

DANIEL

A Man for Our Times

“Leadership Can Drive You Nuts”

Daniel 4

Presented by
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FOUR OBSERVATIONS

- Nebuchadnezzar’s greatness deluded him.
- Daniel’s compassion devastated him.
 - ▶ Godly actions precede emotions.
- The king’s sanity departed from him.
- God proved dominion belongs to Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How are the themes of pride, prosperity, and judgement linked together in Scripture? How is that relevant today?
2. Reflect on the idea that each one of us have a timeline assigned to us. What role should repentance play?
3. How would you react to the demise of current leaders in the U.S.? How does your heart compare to Daniel’s?

The Prayer of Nabonidus

Words of the prayer which Nabonidus, king of the land of Babylon, the great king, prayed when he was afflicted by a malignant inflammation, by decree of the God Most High, in Teiman. I, Nabonidus, was afflicted by a malignant inflammation for seven years, and was banished far from men, until I prayed to the God Most High and an exorcist forgave my sin. He was a Jew from the exiles, who said to me: «Make a proclamation in writing, so that glory, exaltation and honour be given to the name of the God Most High». And I wrote as follows: «When I was afflicted by a malignant inflammation [...] in Teiman, by decree of the God Most High, I prayed for seven years to all the gods of silver and gold, of bronze and iron, of wood, of stone and of clay, because I thought that they were gods [...] (Martínez and Tigchelaar, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition* (Leiden; New York: Brill, 1997–1998), 487)

A five sided clay prism found in Babylon and now housed in the Istanbul museum gives a list of men and their titles. Three men listed on the prism have pronunciations which are very similar to the names of Daniel's three friends. Whether or not they are the actual men mentioned in the Bible is uncertain.

Found on the list is the name **Ardi-Nabu, Official of the royal prince**. This name is the equivalent to the Aramaic name **Abednego** and may in fact be the first mention of one of Daniel's friends outside of the bible.

Another name found on the list is **Hanunu, Commander of the king's merchants**. The name Hanunu may be the Babylonian equivalent for the Hebrew name **Hananiah**.

Another name found on the list is **Meshallim -Marduk**, who was an official to Nebuchadnezzar. Marduk was the name of a Babylonian god. If Marduk is left out of the name we wind up with **Meshallim** which may refer to **Mishael**.

Notice that each of these men held an administrative position in Babylon.

Daniel 3: Extra Biblical Texts and the Convocation on the Plain of Dura by William Shea, AUSS 20:1 Spring 1982 29-52 Article on Daniels three friends.