

Daniel 3:1 KJV

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3:1 AMPC

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king [caused to be] made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits or ninety feet and its breadth six cubits or nine feet. He set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

The statue, which the king arrogantly made, represented himself as an expression of his greatness and glory and reflected the dream where he was the head of gold. This established the worship of Nebuchadnezzar as a false god and the nation under his power, and the currency in which all were to utilize to conduct the business of life. This image of gold is 90 feet high and 9 feet wide and "Dura" means circle, or dwelling which means that it was within the boundary of Babylon.

Daniel 3:2 KJV

2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

Daniel 3:2 AMPC

2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the satraps, the deputies, the governors, the judges and chief stargazers, the treasurers, the counselors, the sheriffs and lawyers, and all the chief officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had [caused to be] set up.

Nebuchadnezzar had recognized the God of Daniel, as being the greatest of all gods in the last chapter. But he, built this to a false god in the verses above, this currency would represent him and this kingdom (beast or empire). He still believes in the false gods of Babylon, even though he recognized the One True God.

Now that this golden image is erected, the currency for which everyone must utilize, he sends for all the dignitaries in the country to come to the dedication and for those leaders of the provinces around, as well. These leaders are satraps, or leaders over regions; perfects, or military chiefs; governors, or civil arbiters; magistrates, or judges in our sense today; rulers, or other civil leaders.

Daniel 3:3 KJV

3 Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Daniel 3:3 AMPC

3 Then the satraps, the deputies, the governors, the judges and chief stargazers, the treasurers, the counselors, the sheriffs and lawyers, and all the chief officials of the provinces were gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

All of the surrounding world has come to worship this false god. Man, throughout history, has been eager to worship some false god that he can see and these people are no different.

Romans 1:21-23 AMPC

21 Because when they knew and recognized Him as God, they did not honor and glorify Him as God or give Him thanks. But instead they became futile and [a]godless in their thinking [with vain imaginings, foolish reasoning, and stupid speculations] and their senseless minds were darkened.

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools [professing to be smart, they made simpletons of themselves].

23 And by them the glory and majesty and excellence of the immortal God were exchanged for and represented by images, resembling mortal man and birds and beasts and reptiles.

Daniel 3:4 KJV

4 Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,

Daniel 3:4 AMPC

4 Then the herald cried aloud, You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,

Herald means: an official message. This leaves no one out. It includes all people and this is not a request, but a command.

Daniel 3:5 KJV

5 That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

Daniel 3:5 AMPC

5 That when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, dulcimer or bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

The children of Israel worshipped the golden calf on the way to the Promised Land. They danced, and sang and the Bible speaks of revelry going on. The music seems to accompany worship of false gods, as well as the True God. Music prepares the heart to receive a message.

We are told over and over to worship God with songs of praise. There is nothing wrong with music but there can be things wrong with the type of music we listen to. Be careful, wise, guarded about what you fall down and worship.

Daniel 3:6 KJV

6 And whoso falleth not down and worshipping shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

Daniel 3:6 AMPC

6 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall that very hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

We see a very similar Scripture in the following.

Revelation 13:15-18 AMPC

*15 And he is permitted [also] to impart the breath of life into the beast's image, so that the statue of the beast could actually talk and cause to **be put to death** those who would not bow down and worship the image of the beast.*

16 Also he compels all [alike], both small and great, both the rich and the poor, both free and slave, to be marked with an inscription [[a]stamped] on their right hands or on their foreheads,

17 So that no one will have power to buy or sell unless he bears the stamp (mark, inscription), [that is] the name of the beast or the number of his name.

18 Here is [room for] discernment [a call for the wisdom [b]of interpretation]. Let anyone who has intelligence (penetration and insight enough) calculate the number of the beast, for it is a human number [the number of a certain man]; his number is 666.

The forced worship of this image, the alignment with not only the form of government but also religion at the time of the end will be required in order to live. Many have already been deceived by modern day culture but many more will fall down before this image to save their lives during seven year tribulation.

Daniel 3:7 KJV

7 Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

Daniel 3:7 AMPC

7 Therefore, when all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, dulcimer or bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Fear of death caused them to worship this false god. Everyone did what everyone else was doing... be careful who your close associations are... Bible says so.

Daniel 3:8 KJV

8 Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.

Daniel 3:8 AMPC

8 Therefore at that time certain men of Chaldean descent came near and brought [malicious] accusations against the Jews.

Perhaps, there was some jealousy, because Daniel and his 3 friends had been raised to such a high position in the kingdom. These Chaldeans were carefully watching to find anything they might accuse them of and sought their death.

Daniel 3:9 KJV

9 They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.

Daniel 3:9 AMPC

9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live forever!

