

Vacation Babylon

Daniel 4:37: “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and glorify and honor the King of heaven. All his acts are just and true, and he is able to humble the proud.”

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

As we journey to Babylon in our Vacation Series, we delve into King Nebuchadnezzar’s reign. He was a good example of a bad example when it came to trusting God over himself, and his pride led to his self-destruction. But the king did have a good advisor in Daniel, who was a good example of a good example. Daniel was a man of prayer, always putting God in a place of honor in his life. As a result, God’s protection and favor was upon him. We do reap what we sow as King Nebuchadnezzar found out. We can use these lessons to self-evaluate where we are placing God when it comes to our time, our talents and our treasures.

Read Matthew 14:28-31:

1A) What is the reason that King Nebuchadnezzar consults magicians, enchanters, astrologers, fortune-tellers and then finally, Daniel?

1B) PERSONAL: Although the king praised Daniel’s God, he did not submit to him alone and certainly did not honor him with his life. In what ways does your life match your profession of faith?

Read Daniel 4:10-18:

22) Briefly describe King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.

Read Daniel 4:19-27:

3A) According to Daniel, who does the tree represent and why? (verse 22)

3B) What advise does Daniel give the king in verse 27 in the hopes of preventing the dream from becoming a reality?

4) PERSONAL: Recall a dream that affected you. Describe what made it so memorable.

Read Daniel 4:28-33:

5A) What does Nebuchadnezzar say as he looks out over the city of Babylon? Who does he give the credit to?

5B) PERSONAL: List some of your accomplishments that you are proud of. In hindsight, can you see God's role in those situations? Take a moment to praise Him for the successes in your life.

5C) What is the message that God wants Nebuchadnezzar to learn? (verse 32b)

Read Daniel 4:34-37:

6) How does this story end?

7) PERSONAL: In what ways can you relate the story of King Nebuchadnezzar to your own life?

ACT: Despite Nebuchadnezzar's recognition that God exists and works great miracles, we see that he still did not acknowledge God as his Lord. God can, and does, use believers and non-believers to fulfill his purposes. We are commanded to obey God; we are also commanded to trust Him. Trusting in, and relying on, God comforts us during times when we aren't sure of the outcomes. Submit your life to God, trusting in His love for you and His commitment to you.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- Every day this week read about the peace and strength that comes when you rely on God.

Monday:

Isaiah 41:10 NLT

Don't be afraid, for I am with you; Don't be discouraged, for I am your God; I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you with my victorious right hand.

Tuesday:

Psalms 37:5 ESV

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

Wednesday:

Jeremiah 32:17 ESV

Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

Thursday:

Hebrews 13:5-6 NIV

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"

Friday:

1 Peter 5:6-7 NLT

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

Saturday:

Luke 12:24-26 NIV

Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

Sunday:

Psalms 56:3-4 NLT

But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. I praise God for what he has promised. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?

