

*Get Ready!***Praise God!**

By: Rebecca Dauksas

**Text**

Daniel 3

Key Quest Verse

'Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.' Daniel 7:27 (NIV)

Bible Background

Actions and attitudes expressing honor and respect to God because He is greater than we are is called worship. Humans expressing their worship of God occur in the Scriptures from Genesis through the book of Revelation. A form of the literal word Worship appears at least 236 times throughout the Scriptures (NIV). Many other expressions of worship are given through the actions of Bible characters. Even the beginning Scriptures that record events of the lives of Cain and Abel state that both were bringing offerings to the Lord (Genesis 4:3). Abraham built altars and called on the name of the Lord in Genesis (12:8 & 13:18). Abraham's servant worshiped God for leading him to Rebekah (Gen. 24:26 & 48). Both private (Psalm 63:6; Job 1:20) and public forms of worship (Neh. 9:3) are recorded. The Hebrews were led out of Egypt so that they might worship God in the desert (Exodus 7:16). God instructed Moses about the structure and principles of formal Hebrew worship in the book of Exodus (chapters 25-31 and 35-40). Even though they were given these instructions to follow to worship God the Israelites often fell into the sin of idol worship. Prophets of the Old Testament brought the message of turning from idols and returning to the One True God (Jer. 1:16; Zeph. 2:11).

The book of Daniel records a period of time when Israel was being punished for their unfaithfulness to God (around 605 B.C.). They had turned from Him again to idol worship. King Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem and captured many Jewish people. They were taken to Babylon (Dan. 1:1 & 2). The book of Daniel shows a young man and three of his Jewish companions who stood strong for their faith in God. They were committed to following the laws of God. They refused to worship the idols presented to them in this foreign land of Babylon even if it meant being executed. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were men that followed God. Their worship of Him was a part of their lives. Their worship of God and the refusal to worship anything else gave them the opportunity to show kings and two world empires that Jehovah was the only true God. Chapter 3 focuses on the refusal of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to worship the king's idol and the miracle that results from their decision. This miracle even causes King Nebuchadnezzar to Praise God (Dan. 3:28).

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

Know: That God created humans with a desire to worship

Feel: Gratitude that the God of the universe values our worship

Do: Make time in our daily lives to worship God

Leader's Devotion

Worship is an essential part of being a Christian. God has designed us as humans with a desire to worship. We know the benefits of having a time that is reserved to praise our God for who He is, all that He has done and all that He will do.

Private and public worship allows us the opportunity to express our love and devotion to our Creator. We honor Him and recognize that He is holy and perfect. I have often heard that worship is first vertical then horizontal. I enjoy attending my church worship service. I love singing, listening to the speaker, hearing people sing and play instruments. I love having a set time when I am focused on God. After all our lives are busy. We have demands placed on us in all areas of our life, so the time spent with others praising God is precious.

My private worship time with God is just as important in my spiritual life. Moments of expressing my gratitude to my Father for the beautiful day, the flowers, the animals, the landscapes, seeing the stars at night, my family, my Christian friends, His sacrifice of His Son and my future hope... We have so much for which we can thank and praise God. Just like the great men and women of faith in the Scriptures, we want to make our worship of God reflected in the way we live our lives. Through our example and teaching we want our teens to understand what worship is all about. We want them to value the time spent in worship in our churches. We want them to express their worship of God through living their lives for Him.

Worship should be an outpouring of love and gratitude from each individual recognizing how wonderful God truly is. Your teens may want to express their worship of God in various ways that are full of high energy and joy. Some of my teen class members worship through a student led Praise Team, a youth Drama Team, church choir, solos on instruments, etc. All attend the Sunday morning worship services. Our worship leaders are sensitive to giving our youth opportunities to express their worship to God. Worship leaders should include our youth when planning our church worship services. As Psalm 42:4 states, *These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.* Our worship of God is truly a joy and we want our students to experience that.

Get Set!

Option A

Materials: Dry Erase or chalkboard.

Procedure: How would you define worship? (Accept answers and write a definition on the board. A Worship-Overview page is included with biblical references for the teachers review.) We

could define worship as giving honor and worth to someone or something. How would you define an idol? (Students may define a teen idol, an idol for worship, etc.) If we think of an idol

as being something that we place above God, what are some of the things that teens your age might worship? Money, clothes, other people, stars, singers, musicians, cars, computer games...