This is a statement very similar to "long live the king". They must pay honor to Nebuchadnezzar, before they went on with their real purpose for coming. In the book of Proverbs, you find this to be addressed numerous times when scripture is speaking of flattery and normally done when somebody wants something and not to just make you feel good.

Daniel 3:10 KJV

10 Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

Daniel 3:10 AMPC

10 You, O king, have made a decree that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, dulcimer or bagpipe, and every kind of music shall fall down and worship the golden image,

The king really did not need them to remind him of his decree. But it is mentioned to him, to tell him there is no way out of punishing these Jews.

Daniel 3:11 KJV

11 And whoso falleth not down and worshipping, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

Daniel 3:11 AMPC

11 And that whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

The punishment had been set from the beginning for those who would not worship this false god.

Daniel 3:12 KJV

12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Daniel 3:12 AMPC

12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed and set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up.

These accusers were trying to say that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were not honoring Nebuchadnezzar, or his image. They were pretending to be for Babylon and the king, and they were not loyal to him. Someone in so high a position should be leading others to carry out the wishes of the king, not rebelling against his commands.

Their jealousy of these Jews is showing....First, they called them Jews, even though they used their Babylonian names. This is an indication they wanted the king to believe they were faithful to Jerusalem, and not to him.

They also point out that the king had put them in their high positions. It is as if they are saying he should not have placed them above Babylonians. There also, is a progression of accusations.

First, they did not regard Nebuchadnezzar.

Second, they did not worship his gods.

Third, they did not bow down to the image.

Daniel 3:13 KJV

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.

Daniel 3:13 AMPC

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; and these men were brought before the king.

The anger of Nebuchadnezzar was so great it was spoken of as rage and fury. It is interesting to me, they did not accuse Daniel as being part of the refusal to worship witnessed by the Chaldeans. If Daniel had been present, he surely would have joined these others in faithfulness to God. Perhaps they were afraid Daniel had already proven himself, and the king might punish them instead.

Daniel 3:14 KJV

14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

Daniel 3:14 AMPC

14 [Then] Nebuchadnezzar said to them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image which I have set up?

The king was fair in asking them personally, if they were guilty of breaking his commandment.

Daniel 3:15 KJV

15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

Daniel 3:15 AMPC

15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, dulcimer or bagpipe, and every kind of music to fall down and worship the image which I have made, very good. But if you do not worship, you shall be cast at once into the midst of a burning fiery furnace, and who is that god who can deliver you out of my hands?

Nebuchadnezzar is giving them one more chance here, to conform to his command. He reminds them once more, that to disobey his command meant they would be thrown into the fiery furnace.

The king's challenge would return to embarrass him, The true God was able to deliver, just as He was able to reveal a dream and its meaning. Nebuchadnezzar had earlier called him "a God of gods", but having let that fade from his attention, he soon would be shocked and humiliated when God took up his challenge. He mocks God with his statement; "Who is the God that shall deliver you out of my hands. He is saying, no god is more powerful than he is.

Daniel 3:16 KJV

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

Daniel 3:16 AMPC

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, it is not necessary for us to answer you on this point.

This is simply saying, they do not need time to think about this, they have already made up their mind. They did not have any defense, nor did they need to reconsider their commitment, since they stood fast for their God as the only true and living God.

Daniel 3:17 KJV

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

Daniel 3:17 AMPC

17 If our God Whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

They are not afraid of the fiery furnace, or of Nebuchadnezzar. They know God is their very present help in trouble and are not speaking in an arrogant manner to the king but with confidence in their God.

If that is the way it is, they are more willing to face the furnace than to bow to a false god. This type of faith is what we need, as well. Will we follow our God, even into the fire?

Daniel 3:18 KJV

*18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image **which thou hast set up.***

Daniel 3:18 AMPC

*18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image **which you have set up!***

This is another way of saying, "We will serve God and no other". They will not worship things made with human hands. They have made their decision to follow the One True God and no other. Regardless of the circumstances - who will you serve?

Joshua 24:15 AMPC

*15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell; **but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.***

Note: _____

Daniel 3:19 KJV

19 Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

Daniel 3:19 AMPC

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury and his facial expression was changed [to antagonism] against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Therefore he commanded that the furnace should be heated seven times hotter than it was usually heated.

"Visage" means face or facial expression. This just means that he was so full of fury that his whole face changed. The normal amount of fire would have burned anyone up who was thrown into it, but his anger caused him to say, "make it seven times hotter than usual".

Daniel 3:20 KJV

20 And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

Daniel 3:20 AMPC

20 And he commanded the strongest men in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

The mightiest men in his army bound them, and put them into the fire. Nebuchadnezzar, perhaps, thought they might escape, if he used lesser men for the task. It would also, take a very brave man to get this close to the fire.

