

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 June Ezekiel 01-07 When Your World Crumbles
- 2) 08 June Ezekiel 08-14 When Idols Tug at your Heart
- 3) 15 June Ezekiel 15-19 When You Want to Blame Others
- 4) 22 June Ezekiel 20-24 When Tragedy Hits Home
- 5) 29 June Ezekiel 25-32 When Pride Turns to Greed
- 6) 06 July Ezekiel 33-35 Hope of New Freedom
- 7) 13 July Ezekiel 36-39 Hope of New Life
- 8) 20 July Ezekiel 40-48 Hope of New Worship
- 9) 27 July Daniel 01 Draw the Line
- 10) 03 August Daniel 02-03 Risk Everything for God
- 11) 10 August Daniel 04-05 Tell it Like it is
- 12) 17 August Daniel 06 Never Give Up on Prayer
- 13) 24 August Daniel 07-08 Live to Win in the End
- 14) 31 August Daniel 09-12 Be Ready for Tribulation

INTRODUCTION

- Daniel foretells Nebuchadnezzar’s 7-year mental lapse and Babylon’s eventual downfall

Passage	Comments
Daniel 04:1-9	<p>Troublesome Thoughts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. Nebuchadnezzar looks back with hindsight and takes the opportunity to declare God’s signs and wonders, and Daniel records his words for posterity purposes • v7. In his dream of a tree being cut down, Nebuchadnezzar opted to reveal the dream to his wise men, unlike in Chapter 2, where he demanded the wise men to reveal the contents of the dream to him under penalty of death • v8. The king acknowledged that God’s Spirit rested on Daniel – but that doesn’t reveal that the king was saved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Hebrews 6:4-6 reveals that there are those who experience God’s workings within their midst, yet they fall away from the Church as a dog returns to its vomit ♦ AND unbelievers can fully witness & acknowledge God’s hand upon them, as many unbelieving Jews witnessed God moving amongst them during their 40-year Exodus • v9. Daniel was identified as “chief of the magicians” but he seemed to have distanced himself from them and their cheap parlor tricks or satanic powers
Can Satan truly perform miracles?	<p>The best Satan can do is called “<i>lying wonders</i>” (2Thes 2:9) with the purpose to deceive and even kill. In fact, Satan cannot do anything without God’s specific permission. Recall that Satan appeared as a serpent to Eve; Egyptian magicians changed staffs to serpents (but they were inferior to Moses’ staff); Satan destroyed Job’s family and wealth through weather phenomena (tornado & lightening) and stirred up enemies; Nebuchadnezzar’s magicians performed their wonders; and in Revelation 13 & 19, Satan and his minions perform numerous miraculous wonders.</p> <p>Satan’s wonders are so good (at least from our perspective) that God established the death penalty for those in the Old Testament who performed divination & witchcraft; interpreted omens; worked sorcery; casted spells; or who was a medium, a spiritist, or one who called up the dead (Deut 18:10-11). The death penalty was also for using enchantments or observing times (astrology), for calling familiar spirits (Lev 19:26, 31). False prophets and dreamers whose prophecies and dreams even came true were to be stoned (Deut 13:1-5). God took such deceptive practices seriously as an affront to His deity and worship, and a threat to the truth of His word.</p>
Daniel 04:10-27	<p>The Dream Foretold</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv10-18. Nebuchadnezzar’s states his dream and recognized that his wise men were not able to interpret it. Only Daniel could interpret the dream since God’s Spirit was in him for that purpose • vv19-26. God gave Nebuchadnezzar the dream to entice him to change his prideful ways – but to no avail

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v27. Daniel encouraged Nebuchadnezzar to repent of his sinful heart and behavior. Repentance must be more than saying “I’m sorry” – It must exhibit changed behavior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Did Nebuchadnezzar become a saved believer? Some say yes, but others believe he still fell short of saving faith. We won’t know his situation till we get to Heaven ♦ Remember – Even Satan and his minions believe in God – and they tremble James 2:19
4:28-37	<p>The Dream Comes True</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somehow Nebuchadnezzar lost his mind for 7 years as foretold by Daniel • v36. Yet, God chose to restore Nebuchadnezzar to power & blessed him more than before. What grace, what sovereignty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This means God allowed the Babylonian empire to be ruled by those who were favorable to the debilitated king • v37. Nebuchadnezzar gives God praise for the ordeal
Counseling 101 – The ALL-Sufficiency of Scripture	<p>Every Problem is a Theological Problem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of man’s problems, including many mental illnesses, are sin-induced and can be addressed biblically (Confession + Repentance + Obedience → Blessings and Healings for mind and body) James 5:16 • Other problems, such as childhood cancer or mental illness due to chemical imbalances, are still a result of Adam’s fall
5:1-12	<p>Disturbing Interruptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belshazzar was a co-ruler of the Babylonian empire along with his father, Evilmerodach, the son of Nebuchadnezzar • v2. This party, using & profaning artifacts from Solomon’s temple, probably degraded into a drunken orgy • v5. God allowed a unique vision of a hand scribbling a warning of Babylon’s soon demise to greatly disturb the king
5:13-31	<p>Forthright Warnings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv13-16. Once again Daniel is the only one who can interpret and explain hard things – By God’s enablement, of course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How does God endow Christians today ♦ What Christians stand out as exemplary emissaries for God in our day and age? • v21. God rules over men and appoints over it whomever He chooses. Does that mean we don’t need to vote?

CONCLUSION & APPLICATIONS

- Some, like Nebuchadnezzar, might eventually wake up to how God is working on their behalf after intense testing
- Others will only acknowledge God’s hand when they have no other choice, as Belshazzar did
- Unfortunately, there are others, though God might work wonders galore, will only believe what they want to believe
- Where do we fit in?

NEXT WEEK: Daniel 6. Daniel is thrown to the lions, but God chooses to spare him for future work