We may not bend our knees and pray to these, but when we value them so much that we give them a lot of our time, attention and money, they take our focus away from God. As Christians, we should not worship anyone or anything other than God. Why? (Review the 1st & 2nd commandments with your students. Exodus 20:3-6.)

Today we are going to discuss a story about three Jewish captives that understood these commandments and followed them at any cost. In fact their respect and devotion to God was so great that they could not worship anything or anyone, but Him. Their commitment was put to the ultimate test. They would be executed if they did not worship an image of gold created by their ruler. The rest of the people including powerful officials bowed to this false image. What will they do?

Let's turn to the third chapter of the Old Testament book of Daniel.



GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: In the classroom place items that represent ways that we worship God (suggested items might include praying hands—communication with God that allows us to express adoration of Him, a musical instrument—any music to express our praise to God, money—tithes and offerings given to show your thankfulness and gratitude for God's gifts, a Bible—to gain knowledge of how great God is which makes us want to worship Him more, microphone or megaphone—that we want to speak the praises of God and verbally express our feelings for Him, a watch—we want to spend time praising the Lord and offer our time to Him because we love and want to serve Him, etc.)

Procedure: How do these objects represent worship? Accept any reasonable answers.

Each one shows a different aspect of worship in our lives. Each one is different from the others, but all are important. For example, personal prayer is essential for us to express our praise to God, yet public prayer is also important because we join together in fellowship to praise God.

*Get Set!***Option B**

Continued

Another item is the Bible. We use the Bible to gain knowledge of how magnificent God truly is, when we see His love, compassion, holiness, power, ... it causes us to worship and praise Him through the actions in our lives. What other objects would you think of that would represent worship?

Optional Activity: Write some obstacles to worship on sheets of paper. Examples: selfishness. Discuss how that attitude would block worship of God because we are focused on ourselves instead of God and Christ. Bad attitude—we must have a proper attitude that respects God when we worship, etc.

We are going to discover some young men who resisted the temptation to worship something besides the one true God. Their strong relationship with God kept them from turning to a worthless idol. They were devoted to Jehovah, the only true God and they could only worship Him. Let's check it out! Turn to the Old Testament book of Daniel.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



COME,
let us **WORSHIP**
& **BOW** down,
let us **KNEEL**
before the **LORD,**
OUR
MAKER!
P S A L M 9 5 : 6

Get Set!



Bible Story

Materials: Dry Erase board with markers or chalkboard with chalk.

The theme of God’s sovereignty is a clear message that is presented throughout the Old Testament book of Daniel. God is completely sovereign because He has complete power and authority over all things. (Write the word sovereign on the board. Define it as having complete power and authority.) **As we look at this one aspect of God, His sovereignty, we realize that He is so much greater than anyone or anything that we know. He is deserving of our worship. How have we defined worship of God?** (Use your answers from Options 1 & 2. Guide the discussion to the true meaning of worshipping Jehovah. An example of one definition of worship: Actions and attitudes expressing honor and respect to God because He is greater than we are. The students may also describe actions that show acts of worship such as events in worship services.) **Humans expressing their worship of God occur in the Scriptures from Genesis through the book of Revelation. A form of the literal word worship appears at least 236 times throughout the Scriptures. Why are there private and public forms of worship?** (Allow students to answer.) **Jews and Christians were expected to worship God, Jehovah (Exodus 8:1; Hebrews 12:28). There were instructions written for the worship of God in the Old and New Testaments. It has often been said that human beings are created with a desire to worship if they do not fill that part of them in the right way by worshipping God they will find something or someone else to worship. Do you think that statement is true?**

(The setting of the book of Daniel for your students.)

In our story we will be looking at the kingdom of Babylonia which would include modern day Iraq. King Nebuchadnezzar ruled over the Babylonians and he had conquered Jerusalem. Judah was exiled to Babylonia because they disobeyed God’s Word by breaking His commands including the worship of idols (Lev. 25:1-7, 26:33-35; 2 Ch. 36:14-21). There were three groups that were deported over several years and Daniel was in the first group of captives that was taken to the city of Babylon (605 B.C.). Along with Daniel were three other young Jewish men. They were chosen to serve in the king’s palace because they were from the royal family and nobility. They were also handsome, showed an aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve (Dan. 1:3 & 4). Their Jewish names were Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah (Dan. 1:6). They were taught the language and literature of the Babylonians and their Jewish names were changed. Their Babylonian names were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Through the book of Daniel we see that they had a relationship with God. They followed His commandments and He blessed them with understanding (Dan. 1:17). Along with Daniel, they prayed (2:18) and honored God. The king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego as administrators over

Get Set!



