

Daniel

Chapter 3



²⁴ Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up in haste; he said to his high officials, "Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?" They replied to the king, "Certainly, O king." ²⁵ He said, "Look! I see four men loosed *and walking about* in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of *the gods!*" But before we get to those verses, let us look at the beginning of chapter 3 of the Book of Daniel.

The Faith of Three Teenagers
And
The Faithfulness of God

Wisdom of Faith: **Trusting God in Life** is the Wisdom of the Saint!

Chapter 2 ended with Daniel's Wisdom

.....God can **PROSPER** in the midst of hostility

Now we will see God can **DELIVER**

.....in midst of death defying circumstances.

The King's Golden Image

Daniel 3

¹ Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which *was sixty cubits and its width six cubits;*

It is amazing how when man rejects God's Word, he sets out to prove that God is wrong and that he can get away with changing what God declares.

God said that Nebuchadnezzar was the head and the head alone was to be gold, but Nebuchadnezzar sets out to challenge and change the Plan of God by making the whole statue gold, representing himself as the sole ruler!

**Much like in America today;
our leaders say they do not care what God says about creation and morality,
“we will do our way and we will get away it!”**

Cubic

is measured from the elbow to tip of middle finger—approximately 18" = 90' by 9' (33 yards—football field by 3 yards-- made of gold, cost today billions!!

Wealth and his unbelievable arrogance!

Of course he got the idea from his dream but remember **ONLY THE HEAD WAS GOLD**

•-it is all mine!

His pride moved him to make the entire statue of gold...**HIS OWN EMPIRE**

¹ He set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

Dura this was apparently a circular plain and was most probably the Capital province—where Nebuchadnezzar could see it every day! Erecting large statues of kings has been practiced back to the days of the Pharaohs like the Great Sphinx in Egypt.

Three dimensions of Nebuchadnezzar golden image:

1st History of man:

From Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Empire to the Second Advent of Jesus Christ is seen here in chapter 3. All through the times of the Gentiles, man will try and try to set up his kingdom to counter the Kingdom of God. And throughout all this history in attempting to establish his utopia kingdom, man will seek to get rid of the Jews, for the Jews represent the presence of God. So 1st the history of man is seen in man forming his great kingdom; and 2nd getting rid of the Jews is getting rid of God.

Therefore, the furnace of blazing fire is a historical picture of getting rid of the Jews.

Satan knows that Promised Messiah is to come from the Jewish race and that God has promised the Kingdom of Israel, so if he can get rid of all the Jews, then God cannot keep His word. Therefore, the blazing furnace represents Satan trying to get rid of the Jews and stop the plan of God.

However, the DELIVERY of the three young Jews from or through the blazing furnace is a picture of the FAITHFULNESS OF GOD TO HIS OWN WORD and TO HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE.

2nd Religion:

It is amazing how man loves to worship things! Stars, idols, various tools etc. Here is a giant statue in his dreams given by God...and Nebuchadnezzar now desires to set it up and worship it.

But remember Isaiah had the same problem.

golden calf;

the brazen serpent on the staff;

They even turned the sacrifices into objects of Worship.

Man desires to worship everything but the Creator, the Savior.

and be careful... WE ARE NOT TO WORSHIP THE BIBLE!

The Bible leads us...

to God the Father;

to God the Son,

to God the Holy Spirit

to JESUS CHRIST our Savior

but do not worship doctrine;

Worship the ONE that Bible doctrine leads us to.

John 5

³⁹You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

3rd Arrogance of man: (*the Great Babylon*)

Babylon represents Religion. Babylon represents political power, Babylon represents a world system, a Political Religious System (much like the Islamic system today), designed by Satan in Genesis 10 at the building of the tower of Babel by Nimrod.

To show you how man has not changed, Nimrod built the Tower of Babel to unite all people—politically and RELIGIOUSLY. **To keep man from division**

Much like Obama, Pope, Muslims etc., everyone desires to **END DIVISION** of mankind **BY FORCING ONE RELIGION; ONE POLITICAL SYSTEM** that will **unify all people!**

without GOD
without JESUS CHRIST

Nebuchadnezzar's arrogance now takes over, he forgets all about the other nations and makes the **entire image—gold**—he sees himself as the supreme head of all *nations* *In effect Nebuchadnezzar forgets all about the God of Daniel and is totally occupied with his own power*

Most people need something to backup (or support) their image of themselves!

Most people this is found in the material realm of life—wealth, home, car, clothes or it may be their looks, or their abilities—sports, intellect, talent etc.

We each have an image of ourselves and then in life we try to support that image.

We can see clearly Nebuchadnezzar image of himself...but **what about you?**

What is it... that supports your inner image of yourself?

We did a very important study in **SADNESS, STRESS, ANXIETY, ANGER, DEPRESSION**——being satisfied with who you are in Christ!

The more we come to realize **ALL WE ARE IN CHRIST** and the more we are content—satisfied with **WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST...**

SADNESS, STRESS, ANXIETTY, ANGER, DEPRESSION is removed from our souls and lives. It is amazing how much time, effort – SADNESS, STRESS, ANXIETTY, ANGER, DEPRESSION people put into some image they have of themselves, then when it is not realized—this is when real SADNESS, STRESS, ANXIETTY, ANGER, DEPRESSION sets in!

