

CLASH^{OF} KINGDOMS

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Daniel chapter 4

(Sermon from Sunday 24 July, Richard van Lieshout)

1. Information

a) Read the passage, perhaps twice using two different versions

b) Fill in any info that didn't make it into the sermon.

- For reference, my sermon outline (following the chapter breakdown) was as follows:
 1. The dream (v1-18)
 - a) A Magnificent Tree
 - b) An Angel Speaks
 2. The interpretation of the dream (v19-27)
 3. The Implementation of the dream (v28-37)
 4. The Implications of the dream
- It may be helpful to follow the same outline as your group study, but feel free to fill in details from the training manual!
- A few points that I think would be helpful to expand on (all from the manual):
 - a) The Dream
 - The note about 'signs and wonders' in v2-3
 - The reference to Ps 145:10-13 in v2-3
 - The archaeological note from v4-5
 - The note on 'holy gods' in v8-9
 - The reference to Ezekiel 31 in v10-12
 - All of the first four points in v13-18
 - b) The Interpretation:
 - The notes on v27 (**this is key, and I didn't get to it in the sermon. Please address this with your group!**)
 - c) The Implementation:
 - The note about zoanthropy in v31-33
 - The note about Nebuchadnezzar becoming a believer perhaps? (V34-36) **This could be a great discussion item!**
 - The reference to Job 42 in v34-36

c) Answer any questions the group might have

2. Activation

- The very obvious point of application is a warning about pride! It would be worth spending time 'Activating' this with your group, perhaps by:
 - a) **Breaking down the definition I used of 'Cosmic Plagiarism'**. Is this a helpful term in light of chapter 4? What does it mean for us today?
 - Similarly, what does your group think of the statement 'humility is the truth, pride is a lie?'
 - b) **Reading the classic verses on pride:**
 - i. Proverbs 3:34
 - ii. This proverb quoted in:
 - 1 Peter 5:5-6
 - James 4:6
 - c) **Reading the classic verse on the call to humility**, through the example of Jesus:
 - i. Philippians 2:1-11
 - d) **Reading Psalm 96:1-9** (which came at the end of the sermon) and applying it practically to our lives today.

3. Implementation

- Recall, Implementation is the third step in interpretation:
 - i. What?
 - ii. So what?
 - iii. **Now what?**
- **I would think there's some very clear 'Now what' steps, like how we will 'ascribe glory' over the week. Note these!**
- **And be sure to pray meaningfully against pride!**