Bible Story

the province of Babylon.

In chapter three these young men are faced with a dilemma. Let's read chapter 3:1-12. Read verses. Why would these three refuse to worship the image? They knew God's Word and based their decisions of how to behave on what God had commanded them. (Read Exodus 20:3-6 to your students.) Think of a time when someone has put pressure on you to do something that was wrong. Don't respond out loud, but how did you react? Was there some Scripture or teaching that you used to guide you to make the right decision? This was how Jesus overcame temptation and did the right thing. He used Scripture to guide his actions and to show him how to react when he was faced with temptation (Luke 4:1-13). We see that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are doing the same thing. They are deciding that they can not participate in this idol worship because God has commanded them that it is not right. Let's see how the King will react to this? Read verses 13-15. These three men are facing a big dilemma. They are faced with a decision to follow God or lose their lives. Read verses 16-18. These verses are incredible because in them we see what a strong relationship Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego have with God. Notice that they know that God can save them, but they do not know if He will take them out of this situation. They do not know if they will be spared from the fiery furnace, but that does not matter. They are only going to serve God. Let's read what happens. Read verses 19-25. Later we will see who this visitor and protector was. Read verses 26-28. After witnessing such an amazing miracle, Nebuchadnezzar decides to use his power to spread the word about God. Read verses 29-30.



Get Set!



Worship –Overview

Some excerpts and thoughts from one reference source on worship:

“The first of the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament is: ‘I am the Lord your God. Worship no god but me.’ To worship is to give God honour. In the Old Testament psalms the people worship God for what God has done in creation and in redemption, and for all God's gifts and blessings to individuals.

In the New Testament, when Christians met together they expressed their gladness by ‘praising God.’ Filled with the Holy Spirit they spoke to ‘one another with the words of psalms, hymns and sacred songs’, and they sang ‘hymns and psalms to the Lord’ with praise in their hearts. Everyone could participate in this worship: ‘When you meet for worship one person has a hymn, another a teaching, another a revelation from God, another a message in strange tongues, and still another the explanation of what is said.’

The Bible warns against the kind of worship which degenerates into only an outward show. True worship is a genuine response to God which shows itself not only in ritual actions, but especially in a style of life that pleases God. Worship centers on God, and the gospel is what fills it with content and meaning. Paul wrote in the New Testament; ‘Christ’s message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct each other with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts.’

Worship is not simply a human activity on earth. The Bible also mentions that God’s whole creation—humans (on earth) and angels—praises and worship God in heaven.”

Source: Nelson’s Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Bible. Ed. John Drone. Lion Publishing, 1998. *Subjects: Rapid Factfinder, Worship*. Pg. 308

Additional Worship References

Exodus 20:1-3; 1 Chronicles 16:29; Psalm 29; 96:9; 100:2; 116; 117:1-118:1; 136:4-9 & 23-26; Isaiah 27:13; Jonah 1:9; Matthew 4:10; Acts 2:43-47; Ephesians 5:18-20; John 4:21-24; Micah 6:6-8; Colossians 3:16-17; Hebrews 12:28; Revelation 4, 5, 7:9-12, 14:7, 15:2-4, 22:9.

Go!

Time to Worship

DRAMA

Cast: A Singer, Person 1 and Person 2

A Singer stands at the front and begins to sing “Come Now is the Time to Worship”

Two people walk slowly up the aisle, hands folded, heads bowed. The singer sees them, stops abruptly.



Singer: Excuse me, who are you?

Person 1: We are the people who are here to worship.

Singer: You’re it? Two people? Nobody else here wants to worship?

Person 1: Oh, I’m sure they are worshipful.

Singer: How can you tell?

Person 2 (squinting at the audience): They look sorta worshipful.

Singer: Hmm. I don’t know about that. What about you two? Why do you want to worship?