Daniel 3:21 KJV

21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Daniel 3:21 AMPC

21 Then these [three] men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics or undergarments, their turbans, and their other clothing, and they were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

This is just saying they were fully clothes, even to having on their hats, they were not naked.

Daniel 3:22 KJV

22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flames of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Daniel 3:22 AMPC

22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame and sparks from the fire killed those men who handled Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

The men who put them into the fire were killed by the fire. The flames which burned in the furnace were so hot the mighty men of Nebuchadnezzar died.

Daniel 3:23 KJV

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Daniel 3:23 AMPC

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the burning fiery furnace.

A fire this hot would ordinarily have burned them beyond recognition in a matter of seconds. Notice, they were in the middle of the fire. Remember, God saved Noah in the flood, and not from the flood.

God saved Joseph in Egypt, not from Egypt. God saved Joseph in the famine, not from the famine. God saved Elijah and the widow in the famine, not from the famine (read about this in 1 Kings chapter 17). God does not always spare us from our problems, He helps us with those problems.

Note: _____

Daniel 3:24 KJV

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king **was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?** They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

Daniel 3:24 AMPC

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king [saw and] **was astounded, and he jumped up and said to his counselors, Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?** They answered, True, O king.

Something caught the eye of Nebuchadnezzar. Some early versions of this Scripture say that they were singing praises in the middle of the fire. He ran to see, if he was remembering correctly, that there were three men in the fire and his counselors agreed with him.

Daniel 3:25 KJV

25 He answered and said, Lo, **I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.**

Daniel 3:25 AMPC

25 He answered, Behold, **I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt! And the form of the fourth is like a son of the gods!**

God is ever present with those who trust Him... this fourth person in the fire is the Son of God.

Isaiah 43:2 AMPC

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned or scorched, nor will the flame kindle upon you.

God is a consuming fire, so fire is nothing to Him. They put their faith in the Lord, and He did not fail them. He was in the fire with them, protecting them from its flames. This divine presence will be with us in all of our troubles, if we will continue to trust in the Lord.

There were several things to be gained from this... the is not juts about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. There was also, a world looking on, seeing how they would handle this problem. This was a witness to everyone and the king's heart will be changed as a result of their righteousness and faith in God.

Daniel 3:26 KJV

*26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, **ye servants of the most high God, come forth**, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.*

Daniel 3:26 AMPC

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, **you servants of the Most High God, come out and come here.** Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the midst of the fire.

The king recognizes their God and he will have great respect for them standing up to him in this. They are men of great faith and faith without the acts of obedience leads to death or eternal fire.

James 2:26 AMPC

26 For as the human body apart from the spirit is lifeless, so faith apart from [its] works of obedience is also dead.

Daniel 3:27 KJV

27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, **being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.**

Daniel 3:27 AMPC

27 And the satraps, the deputies, the governors, and the king's counselors **gathered around together and saw these men—that the fire had no power upon their bodies, nor was the hair of their head singed; neither were their garments scorched or changed in color or condition, nor had even the smell of smoke clung to them.**

When God enacts a miracle, He supernaturally controls all details so that His power is unmistakable and there is no other explanation. They might have been in the fire, but God had been with them and protected them. No false god could do this.

Daniel 3:28 KJV

*28 **Then Nebuchadnezzar spake**, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.*

Daniel 3:28 AMPC

*28 **Then Nebuchadnezzar said**, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who believed in, trusted in, and relied on Him! And **they set aside the king's command and yielded their bodies rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.***

Nebuchadnezzar recognizes God as being their help when he had mocked God at the beginning, saying their God could not protect them from his judgment. Now, or “then” he realizes their God can protect them. And King Nebuchadnezzar blesses the One True God.

Daniel 3:29 KJV

29 Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

Daniel 3:29 AMPC

29 Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, and language that speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be cut in pieces and their houses be made a dunghill, for there is no other God who can deliver in this way!

Nebuchadnezzar's recognition of the God of the three men does not mean that he converted to their religion. It was simply an acknowledgment of their God's power. The sad thing in all of this is the fact that Nebuchadnezzar does not say this is the Only God but he does recognize Him as the most powerful God.

Daniel 3:30 KJV

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3:30 AMPC

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

There is a progression of “things” that Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are being tested with. Starting in chapter one, they have proven they can be trusted, be found faithful and righteous regardless of the circumstances or natural consequences.

Luke 16:10 AMPC

10 He who is faithful in a very little [thing] is faithful also in much, and he who is dishonest and unjust in a very little [thing] is dishonest and unjust also in much.

Note: _____



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