



A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF DANIEL

YES, NO & MAYBE

1. The rest of the people in this room have more issues with their pride than me.
2. God does not want us to be comfortable and content.
3. God has placed all of our current political leadership.
4. God brings times of trouble into our lives when necessary.
5. God will remove you from positions of power if you take credit for His blessings.

DIG DEEPER

➤ **READ Daniel 4:1-8** (NIV)

» **The Setting-**

- This is about 30 years after the fiery furnace (ch. 3), and Daniel is now in his late 40s, or early 50s. Nebuchadnezzar has finished building his new palace. It is a time of peace. No nation dares to make war with him.
- The first dream exalted Nebuchadnezzar; he was the head of gold (2:38). But this second dream degraded him.

» **The Author-**

- This is the only chapter in the entire Bible that was written by a pagan. This is Nebuchadnezzar's story, and he tells it in the first person--with the exception of the parts of the story when he becomes like an animal, which he writes in the third person.

« Why do you think that God sent Nebuchadnezzar a second vision during a time when his life was "contented and prosperous?" Does God typically use this setting?

➤ **READ Daniel 4:19-27** (NIV)

« What does it seem that God is saying here through this vision? Why doesn't God just remove and replace Nebuchadnezzar if God is so concerned?

- What, according to verse 27, has upset God? Is this a consistent aspect of His character?

➤ **READ Daniel 4:29-37** (NIV)

« What does it say about God that He would take away this king's ability to reign? Does He still do this?

- Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar praised God and glorified Him after receiving this 7-year trial?



- Does God still put people through trials today?

« Nebuchadnezzar comes out of this experience saying: “*35 All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: ‘What have you done?’*”

- Do you agree or disagree with Nebuchadnezzar’s conclusion about God’s character?

« Nebuchadnezzar concludes by saying, “*my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before.*”

- Do you think that God allows us to go through times of trouble in order to improve us, and to help us achieve even greater things with our lives? (Luke 18:14; Rom. 2:4; 1 Peter 5:5,6)

In his book *Mere Christianity* C. S. Lewis writes:

“I have heard people admit that they are bad-tempered, or that they cannot keep their heads about girls or drink, or even that they are cowards. I do not think I have ever heard anyone who was not a Christian accuse himself of this vice [pride]. There is no fault which makes a man more unpopular, and no fault which we are more unconscious of in ourselves. And the more we have it ourselves, the more we dislike it in others. Christians are right: it is pride which has been the chief cause of misery in every nation and every family since the world began. Other vices may sometimes bring people together: you may find good fellowship and jokes and friendliness among drunken people or unchaste people. But pride always means enmity—it is enmity. And not only between man and man, but enmity to God.”

MY PRAYER...

1. In what ways is my personal pride distracting me from a full relationship with God?
2. Am I willing to let times of trouble bring me closer to God, or do I only want blessings?
3. What new aspect of God’s character does He want me to know?