Person 1: Well ... uh... that is ...

Person 2: You mean you want us to say it? Out loud?

Singer: Of course, how else will anyone know why you are worshipping?

Person 1: God knows how I feel inside, I don’t have to say it.

Singer: Well, that is true, but if you love God, doesn’t that make you want to “make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord”?

Person 2: Whoa, now let’s not be too hasty. Just what kind of joyful noise are we talking about?

Person 1: We don’t have to talk or sing too loudly, do we?

Singer: We don’t have to talk at all, but sometimes when we think about all the Lord does for us, then the words, songs and praise just flow!

Person 2: Are you sure all this overflowing isn’t going to make the service run late?

Person 1: And what will everybody think with everyone giving thanks and singing all over the place? That sort of thing could lead to... to...

Singer: Enthusiasm?

Person 2: Enthusiasm, and goodness knows what else.

Singer: Prayer? Praise? Service? Evangelism?

Person 1: Exactly. Is that the kind of thing we want in our church?

Singer: Yes.



Drama Activity continued

Person 1: Oh, yeah, I guess we do.

Person 2: Well, I suppose so. But how are we going to get everybody to be enthusiastic about worship? I make more noise in the foyer than I do while I am in worship service.

Singer: Our worship time together should be special. We are coming together to praise the God of heaven and earth. We have a wonderful opportunity to focus on God. To sing to Him, to read His Words, to give our offerings, to talk with Him in prayer, to thank Him for what He does in our lives and to thank Him for the hope and joy He gives us.

Person 1: That does make me feel worshipful.

Person 2: Me too.

Singer: So what's stopping us?

All three begin to sing Come Now is the Time to Worship and walk off stage together.

Consider having students perform this drama during a worship service. Your worship leader or praise team may want to sing the song after the skit. Performance soundtracks of Come Now is the Time to Worship - Phillips, Craig & Dean are available from Worship and Praise Hymn in Bible bookstores.

Quest Connection

In our skit we see a couple of people who have forgotten the true point of worship. Sometimes we may forget how great it is to spend time together focusing on God. Worship Services give us the chance to talk with Him, read His Word, pray together, sing, praise... we are given the wonderful opportunity to completely focus on God. When you enter your next worship service, remember that you are singing to God, you are talking with Him in prayer, you are hearing a message from Him through your Pastor. God wants us to honor and worship Him with our hearts. He wants us to open up ourselves to Him during our worship services, not just warm the seat. In Isaiah 29:13 The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men."

We want to worship God with our whole hearts. See what He says to you through your worship of Him this week.

Close

Dear Father, You are so wonderful and good to us. We pray that You will be pleased with our worship of You. May we bring You joy as we celebrate the opportunity to express our praise and love to You. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Go!**Instruments of Praise****MUSIC**

What are some musical instruments that are commonly used in worship services in churches? (Answers may include the piano, organ, guitar, drums, horns, bells, stringed instruments, woodwinds, etc.) ...**In the Bible an instrument called the lyre is mentioned. A lyre is a stringed instrument. You might think of it as the ancient version of our modern day guitars.**

There were lyres with a few strings and those with up to twelve strings. People could play the instrument by blocking selected strings and strumming over the rest to create varying sounds. They could also separately pluck the strings, in the same way someone might play a harp today.

This instrument was mentioned in the story of Daniel. When the king wickedly wanted the people to worship the golden image he wanted all the instruments including the lyre to be played, but this instrument was used in a proper way to worship God several times in Old Testament Scriptures.

The lyre was also referred to several times in the Psalms. Psalm 81:2 states, “Begin the music, strike the tambourine, play the melodious harp and lyre”.

The lyre was first mentioned in the book of 1 Samuel (10:5). A procession of prophets was coming down from the high place with lyres, tambourines, flutes and harps being played before them, and they were prophesying. King Solomon had a special wood (almugwood) imported that was used in the building of the temple and to make harps and lyres for the musicians in 1 Kings 10:12.

Quest Connection

Musical instruments take many forms from the organ to the trombone, yet all of these instruments can be played to worship God. Notice the musical instruments of your church service, at the next Christian concert you attend or on your favorite Christian CD. The music played may seem to be performed effortless, but it shows a lot of practice. The playing of a musical instrument is not easy, but it is worth the effort. It also gives the person playing a way to express their devotion to God. It provides an outlet for their abilities and talents. It can also be appreciated by everyone that listens. God has given us the gift of music to praise Him.

