
VIDEO LECTURE MODULE:

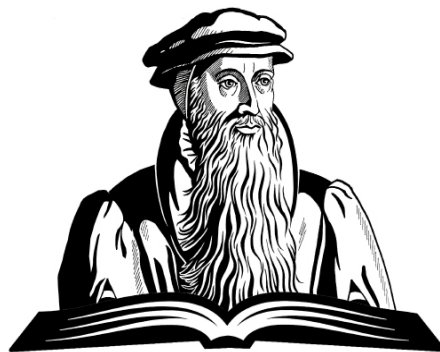
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 88

Nebuchadnezzar's Madness

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

© 2023 by John Knox Institute of Higher Education

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means for profit, except in brief quotations for the purposes of review, comment, or scholarship, without written permission from the publisher, John Knox Institute, P.O. Box 19398, Kalamazoo, MI 49019-19398, USA.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

Visit our website: www.johnknoxinstitute.org

Dr. Daniel Sweetman is an instructor at Grace Christian Academy in Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA.
www.gcagr.org

Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

(Additional lessons forthcoming)

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

- | | |
|--|---|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
| 10. Abram: Called by God | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 12. Melchizadek | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 14. Two Sons | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | 43. Cities of Refuge |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | 45. Moses' Last Days |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | 48. The Rise of Judges |
| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
- 88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness**
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lion's Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

Lesson 88

Nebuchadnezzar's Madness

The Book of Daniel, chapter 4

Memory Verse

“For God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”

1 Peter 5:5b–6

A Disturbing Dream

King Nebuchadnezzar was now an older man. After years of fighting battles and winning great victories, he planned to live the rest of his life in comfort and luxury. Nebuchadnezzar had turned Babylon into the most magnificent city in the world. However, one night he had a disturbing dream. Immediately he called the wise men of Babylon and told them the dream, but none of them were able to explain its meaning. Then Daniel listened quietly as the king recounted his dream. “I saw and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great.” The king told of how he gazed in admiration at the huge leaves, the abundance of fruit, the numerous birds sheltering in it, and the many animals resting in its shade. But then the king saw an angel descend from heaven. The angel cried out, “Hew down the tree, and cut off its branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit.” Only the stump was to remain in the earth, secured with a metal band. The angel continued, “Let his heart be changed from man’s and let a beast’s heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him.” The tree was to be left in this condition for seven years, “that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.”

A Serious Warning

When God showed Daniel the meaning of the dream, Daniel was shocked. Daniel cried out, when he could finally speak, “My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee...and to thine enemies!” Then Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that the tree in the dream was the king himself. What happened to the tree would happen to the King Nebuchadnezzar. In a moment he would lose his mind, unable to think like a man. He would become like a beast, and be driven away into the field with the beasts, and he would live like a beast, eating grass like an ox for seven years. Daniel cried out, “Wherefore O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor.” Movingly, Daniel pointed out the king’s pride, and counseled him to repent of his sins, and show mercy to the poor and do good, “if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquility.”

The Dream Fulfilled

Did the king repent? Did he make changes to help the poor? Did he treat the captives, including the Jews, more compassionately? Or did the fear of this dream wear off with time, and did he resume his cruelties? Twelve months later we find the king on the roof of his palace. Perhaps he had important visitors and was showing them the beautiful city from this vantage point. What a stunning sight it must have been—the spectacular hanging gardens and terraces, the wide canals, parks, broad avenues and pagan temples. Nebuchadnezzar swelled with pride, and cried out, “Is not this the great Babylon that I have built?” Suddenly the words of his dream resounded in his ears, “Seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men.” The same moment, the king staggered, stumbled. In a moment of time, the mighty King Nebuchadnezzar fell from the height of power to the depths of disgrace. In his mind, he became like a beast, crawling around on the ground, eating grass like an ox. Nebuchadnezzar was banished from the palace. The king’s clothes became tatters. his hair grew matted, and his nails like claws.

The Lord Honored

King Nebuchadnezzar lived as a beast in the fields for seven years. Then one day, after seven years, his mind suddenly returned to him. He records here that the first thing he did when the Lord restored him was that he lifted up his eyes, and he worshipped the true God. “I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever.” King Nebuchadnezzar regained his sanity. He also regained his kingdom and glory. However, he had learned a lesson. In a letter, he published the story for everyone in his kingdom to read, that all might know that “all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing” in the sight of God, and, “those that walk in pride, he is able to abase.”

Nebuchadnezzar bowed before God after seven years of humiliation. What Nebuchadnezzar did many years ago, every man and woman will do in the future. All mankind, including you, will acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord. What a difference though, whether you may bow in true love and repentance now, or whether you are forced to bow at the great day of judgment when it is too late.

Review Questions

1. Put a checkmark in front of the true statements.

- _____ The tree could be seen to the ends of the earth.
- _____ The height of the tree reached unto heaven.
- _____ The leaves were used for healing diseases.
- _____ There was very much fruit on the tree.
- _____ The tree had several trunks.
- _____ Many animals laid under the tree for shade.
- _____ Many birds lived in the tree.
- _____ The fruit on the tree was not for everyone.

2. Which of these thing did the angel not say about the tree? (circle one)

- a. Hew down the tree and its branches.
- b. Shake off its leaves and its fruit.
- c. Let the beasts and the birds get away from it.
- d. Pull out the stump of its roots.

3. Why was the tree cut down?

“To the _____ that the _____ may know that the _____
_____ in the kingdom of _____.”

4. What did Daniel advise the king to do? (circle one)

- a. Break down all the idols
- b. Let the Jews returned to their land
- c. Show mercy to the poor
- d. Only have one wife

5. Match what the king saw in his dream to what happened a year later.

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ The tree was seen all over the earth. | a. Many people depended on the king. |
| _____ The leaves were fair, meat for all | b. The king’s empire was huge. |
| _____ The tree was cut down. | c. The king lost his mind. |
| _____ The stump was left. | d. The king was brought low but did not die. |

Discussion Questions

1. 1. Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar wanted to tell “all people, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth” about his humiliation?

2. In Proverbs 6:16–19, pride is number one in a list of seven things which God hates. Who else in the Bible was punished because of pride?

- 1 Timothy 3:6 _____
- Esther 3:5 _____
- 2 Chronicles 32:25 _____
- Daniel 5:22 _____
- Luke 18:11 _____
- Acts 12: 21–23 _____

3. When will you begin to recognize your pride? _____

4. How long will you have to fight against your pride? _____
