**Daniel** (Lesson 5)

*(Spiritual Living in a Secular World) Daniel 4*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

READ: Daniel 4 (Our God Reigns)

1. How does Nebuchadnezzar’s proclamation in 4:1-3 differ from what he said about God in 3:28-29 (after the fiery furnace)?

1. As you read Nebuchadnezzar’s description of the dream (vv.9-18), what aspects of it might have caused the king to be “terrified” (v.5)?
2. God’s purpose for giving the dream is repeated three times (vv.17, 25, 32). Why do you think God was so intent on impressing Nebuchadnezzar with his absolute authority instead of his grace or love?
3. If verse 17 is applicable today, must we conclude that Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin and other evil rulers came to power by God’s decree? Explain.

How does your response relate to (or challenge) your perception of who God is and how he acts?

1. If Nebuchadnezzar had repented of his sins as Daniel advised, do you think God would have withheld his judgement, or was his decision irrevocable at this point (vv.24-27)? Explain.
2. Why did God wait a full year between the announcement of judgement and its actual fulfillment (v.29)?
3. What specific steps did God take to humble Nebuchadnezzar (vv.31-33)?
4. A new Nebuchadnezzaar came out of this experience. He gives God glory instead of himself (vv.34-37). Do you think he was simply forced into humility by God, or was there a genuine change of attitude? Explain.
5. Sometimes we gain fresh insight into God’s character as we wrestle with the truth. What’s the hardest thing about this chapter for you to accept?

What does that hard lesson teach you about how God works in our lives to bring us to spiritual maturity and Christlikeness?

*Express to God your trust in his control over the world and his care over your life.*

***Now or Later***

Is there a “stump” in your life, the reminder of a “tree” of your own efforts that was cut down? What is God trying to teach you through that painful experience? Did you learn the lesson or are you still resisting God.
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***NEXT LESSON***:

**Daniel: Spiritual Living in a Secular World**

***The Handwriting on the Wall –* READ: Daniel 5**