Close

Read Psalm 150:1-6 together. “Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”

GO!**Idol Worship in Israel****HISTORY & DISCUSSION**

Materials: Worksheet titled *Will Nebuchadnezzar Be in the Kingdom?*

Bible Reference books Examples of sources: *Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, *The Illustrated Dictionary & Concordance of the Bible* (G.G. The Jerusalem Publishing House, LTD.), online at <http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/nehuchadnezzar.html>, etc.

Objective: Enrich the students understanding of Jewish history while giving background information of the famous world empire of Daniel's time. Teaching students how to research and gain information from Bible stories on their own.

Quest Connection

Nebuchadnezzar (neb you kad nez ur) was the greatest and most powerful of all the Babylonian kings. He ruled from 605-562 B.C. He attacked Jerusalem, carrying away a great multitude of the Jews as captives, among whom were Daniel and his companions (Dan. 1:1, 2; Jer. 27:19; 40:1).

After the incident of the fiery furnace (Dan. 3) into which the three Hebrews were thrown, Nebuchadnezzar was afflicted with some peculiar mental abnormality from God. He received this as a punishment for his pride and vanity, but it was used to bring the king to an understanding of who God was (Dan. 4).

Explain how to look up information in the Resources you provide. Briefly review some of the information about Nebuchadnezzar with your students.

What part did Nebuchadnezzar play in God's plan concerning Israel? (2 Chronicles 36:11 – 17)

Why were the Jews punished through the empire of Babylonia? They had turned from God. They were worshipping idols. They did follow God's laws. They refused to listen to God's warnings to return to Him. From their example, do you think we should be careful about what or whom we worship? How?

Do you see a similarity in people today? The Scriptures tell us that Christ is coming, but do you see many people that refuse to believe?

Additional verses on Nebuchadnezzar: 2 Kings 24:1, 10-11, 15, 25:1; 2 Kings 25:8; 2 Chron. 36:6-13; Jeremiah 22:25, 25:9, 27:6, 32:28, 43:10

Interesting Note—A remarkable confirmation of the Scripture narrative (Dan. 4) is afforded by the recent discovery of a bronze doorstep, which bears an inscription to the effect that it was presented by Nebuchadnezzar to the great temple at Borsippa as a votive offering on account of his recovery from a terrible illness. (Resources listed above)

Close

Read the Worksheet together or have students read it on their own. Have a time of discussion. Review the Key Quest Verse Daniel 7:27 in light of your discussion.

Go!**We Worship**

Have the students plan a time of worship for your class, youth group or Sunday service.

Quest Connection

We will be planning a time of worship for _____. What elements would we like to include? Remember that worship of God is to adore, obey, show reverence, or focus positive attention on Him (Exodus 34:14; John 4:23). It is to enjoy the presence of God. Worship would include any action or attitude that expresses praise, love, and appreciation for God. Worship can be expressed through obedience (Micah 6:8) and the way we treat people (Matthew 25:37-40).

Have students pick out songs, Scripture readings, write a testimony, perform a skit, include prayer, etc.

The lyrics to a worship song are included on the Worksheet entitled God of Wonders. This is a wonderful song for soloist or a worship team. Accompaniment information is also included on the Worksheet.

If you want to include elements such as music, but your class does not have students gifted in this area, enlist the help of musicians from your church.

Close

Our Key Quest Verse is exciting because it tells us of a time when all rulers will worship and obey Him. Let's read it together. It is Daniel 7:27 (NIV) "Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him."

Go!**Christian Living****Discussion—Opportunity Knocks**

Materials: Copies of Opportunity Knocks Worksheet for each student, Bibles, pens

Optional : Bulletin of the worship service

Pass out the Opportunity Knocks Worksheet to each student.

Say: **This worksheet has an incomplete statement. It says “A worship service gives us the opportunity to ...**

Think of ways that you could complete this statement. An example is given.

If you need some ideas, there are references listed on the Worksheet that you can look up in your Bibles. Give the students a few minutes to work.

