

Babylon Believes

Chapter 12

Audio Lesson: Old Testament #72



Objective: To understand the historical context of Daniel's ministry and the impact it had on Babylon.



"It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me. How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation."

—Daniel 4:2-3

At the time of Daniel, Babylon was not only the premier city of the world, but it ruled the most powerful empire that had existed up to that time. Its king, Nebuchadnezzar, was a powerful and prideful ruler. But through Daniel's witness of godliness and his ministry of interpreting dreams, Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon were given examples of the power of God. One of the most remarkable miracles in Scripture is the conversion of Nebuchadnezzar, one of the world's least likely rulers to turn to the living God. Rather than the Jews being transformed into Babylonians, as the king originally intended, the king and other Babylonians were turned into believers in the God of Daniel—the One True God. After his pride was stripped from him, Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that God is the rightful ruler of all the kingdoms of this world.



1. True or false? In many ways, the book of Daniel can be read as a dramatic play.
2. True or false? Babylon was just a small, remote city at the time of Daniel.
3. True or false? Babylonians were not very religious people; hardly any temples have been found in their cities.
4. True or false? Daniel's three friends were not afraid to be thrown into the furnace because they knew God was going to protect them.
5. True or false? The Babylonian Empire remained dominant throughout Daniel's lifetime.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

6. Which of the following best describes Daniel's visions?
 - a. They are very easy to understand.
 - b. They have very few symbols in them.
 - c. They contain many mysterious images and symbols.
 - d. They are impossible to interpret.
7. What happened to the three young men who refused to worship a giant golden statue of King Nebuchadnezzar?
 - a. They were publicly executed by hanging.
 - b. They were thrown into a furnace, but God protected them.
 - c. They eventually changed their minds and bowed down to it.
 - d. They were imprisoned for the rest of their lives.
8. Which of the following best describes King Nebuchadnezzar's rule?
 - a. He had very widespread, absolute power. He could do whatever he wanted to do.
 - b. He was a weak king who was always worried about being overthrown.
 - c. He was very kind and generous throughout his reign.
 - d. No one in his kingdom respected his authority.
9. What did the four parts of the statue in the king's dream represent?
 - a. The king's lasting rule over everything to the north, south, east, and west
 - b. Daniel and his three friends
 - c. Only four more years left in his reign
 - d. Four kingdoms in succession: Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome.
10. What did Nebuchadnezzar believe about God?
 - a. He did not believe in God at all.
 - b. He believed he was God.
 - c. He believed in the one true God.
 - d. He first believed in Babylonian gods (and in himself), then converted to faith in the true God.

11. How did God strip the king of his pride and teach him to acknowledge God's glory?

- a. He caused the king to be insane for seven years.
- b. He allowed the Jews to rise up and defeat him.
- c. He afflicted the king with leprosy.
- d. He exiled the king to Jerusalem.



In what ways has God worked in your life to help you believe in Him? In what ways do you see Him working in the lives of those who do not yet know Him? How can you pray for them and share your faith with them?



Thank God that He does whatever is necessary to give us an opportunity to believe in Him. Thank Him for His miracles of mercy and revelation, and pray that He would bring many more into His kingdom. Like Daniel, commit to Him your life, purpose in your heart to not defile yourself with the things of this world, and acknowledge His total authority to be the Lord of your life.



Going Deeper

1. How do you apply the great miracle recorded in chapter four, that Nebuchadnezzar believed in the God of Daniel because of what began when Daniel was 14 years old? _____

2. What is the level of your faith in the proposition that, when Babylon determines that you as a believer are going to become a Babylonian, you can respond that they as Babylonians are going to become believers? _____

3. What is your response and application to the faith of Daniel and his friends when they refused to bow down to the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had erected to glorify himself? _____

4. How can you personally apply the ways God broke the pride of Nebuchadnezzar? (Consider Matthew 5:3-4) _____

5. How do you apply the absolute of Daniel that motivated him to refuse to obey the law of the king that prohibited prayer? _____

6. How do you apply the statement that Daniel was making by refusing to obey that law? _____

7. What is the priority of prayer in your life today? _____
