

DANIEL 4:28-37
Study by Glenn Palmer

Daniel 4:28

1. God’s warning is no idle warning. God is different than humans who often promise something but fail to fulfill it.

Daniel 4:29

2. How does this verse show God’s mercy? *He gave him 12 months to prepare. Babylon would have been unstable if the King had been removed instantly.*

Daniel 4:30

3. King Nebuchadnezzar was a renowned builder. He had built the following:
 - a. Hanging Gardens, one of the Seven Wonders of the World
 - b. On the Nebuchadnezzar Cylinder Seal we read: “Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, the restorer of the temples”
 - 1.) renovated the temple of Marduk
 - 2.) restored 15 other temples
 - c. According to Herodotus: “The city stands on a broad plain, and is an exact square, a hundred and twenty furlongs in length each way [one furlong is 1/8 of a mile so 120 furlongs is 15 miles], so that the entire circuit is four hundred and eighty furlongs [60 miles]. While such is its size, in magnificence there is no other city that approaches to it. It is surrounded, in the first place, by a broad and deep moat, full of water, behind which rises a wall fifty royal cubits in width [75 feet in width], and two hundred in height [300 feet] in height. (The royal cubit is longer by three fingers' breadth than the common cubit.)”

Note: while Herodotus may have exaggerated the size of Babylon, it was clearly the largest city by a huge margin.
 - d. Rebuilt the royal palace in Babylon
 - e. Improved canals
4. This is “premeditated pride” in that he had been warned. This, like premeditated murder, takes time to plan.
5. Compare the doxology of Daniel 4:30 with Romans 11:36.

Daniel 4:30	Romans 11:36
Is this not the great Babylon I have built as a royal residence	For from Him , and through Him ,
by MY mighty power	and to Him are all things.
and for the glory of MY majesty!	To Him be the glory forever!! Amen

Daniel 4:31

6. Who is in charge? *Voice from heaven - God has heard, speaks, and acts. No idle threat.*

Daniel 4:32

7. What is the curse?
 - a. *You will be driven away from man*
 - b. *Live with wild animals*
 - c. *You will eat grass like cattle*
 - d. *It will last for seven times*
8. Boanthropy: believe you are an ox. Starts off by eating green vegetables. After five months, shift to grass. After seven years, fatal.
9. When will the curse be lifted? *Until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone He pleases.*

Daniel 4:33

10. Note the swiftness of God's judgement.
 - a. Vs. 31: "The words were still on his lips"
 - b. Vs. 33: "Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled."

Practical Application: For punishment to be effective, it must be SWIFT.

Examples: Highline transfer

On 16 October 1859 John Brown raided Harpers Ferry. On 2 December 1859 he was hanged.

On 05 November 2009 Nidal Malik Hasan murdered 14 people and wounded 32 at Fort Hood.

On 20 July 2011 he was arraigned. The trial is scheduled to begin on 29 May 2013.

Discipline at home must be swift. The mother should not say "Wait until your dad gets home."

The following is from Rev. Bob Conway: <http://www.decodingdaniel.com/daniel4/pride.html> accessed on 25 May 13

In obvious reference to the king's unusual malady, Berossus, a Babylonian priest of the third century B.C., records that Nebuchadnezzar, having reigned forty-three years, was suddenly invaded by sickness (*Contra Apionem* 1:20).

According to Megasthenes, who lived from 313-280 B.C., the Chaldeans had told him that Nebuchadnezzar, while on the roof of his palace, having completed his military conquests, "was possessed by some god or other."

Eusebius, in his *Praeparatio Evangelica* (9:41), quotes Abydenus concerning Nebuchadnezzar in his last days "being possessed by some god or other" and who, having uttered a prophecy concerning the coming Persian conqueror, "immediately disappeared."

"Sir Henry Rawlinson recovered a damaged Babylonian inscription by Nebuchadnezzar, which is translated as follows:

For *four years* the seat of my kingdom in my city . . . did not rejoice my heart. In all my dominions I did not build a high place of power, the precious treasures of my kingdom I did not lay out. In the worship of Merodach my lord, the joy of my heart in Babylon, the city of my sovereignty, I did not sing his praises and I did not furnish his altars, nor did I clear out the canals (Historical Evidences of the Truth of the Scriptural Records, 185, 440 n. 29)."

Daniel 4:34

11. When does King Nebuchadnezzar escape?
 - a. KJV/RSV/ESV/Young's Literal Translation: "At the end of days"
 - b. NASB: "At the end of that period [literally "days"]"
 - c. NIV/NKJV: "At the end of that time"/"At the end of the time" [NKJV has footnote: literally "days"]
12. How does King Nebuchadnezzar escape from this curse?
 - a. *Raised his eyes towards heaven - acknowledges God by not look at himself*
Cf. Psalm 123
 - b. *Praised the Most High*
 - c. *Honored Him*
 - d. *Glorified Him*

Practical Application: What should believers do? Praise God

13. Whom does King Nebuchadnezzar praise? *The Most High*
14. What is the purpose of God's punishment? Look up vs. 25. *That he acknowledge the Most High*
Was it successful? Yes
15. What type of dominion does God have? *Eternal*
How long did the 1,000 year Reich last? *12 years 1933-1945*

Practical Application: What comfort does this verse bring us? God is in charge.

Daniel 4:35

16. Can anyone stop God's power? *No.*
17. "He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven" KJV: "army of heaven"
God controls the angels and the demons.
18. "He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth."
Man cannot predict let alone control human events - stop wars, cure diseases, etc.
19. King Nebuchadnezzar praises God by saying "No one can say . . . to Him 'What have You done?'" He says this after his punishment. But so many attack God by ignoring Him or worse, by questioning who God is.

Daniel 4:36

20. How does this verse show God's mercy?
 - a. *God restored his sanity*
 - b. *God restored his honor and splendor*
 - c. *Advisers and nobles sought him out*
 - d. *God restored him to his throne*
 - e. *God made him even greater than before*

Practical Application: How do we view discipline or judgment?
Do we praise God for not punishing us as He should?
Do we learn from our mistakes?

Daniel 4:37

21. Did King Nebuchadnezzar become a believer?
- a. King Nebuchadnezzar has shifted in position from rebellion
 - 1.) building a statue of gold after receiving a dream of a statue being smashed by a rock
 - 2.) Throwing Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego into the fiery furnace
 - 3.) Premeditated boastingto one of submission to God and honoring Him
 - b. King Nebuchadnezzar praises God better than the Jews of captivity.
 - c. Seven periods (months, years?) is a long time to ponder on God's punishment. With a stiff neck, he resisted God for some time. But finally he came to his senses.

Note: Before doing this study, I never thought of Nebuchadnezzar as converting. Now I am convinced that he believed. He ruled from 605 BC (after he conquered Jerusalem for the first time) to 562 BC. Thus, he reigned for over 40 years. He probably died shortly afterwards.

22. King Nebuchadnezzar writes that "Pride goes before the fall." Been there, done that.

Practical Application: John Calvin's prayer: "May we learn to glorify Your name that we may not only obey Your Word with true and pure humility, but also earnestly implore [pray, cry out] Your assistance, and distrusting ourselves, may rely upon Your favor as our only support, until at length You gather us into Your heavenly kingdom, where we may enjoy that blessed eternity which has been obtained for us by Your only- begotten Son. Amen.