Quest Connection

Review the Worksheet as a class. It may be helpful to bring a bulletin of your worship service. Read through the order of service and discuss how each part may help the congregation to worship God. What are the different elements of the service? (Prayer, songs, praise [testimonies], sermon, offering, use of musical instruments including the prelude/postlude, Scripture reading... Discuss the references on the Worksheet. If time allows you may want to include the following as well. Preaching—Hear and learn more of the Word of God so we can do it (live it) through the week (Romans 2:13 & 10:14), receive and give encouragement (Romans 12:8), giving of our money to support the work of the church and to help others (Romans 12:6-8), praise to God (Romans 5:7-11).

Our modern day worship services try to include many elements that we read about in the New Testament. These instructions were given to help the people live Christian lives.

Our worship service gives us the opportunity to practice what the Bible says to do. Our worship services are preparing us for our ministry in the world. That is what living a Christian life is all about.

Close

There is a Scripture that helps us understand worship as a spiritual act. Let’s read Romans 12:1 together. “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.” Romans 12:1 (NIV)

What does this verse mean to us? How can we offer ourselves as living sacrifices?

Go!**Picture Perfect****Quest Guest****Arts**

Ask a member of the church that enjoys photography to share pictures with the class. Ask if they would bring some of their equipment to show the class. This activity will encourage the students to appreciate God's creation of nature. Have the guest share pictures of landscapes, animals, plants, etc. Use the art of photography to learn that God is to be worshiped because of the magnificent creation that He has made.

Materials: Camera, Bible

Option: You may want to bring in photography books from the library or display a PowerPoint presentation of landscapes & nature scenes for the class.

Quest Connection

You might ask: **How long have you enjoyed photography? Would you show us some basic techniques that will help us when we are taking pictures?**

Have a time for students to ask questions. Thank your guest for visiting the class.

Optional Activity: Ask students to take and bring in pictures that they have taken of the way that God reveals Himself through nature around us. Many students have family cameras or their own digital cameras. Encourage students to photograph sunsets, a sunrise, animals/wildlife, flowers, plants, hillsides, the beach, ponds/lakes, etc. Encourage the students to take some photos that are as close as possible to their subjects. A single flower is incredibly made if we just take the time to appreciate its design and beauty.

Many writers of Scripture described amazing elements of nature to show that God is the Master designer of this wonderful creation. We should worship God because He is so amazing and He reveals so much of His greatness through the earth and heavens He has created.

Close

As a class Read 1 Chronicles 16:31-36 or your favorite passage that describes the wonders of God's creation.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!" Let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them! Then the trees of the forest will sing, they will sing for joy before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Cry out, "Save us, O God our Savior; gather us and deliver us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name, that we may glory in your praise." Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Then all the people said "Amen" and "Praise the Lord."

Righteous Readers

Name _____

The book of Daniel has several fascinating stories reliving the account of this great Jewish prophet and his friends who were taken as captives to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar, the invading leader of the Babylonian empire. God shows that He is above all powers. He uses miracles to prove His supremacy to the Jewish captives, the most mighty Kings, great rulers and the empires subjects. God reveals through prophecies to Daniel that His Kingdom and Government will be eternal. Lions, a “bodyless” hand, visions, interpretations, a proud king eating grass, and a lot of incredible things are awaiting in this book.

Read through this fascinating Old Testament book of twelve chapters.

Check each box as you complete the chapter.

Notes & Chapter highlights:

فـفـ Daniel 1 _____

فـفـ Daniel 2 _____

فـفـ Daniel 3 _____

فـفـ Daniel 4 _____

فـفـ Daniel 5 _____

فـفـ Daniel 6 _____

فـفـ Daniel 7 _____

فـفـ Daniel 8 _____

فـفـ Daniel 9 _____

فـفـ Daniel 10 _____

فـفـ Daniel 11 _____

فـفـ Daniel 12 _____

“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.” Daniel 12:2-3



Will Nebuchadnezzar Be in the Kingdom?

Discussion Worksheet

This question came up in a Bible Study class while we were studying the book of Daniel on a Wednesday night. After studying the 4th chapter, and seeing his response to God's punishment it was the class' opinion, and mine, that he very possibly will be.

Nebuchadnezzar remembered perfectly, in every detail, what he dreamed this time, in contrast to his other God-given dream in chapter 2 about the four kingdoms, followed by the Kingdom of God.

