the declaration of praise in verses 34-35 with those in ch2:47 and ch3:28?
- 4) At the end of chapters 2, 3 and 4; following their remarkable events, there is a return to the world of power politics. Read 2:48-49; 3:30 and 4:36-37. *What has changed over this period?*
- 5) Nebuchadnezzar must be keen to show his people that he is no longer mad, and to re-establish his authority on the throne. *Why does this make his declaration even more remarkable?*
- 6) In what ways do you struggle to acknowledge that God is Lord over all? How does God’s work in Nebuchadnezzar encourage you to trust in Him?

## Homegroup Leaders Notes – Study 19

### Question 1

- a) It emphasises a recurring theme throughout the book that God is in control and precise times are determined by Him.
- b) Whilst waiting in anticipation for the king to see the error of his ways and repent, we must not lose sight of the fact that he can only do so within the boundaries of God's purposes and timing.

### Question 2

- a) Finally he is acknowledging the sovereignty of God and that heaven is the source of his help.
- b) We must never underestimate the enormity of this conclusion for it also meant acknowledging a change in his own status.
- c) The gospel also requires us to address the balance between how we view ourselves and how we view God.

### Question 3

- a) The earlier declarations of praise are addressed to the God of others i.e. Daniel and the three in the fiery furnace.
- b) He is still 'a' God although in chapter 2 is given a superior position among deities.
- c) The declaration in chapter 4 puts all the world and its people's under the sovereignty of God and gives him free reign over all.

### Question 4

- a) There is a more realistic view of the limitations of man's power.
- b) There is an acknowledgement of an overriding power that is just and righteous.
- c) It is God who pulls down and exalts.

### Question 5

- a) The balance of power has significantly shifted for there is now a greater power than that of the king of Babylon.
- b) In effect there is a new king on the throne and it is not Nebuchadnezzar.
- c) It is interesting to note that before the next chapter Nebuchadnezzar is dead and although the Babylonian Empire will last a bit longer, its greatness is over. It will soon disappear, but the Kingdom of God will endure.

### Question 6

- a) Often we can struggle with things such as suffering and evil in the world.
- b) This chapter shows that God's power is greater than man's but at the same time so are his purposes. As the king tells us *"no one can hold back his hand or say to him: 'what have you done?'"*
- c) The eternal and enduring kingdom that Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges is a reminder that God has a longer term plan that goes way beyond the sufferings of this age **Isaiah 9:7**.

## Group Leaders

This study takes us to the end of chapter 4 which will be a good place to break off until the New Year.

After Study 19 (25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> Nov) there will be one more HFG before Christmas (9/10 Dec). This can be used as a social if you wish.

Please let Tanya and I know of any time change on that occasion.

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