

***GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION*****Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of a Tree      Daniel 4**

*"...your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules."* Daniel 4:26

**Day 1: Read Daniel 4:1–3.**

1. King Nebuchadnezzar is writing a letter broadcasting to the world all that God has done for him. Do you ever do that? Is it your "pleasure," (vs. 2) as it is Nebuchadnezzar's?
2. Though "the whole earth be filled with his glory" (Ps. 72:19), Nebuchadnezzar is not moved to praise until he sees God in a personal way in his life. Take a few minutes to reflect on God's personal involvement in your life and write your own praise.
3. Someday "every knee will bow" (Rom. 14:11). Someday knowledge of the glory of God will cover the earth "as the waters cover the sea" (Hab. 2:14). How is this letter of a pagan king an interesting foretaste and prophecy of that coming day?
4. What is the particular attribute of God that so impresses this earthly king? (vs. 3)

**Day 2: Read Daniel 4:4–26.**

5. Nebuchadnezzar is "contented and prosperous" (vs. 4) before God starts dealing with him. Talk about how God had to shake up your own "contented" life, or "trim your branches," (from vs. 14) before he could draw your attention to your desperate need of him.
6. The king of Babylon is not a quick study. Despite all he has seen—the power of Daniel's God and the failure of his pagan magicians in chapter 2; the fiery furnace episode in chapter 3—here he is again calling on his pagan magicians. Describe a time when you have all too soon forgotten God's work in your life. Does God ever have to repeat a lesson with you?
7. Describe the new dream and Daniel's interpretation.

**Day 3: Read Daniel 4:19–32.**

8. What is the difference between how God communicated to men in olden times and how he speaks to us now? (Heb.1:1–2) Which way do you think is better? Why?
9. What does it say about Daniel that he is reluctant to tell Nebuchadnezzar the dreadful meaning of the dream? (vs. 19) Is there any evidence that he has ever been afraid of the king? (Recall 1:8; 2:14) Then what is it that stirs him? (1 Cor.13:4–7; Luke 6:27)
10. Daniel is in captivity and yet earnestly desires the welfare of his captor. Why are the servants of God able to do good even to those who mistreat them? (Eph.6:5-9; 1 Peter 2:23)
11. What lesson does God so want to impress on the king and on us that he repeats it three times? (vss.17, 25, 32) Why is this so important for us to catch on to?

**Day 4: Read Daniel 4:27–33.**

12. God's warning to Nebuchadnezzar also offers him mercy. What does God through Daniel counsel the king to do? (vs. 27)
13. Does it ever happen that a man's repentance can cause God to relent of his decree of disaster? (Jeremiah 26:2–3)
14. Perhaps for a little while Daniel's warning instills fear in the king. But over time, the king has become spiritually lethargic. (Does that ever happen to you?) What happens twelve months later? (vss. 28–33)
15. How is Nebuchadnezzar's sin similar to the sins of the kings of Judah that landed the Israelites in this captivity? (Compare vs. 30 to 2 Chron. 32:25–31)
16. How is Proverbs 11:2 so strikingly displayed in this incident in Neb's life? How have you seen pride displayed in your life? Why is pride so evil?

**Day 5: Read Daniel 4:34–37.**

17. We would like to think that even if we are living in rebellion against God, we can still retain possession of our own minds. But what can happen to a mind given over to ingratitude, pride, and rebellion against God? (vs. 16, Rom.1:28; 2 Pet.2:12; Jude 10, 19)
18. What mind does God give to those who come to him for salvation? (1 Cor.2:16; Rom.8:6; 12:2)

19. Nebuchadnezzar's case may remind you of the demoniac in Mark 5:15, whom Jesus restored to "his right mind"; or of the prodigal son in Luke 15:17, who "came to his senses." What has to happen to us too before we can leave the "insanity" (vs. 34) of our futile lives and become sane? (vs. 26) In what ways has God put you in your right mind?