This was his second dream as he recounted it: "Now these were the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed: I was looking, and behold, there was a tree in the midst of the earth and its height was great. The tree grew large and became strong and its height reached to the sky, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. "Its foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches, and all living creatures fed themselves from it."

"I was looking in the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed, and behold, an angelic watcher, a holy one, descended from heaven. He shouted out and spoke as follows: 'Chop down the tree and cut off the branches, strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit; let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches.

"Yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze around it in the new grass of the field; and let **him** be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let **him** share with the beasts in the grass of the earth.

"Let his mind be changed from that of a **man** and let a beast's mind be given to **him**, and let seven periods of time pass over **him**.

"This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers and the decision is a command of the holy ones, in order that the living may **know that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes** and sets over it the lowliest of men."

This dream made Nebuchadnezzar "fearful" and he called "all the wise men of Babylon" to make him know what it meant. They could not tell him.

Finally he remembered how this Hebrew Daniel had revealed the meaning of his other dream, so he called him. He knew that in Daniel was a "spirit of the holy gods." He said, "O Belteshazzar (Daniel's Babylonian name he was given), chief of the magicians, since I know that a spirit of the holy gods is in you and no mystery baffles you, tell me the visions of my dream...along with its interpretation."

Daniel was "appalled." He knew God had given this world powerful king a message that he would punish this king's pride and he would become insane for a long time and eat grass like cattle, until he admitted that the Most High God was in control of men and what they tried to accomplish.

This king was ruler of the known world and had the power of life or death over his subjects. How was Daniel to tell him a message of his downfall without having his head chopped off?

Nebuchadnezzar saw Daniel was troubled and told Daniel not to be alarmed. In trepidation Daniel answered "My lord, if only the dream applied to those that hate you, And its interpretation to your adversaries!"

Daniel told him that this tree that he had seen in his dream was the King himself. "It is you, O King!" Nebuchadnezzar had grown strong, had worldwide power, all of creation looked to him for protection and provision, and it lifted him up with human pride.

Then Daniel indicated to him that the heavenly Watchers, the Angels, had reported him to the Most High God and he must be punished. But Daniel assured him his kingdom would be given back to him at the end of the punishment "**after you recognize that it is Heaven that rules!**"

Twelve months later, as Nebuchadnezzar was walking on the roof of his royal palace, he reflected on his accomplishments and said those prideful words: "Is this not Babylon the great, which I MY-SELF have built...by the might of MY POWER, and FOR THE GLORY OF MY MAJESTY?"

Immediately a voice from heaven told him, "King Nebuchadnezzar...sovereignty has been removed from you, and you will be driven away from mankind...you will be given grass to eat...seven 1

periods of time (7 years) will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler of mankind, and bestows it on whomsoever He wishes.” “IMMEDIATELY the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled, and he was driven from mankind and began eating grass like cattle.” During the remainder of that seven years while he had “a beast’s mind”(4:16), his hair grew to look like eagles’ feathers (probably matted) and his fingernails like bird claws.

But then, when God in mercy restored his mind, he humbly raised his eyes toward heaven and “blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever,” saying

“For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation. And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing. “But He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, ‘What hast thou done?’”

To make his new attitude known to all, he declared to the whole world, “I Nebuchadnezzar praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.”

We can see God’s hand directing in all this. He was working with this man to help him become humble and willingly bow before Him. This is a story of mercy. It is a story of God’s love. It is a story of grace, of forgiveness when a person sincerely acknowledges that the Most High reigns over all men.

The Loveliness of Humility

James said, “Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and he will exalt you” (4:10).

Peter said the same: “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time” (5:6).

Jesus said it this way: “Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted” (Matt. 23:12). About the humility of the publican Jesus said, “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified...for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted” (Luke 18:14).

Moses asked Pharaoh a question that we need to consider ourselves: “Thus says the LORD...how long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me?” (Ex. 10:3). The reason God forced Israel to wander in the wilderness for forty years before giving them Canaan was to humble them (Deut. 8:2). They were guilty of the same pride Pharaoh had.

