

What does the BIBLE say?

As you read this study, I encourage you to study the corresponding scriptures for yourself so you can develop a personal, confident understanding of biblical truth. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Study like the Bereans, who listened to Paul but did not take his word for it. They studied the scriptures for themselves so they would know for sure.

Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” I ask that you do the same with this study. Please pray before you begin.

Bible Secrets to Personal Peace (Daniel 4 Salvation)

Today, we will learn the secret to personal peace. We'll examine the only Bible chapter authored by a pagan king—Daniel 4, where King Nebuchadnezzar shares his story of conversion. Let's start in...Dan. 4:1-3. Nebuchadnezzar shares that he has discovered the secret to peace (“Peace be multiplied unto you”) and explains that it is found in God, not in the possessions of this world.

Remember, he was the wealthiest and most powerful king in the world. In Dan. 4:4, he was thriving and prosperous, enjoying all that life could offer. Yet, he lacked eternal life and peace with God. God reached out to him to shift his focus from worldly pleasures to eternal realities. Let's explore the story as it unfolded.

Read Dan. 4:5-9. God provides a dream for him, and he again summons the same wise men who previously failed him in Daniel 2. Why didn't he call in Daniel initially? He knew Daniel could interpret dreams.

Could it be he feared the truth? Sometimes, we do the same. We avoid God's truth because we worry it might hurt us. (This is exactly what Satan wants us to think.) The truths in God's Word and the gift of eternal life will never harm us. They are meant to save us and enrich our lives. (John 8:32 “You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”)

Let's observe how the king reacts to Daniel's explanation. Read Dan. 4:10-18. The king describes a dream of a massive tree cut down by God's command and asks Daniel to interpret it. It takes some time for Daniel to explain the meaning.

See Dan. 4:19. Daniel feels uneasy about the dream. He recognizes it likely carries a negative message but chooses to tell the king the truth regardless.

Read Dan. 4:20-26. Daniel describes the king as a tree, indicating that God is preparing to judge him for his sins. God had previously tried many methods to encourage the king to repent, including the experiences mentioned in chapters 2 and 3. However, the king refused to repent. In chapter 4, God gives him one final chance, stating, "I am offering you one last opportunity. I love you and want you to be saved. But if you continue sinning, you will be lost."

Isn't God merciful to warn the king that time is running out? God doesn't want anyone to be lost, so He warns us. But it is up to each individual to accept Christ. God will honor our choices. He doesn't force us. If we refuse or delay giving our hearts to God, He will honor our choice, even if it leads to our loss. Strive to make the right choices to follow God.

Daniel understands this is a pivotal moment for the king and urges him to change. In Daniel 4:27, Daniel appeals for the king's conversion, emphasizing a key point: true conversion involves (breaking off our sins – repentance). While some sins are difficult to let go of, God grants us the strength to do so through faith in His grace.

To turn away from sin, Daniel explains that we must 'break off' sin through 'righteousness,' which means 'doing what's right. The only way to gain the strength to do right is by inviting Jesus into our hearts (Philp. 1:11).

Unfortunately, the king postpones his decision to heed Daniel's advice... Read Dan. 4:28-33. A year later, he remains unchanged, refusing to recognize God as the Ruler and Lord of his life. He boasts, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built...by the might of MY power...for the honor of MY majesty?" As a result, God hesitates to continue His blessing, and the king's mind is lost.

Do you know what causes more people to be lost than anything else? It's (procrastination) delaying the decision to turn away from sin and embrace Jesus. This highlights the importance of saying "Yes" to God whenever we feel convicted to follow Him. Make a conscious effort to act immediately on the convictions from God's Word instead of postponing.

Dan. 4:34-37 describes how Nebuchadnezzar finally understands the truth that leads to repentance and a transformed heart. He recognizes that God is the Sovereign of the universe and, as stated in verse 35, "He does according to His will... none can stop Him or question His actions." Once he grasps this, the king's reasoning is restored.

This passage imparts a vital lesson for us. Many people argue with God or try to second-guess His decisions, just like Nebuchadnezzar did. We are not called to challenge God's authority or question why He does certain things. Even if we don't always understand His ways, we should trust that He loves us and obey Him. It is essential to accept God's Word and act in obedience without hesitation or doubt.

Read Dan. 4:37. A key lesson is that PRIDE leads many to lose eternal life. Pride is the root of all sin, declaring, "I will do it MY WAY, no matter what God says." Sinful pride must be relinquished. Nebuchadnezzar discovered the peace only God can give. I want to conclude today's study by sharing four Scriptures that show how we can also experience this peace.

Read 1. John 3:16 — Believe that God's love for us is immense; He died for us.

Read 2. Acts 11:18 — Repent of our sins, which cause God pain.

Read 3. 1 John 1:9 — Confess our sins to Jesus in prayer.

Read 4. Rev. 3:20 — Welcome Jesus into our hearts to be our friend and ruler of our lives.

Have you made this all-important decision to follow Christ? If you were to lose your life today, do you have the assurance that you would spend eternity with Jesus?

If the answer is "No," Make that important decision to follow Christ today. I encourage you to review your lesson so you can truly learn the Bible for yourself and not depend on what others say. I urge you to pray that the Lord will give you a hunger, a thirst, and a love for His truth, amen!

As you prayerfully consider this topic, I want you to know that we are here to help answer any questions you might have. If you have questions, please get in touch with us at <https://freechristianbooks.us>.