

Excerpts from Daniel 4

The Message

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Let him be soaked in heaven’s dew
and take his meals with the animals that graze.
Let him lose his mind
and get an animal’s mind in exchange,
And let this go on
for seven seasons.

¹⁷ The angels announce this decree,
the holy watchmen bring this sentence,
So that everyone living will know
that the High God rules human kingdoms.
He arranges kingdom affairs however he wishes,
and makes leaders out of losers.

²⁷ “So, king, take my advice: Make a clean break with your sins
and start living for others. Quit your wicked life and look after
the needs of the down-and-out. Then *you* will continue to have
a good life.”

²⁸⁻³⁰ All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. Just twelve
months later, he was walking on the balcony of the royal
palace in Babylon and boasted, “Look at this, Babylon the
great! And I built it all by myself, a royal palace adequate to
display my honor and glory!”

“Babylon the great!”

I built it all.

Then this happened.

³¹⁻³² The words were no sooner out of his mouth than a voice out
of heaven spoke, “This is the verdict on you, King
Nebuchadnezzar: Your kingdom is taken from you. You will be
driven out of human company and live with the wild animals.
You will eat grass like an ox. The sentence is for seven seasons,
enough time to learn that the High God rules human kingdoms
and puts whomever he wishes in charge.”

³⁴⁻³⁵ “At the end of the seven years, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked
to heaven. I was given my mind back and I blessed the High
God, thanking and glorifying God, who lives forever:

“His sovereign rule lasts and lasts,
his kingdom never declines and falls.

Life on this earth doesn’t add up to much,
but God’s heavenly army keeps everything going.
No one can interrupt his work,
no one can call his rule into question.

³⁶⁻³⁷ “At the same time that I was given back my mind, I was also
given back my majesty and splendor, making my kingdom
shine. All the leaders and important people came looking for
me. I was reestablished as king in my kingdom and became
greater than ever. And that’s why I’m singing—I,
Nebuchadnezzar—singing and praising the King of Heaven:

“Everything he does is right,
and he does it the right way.
He knows how to turn a proud person
into a humble man or woman.”

Deep Sheet

[a place for your notes]

Does anyone trust the government?

According to the Bible, why did God allow Nebuchadnezzar of
Babylon conquer Israel?

Why do we let politics upset us and interfere with friendships?

Why do we become anxious about anything?

Other Notes:



January 26, 2025

Laketon Bethel’s Core Values:

A. ACCEPTANCE:

Everyone, regardless of who they are, what
they have done, or what they are doing, will
be accepted here. Laketon Bethel will be a
safe place to explore your relationship with
Jesus.

B. BIBLE:

The teachings of Jesus, contained in the
Bible, are the final authority for faith and
practice. We will study these teachings with
open minds and the best scholarship
available.

C. CONNECTION:

We invite people to connect with Jesus and
with each other in all that we do.

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Questions, Part 2

This is a new adult Bible study based on the questions you have asked. Put these dates on your calendar and hold on to your hat because we will be exploring some of the nitty-gritty topics addressed in Scripture.

January 29

The Atonement Debate: Why did Jesus have to die? Was it to appease God’s anger, offer himself as a ransom or to display God’s wrath at our sin?

February 5

The Salvation Debate: Does God want everyone to be saved or just those he chooses? Or, is it up to us?

February 12

The Destiny of the Unevangelized Debate: Do those who don’t know about Jesus have a chance at eternal life? What about those who reject Jesus? What about Jews and Muslims? What about rednecks who don’t go to church?

February 19

The Charismatic Gifts Debate: What about speaking in tongues, getting slain in the spirit, getting words of prophecy, etc? Do these things continue in modern days or are they something that ended with the apostolic age? Is your neighbor really speaking in tongues or do they need an increase in medication?

February 26

The Women in Ministry Debate: Are girls created to serve boys and be submissive? Are we created equal with complimentary roles? Is gender irrelevant for spiritual authority?

March 5

The Millennium Debate: When will Jesus return? Should I only take short-term investments? Will there be a rapture? Will there be a physical return of Jesus to this earth?

March 12

This final session will be a potluck with “preacher’s pork” and time to discuss the next Bible Study.
For this session we will talk about “The Hell Debate: Does hell exist?” Does God mandate unending torment of the wicked? Do we simply cease to exist after we die if we reject Jesus?

Announcements

Membership Class We will have a Membership Class on February 16th in the Parlor following the Second Service. Lunch will be provided. If interested, please sign up on the sheets located in the entryway.

Jr. & HS Youth Group Students 6th grade - 12th grade are welcome to join us for dinner, a lesson and lots of fun. We will meet February 2nd from 5:00-7:00pm. For any questions, please see John or Ashley Wierenga.

Jr. High J.A.M. Students in grades 6th and up are welcome to enjoy a lesson during the Crosstalk the 2nd and 4th Sunday. We will start a new study that’s focused on answering the question Jesus asked his disciples: “Who do you say that I am?” The first lesson will challenge students to consider what they really know about Jesus, experience what it’s like to get closer to him, and begin to develop a new and deeper understanding of who he is. Our Jr. High JAM group will also get together during our time to support Hand2Hand.

Women’s Divorce Group We're offering a women’s support group one Wednesday a month at 6:30pm at Park Meadows, the next one will be February 19th . We will gather in the small meeting room on the east end. For any questions, please contact Heather Wilke at (231) 215-8593.

Service Opportunities

Children’s Church We are looking for helpers for set-up, classroom assistance, and clean up. More info and sign-up sheets are located on the table in the entryway.

Sacred Suds Sacred Suds is an organization that helps the homeless. It offers showers, laundry, technology and housing by appointment. They are in need of many items and the list is on the table in the entryway. For any questions, please see Lois Cordle or call

January/February Weekly Bible Readings

Date	Day	New Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Prayer	Old Testament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
26	Su	Mark 1			1 Chronicles 8	
27	Mo	Mark 2			1 Chronicles 9	
28	Tu	Mark 3			1 Chronicles 10	
29	We	Mark 4			1 Chronicles 11	
30	Th	Mark 5			1 Chronicles 12	
31	Fr	Mark 6			1 Chronicles 13	
01	Sa	Mark 7			1 Chronicles 14	
02	Su	Mark 8			1 Chronicles 15	

Order of Worship-9:00am

Gathering Song
“How Great Is Our God”
Call to Worship
“I Will Call Upon the Lord”
Welcome & Announcements
Congregational Prayer
Worship in Song
“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”
“I Surrender All”
Crosstalk - “The Crazy King”
Offering
“Thank You Lord Medley”
Benediction
“Glory Be to God the Father”

Order of Worship-11:00am

Gathering Song
“The Lord’s Prayer”
Call to Worship
“This Is Our God”
Welcome & Announcements
Congregational Prayer
Worship in Song
“Way Maker”
“Battle Belongs”
Crosstalk - “The Crazy King”
Offering
“You Say”
Benediction
“The Blessing”

Volunteers

1st Service Coffee Server: Kathy Young
2nd Service Coffee Server: Jill Mouw & Diana Ockaski
1st Service Nursery: Connie Reahm
2nd Service Nursery: Bryan & Rebekah Wolffis