A great verse for us to remember is, 2 Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

Pride is so obnoxious to our God. He can’t stand it, for it is not truth. The only thing we can glory in is our Lord Jesus Christ, and what HE has done for us (Rom. 15:17, 18a; 1 Cor. 1:31; 2 Cor. 10:17). We have no glory in ourselves now. It is wrong for us to boast of what WE have done. We have all fallen short of the glory of God. Our attitude should be, as David said, “My soul shall make her boast in the LORD” (34:2). Jesus said it even stronger: “When you do all the things which are commanded you, say, We are unworthy slaves; **we have done only that which we ought to have done**” (Luke 17:10).

Solomon said, “The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and life” (Prov. 22:4). The divine way God wants us to go is to “clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time” (1 Pet. 5:5, 6).

If we are faithful, we may very well see Nebuchadnezzar at the table in God’s Kingdom.

By Jim Mattison



Babylonian Basics

The story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego takes place in the ancient city of Babylon. Let's see what you remember from the story. Try to complete the blanks below without looking up the references. After completing all the answers refer to the references to check your answers. Good Luck!!!

1. Who made an image of gold? Dan. 3:1 _____

2. Where was the image set up? Dan. 3:1 _____
3. Name four of the seven types of instruments that were played to begin the worship of the image of gold. Dan. 3:5
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
4. What group was denounced by the astrologers? Dan. 3:8 _____

5. How much hotter did the King order the furnace to be heated? Dan. 3:19 _____

6. Who tied Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and threw them into the furnace? Dan. 3:20

7. List two items of clothing that the Jewish Babylonian captives wore according to the clothing worn by Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Dan. 3:21 _____

8. How did King Nebuchadnezzar describe the angel in the furnace? Dan. 3:25 _____

9. According to the king's decree, what would happen to anyone who said anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Dan. 3:29 _____

10. How were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego rewarded by the king? Dan 3:30

11. From King's Nebuchadnezzar's statement (verses 28 & 29), what is one thing that impresses you about his new view of God? Dan. 3:28 & 29 _____

Answer Key to Babylonian Basics



1. Who made an image of gold? Dan. 3:1 King Nebuchadnezzar
2. Where was the image set up? Dan. 3:1 Babylon (plain of Dura)
3. Name four of the seven types of instruments that were played to worship the image of gold. Dan. 3:5. Four of the following six.
 1. horn
 2. flute
 3. zither
 4. lyre
 5. harp
 6. pipes
4. What group was denounced by the astrologers? Dan. 3:8 the Jews
5. How much hotter did the King order the furnace to be heated? Dan. 3:19 seven times hotter than usual
6. Who tied Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and threw them into the furnace? Dan. 3:20 some of the strongest soldiers in the King's army
7. List two items of clothing that the Jewish Babylonian captives wore according to the clothing worn by Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Dan. 3:21 robes, trousers, turbans, & other clothes
8. How did King Nebuchadnezzar describe the angel in the furnace? Dan. 3:25 a son of the gods
9. According to the king's decree, what would happen to anyone who said anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Dan. 3:29 they would be cut into pieces and their houses would be turned into piles of rubble.
10. How were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego rewarded by the king? Dan. 3:30 they were promoted
11. From King's Nebuchadnezzar's statement (verses 28 & 29), what is one thing that impresses you about his new view of God? Dan. 3:28 & 29 any answers from verses 28 & 29—examples He now praises God, God rescued his servants, the king decrees punishment to those who do not respect God so he has learned that God deserves respect.

God of Wonders

Marc Byrd and Steve Hindalong

D4 Em C2
Lord of all creation

D4 Em C2
of water earth and sky

D4 Em C2
Heavens are your tabernacle

D4 Em C2
Glory to the Lord on high

CHORUS:

G D4 D
God of wonders beyond our galaxy

Em C2
You are holy, holy

G D4 D
The universe declares your majesty

Em C2
You are holy, holy

Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth

BRIDGE:

C2 D4
Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth (4x)

Performance tracks for use in worship available through Modern Worship Songtracks
accompaniment for soloist or worship team with lead sheets and chords.
For listening also available as performed by Caedmon's Call & Third Day.

Opportunity Knocks!

Read this incomplete statement and write down ideas to complete it.

A worship service gives us the opportunity to ...

Example: Give money to support the work of the church or to help others through the offering.

More ideas for our worship services? Check out these verses. 1 Thes. 5:16-18; Romans 15:9; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; 2 Tim. 4:2 1; Cor. 16:2
