

A Study of the Prophets

O.T. Survey Lesson 189--Daniel 4:1-37

Introduction: Nebuchadnezzar, like all monarchs, had to learn that God rules supremely over all and sets over the realm of mankind whoever He wishes. In this chapter Nebuchadnezzar reveals how he had allowed himself to be overcome with pride; but how God humbled him by making him spend a period of time as an animal in the field.

Lesson aim: To emphasize the need to walk humbly before God, recognizing Him as the source of our blessings and accomplishments.

Nebuchadnezzar's vision narrated--Daniel 4:1-18

1. Who is the author of this section of Daniel? (v. 1) What does Nebuchadnezzar purport to declare in this decree? (v. 2) With what statements about God did he introduce his report? (v. 3)
2. With what is this chapter concerned? (v. 5) Were the king's counselors able to interpret the dream? (v. 6-7) Was Daniel? (v. 8-9)
3. Describe the scene Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream (v. 10-12). What command was issued concerning the tree? (v. 14-16) For what purpose were these things to occur? (v. 17)

Nebuchadnezzar's vision interpreted--Daniel 4:19-27

1. What confidence did Nebuchadnezzar express in Daniel? (v. 18)
2. Who did the tree of Nebuchadnezzar's dream represent? (v. 19-22) What did Daniel explain the future held for the king, if he did not change? (v. 23-26)

3. What advice did Daniel give to Nebuchadnezzar that might have prevented the vision from being fulfilled? (v. 27)

Nebuchadnezzar's vision fulfilled--Daniel 4:28-37

1. How much time passed before Nebuchadnezzar's dream was fulfilled? (v. 28-29) What thoughts were in his mind when the king was smitten with the illness prophesied by Daniel? (v. 30) What did God reveal to him at that moment? (v. 31-33)
2. For how long did Nebuchadnezzar act like an animal? How did the king respond to God after his reason returned to him? (v. 34) What things did the king affirm about God? (v. 35)
3. Describe Nebuchadnezzar's latter state after his return to sanity (v. 36)
4. What lesson had the king learned from his experience? (v. 37)