Please learn WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST **from the Word of God** and find total happiness. One of the real problems with this self-image is the need of constant stimulation to confirm our image of ourselves. Building the image was only part of Nebuchadnezzar obsession: he needs constant admiration.

There are various views on what each of the following officials refer, but remember we have a multitude of categories and degrees of officials today.

¹ Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent *word* to assemble the satraps, (governors of larger states or divisions in the empire) the prefects (seems to be military leaders) and the governors, (heads of lower divisions of the empire) the counselors, (justices of the legal jurisdiction) the treasurers, (IRS throughout the empire) the judges, (guardian of the Law in the lower courts) the magistrates (district court sheriffs) and all the rulers of the provinces (equivalent to our mayors) to come to the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

These are repeated in verse 3.

Question: Why does the Holy Spirit repeat this seemingly unimportant list?

These are the bureaucrats, the leaders of the most powerful nation on earth, and from top to bottom, they all will bow down and worship the statute of Nebuchadnezzar while these three Jewish leaders will not bow down, which will only infuriate Nebuchadnezzar all the more.

³ Then the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces were assembled for the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Nebuchadnezzar has been the overseer of this image and now came the great day of dedication!

⁴ Then the herald loudly proclaimed: "To you the command is given, O peoples, nations and *men of every* language,

Note the great variety of people standing on this great plain surrounding the image:
peoples racial divisions;

nations nations throughout the empire came for this dedication;

language of course represents linguistic differences.

**Not all that unlike what is happening in our own nation:
Mexican, Chinese, African, Arabic, etc.**



Nebuchadnezzar's heavy metal

band or Ragtime Band or Holy Roller Band

(ONE OF THE MOST WONDERFUL BLESSINGS GOD GAVE MANKIND WAS THE EAR TO HEAR AND APPRECIATE MUSIC. of course, Satan comes in and pollutes the harmonious sounds of music.)

As we saw with the list of officials in verses 2-3, we have various interpretations of the following instruments in Nebuchadnezzar band. And the reason why the Holy Spirit goes through this list is to show the vastness of Nebuchadnezzar in bringing so many people together to worship him! People and instruments from all over the known world, including as far as Greece.

⁵ That at the moment you hear the sound of
the horn, (brass section)

flute, (represented by the woodwinds);

then the string section:

lyre, trigon, (3 cornered instrument—triangle instrument with the 4 strings)

psaltery, (a ten string instrument [pre-cursor to the piano])

bagpipe and all kinds of music, (maybe even a banjo, guitar, etc.)

And, of course, all types of percussion instruments –drums and cymbals etc. Music has always been part of worship—idolatry or worship of the true God; Satan uses music to put people in an emotional state:

purpose of this music—to signal worship of the image

⁵ You are to fall down and worship the golden image that
Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up.

Formation of **One World Religion....BABYLON!**

All the world is to worship this image—representative of Babylon.

And all the world will except for a few certain Jews.

In Revelation 13 we have another image that the world is to worship or forfeit their lives and all will except for a few and miraculously many will make it through the horrible times of the Great Tribulation.

One of the purposes of such a massive band –not just the sound of horns–was to arouse emotions (–drunkenness to sound thinking, reasoning, or convictions–).

Music is international, cross culture—causing people to set aside even Religious differences, the beat, the rhythm, is used to mesmerize the people so that all respond the same way!

and if you don't something is wrong with you!

Everyone would be so taken they would all bow down and worship—and if you did not—**DEATH AWAITS!**

Idolatry—mixed with worship of gold—love of money!

Many Christians today, have this same love of money

⁶”But whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.”

Uh-oh, not far from the plain of Dura was a blazing furnace!
Apparently used as a smelting furnace and to burn trash and people
—we know this from Jeremiah 29.

⁶”Because of them a curse will be used by all the exiles from Judah who are in Babylon, saying, “May the LORD make you like Zedekiah and like Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire,

We see this same principle throughout history, and especially in Revelation where they are to receive the **Mark of the Beast and worship him or die!**

Religion,
Idolatry and
the arrogance of man
must always try to destroy anyone who does not agree with them.

⁷”Therefore at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and *men of every language* fell down and worshiped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

Worship (to fall down in adoration)—God has placed so much in the make-up of mankind—sense of eternity and desire to worship!

But He gives to everyone the free will to choose who or what they are going to worship.

Religion always emphasizes the external—overt—
while Christianity always emphasizes what is going on in the Soul.

Before we move on, let's take a look at the Arrogance of Nebuchadnezzar

- 1 He is completely absorbed with himself. it is all about him it was his dream-now his image, his demands, his control.
- 2 Do not miss one important aspect of this man—he is a violent blood thirsty monarch. Remember he was ready to slaughter his entire staff if they could not tell him his dream and interpret it for him.
- 3 Now he is ready to kill by burning anyone who does not bow to his golden image
- 4 Nebuchadnezzar does not give the people he rules over free choice, he demands what they will worship—he desires to control the free choice of man....much like what is happening in our own country where the government thinks it knows what is better for people and sets out to control people. Freedom involves the freedom to make the wrong decisions.

Accusations brought against the three teenagers verses 8-12

⁸” For this reason at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and brought charges against the Jews.

Who were the Chaldeans? Special class of astrologers –priest, all of pure Chaldean blood dating back to tower of Babel; First Religion was based on Astrology –no redeeming factor in astrology-based on Satanic origin—demon gods were worshiped —gods behind all this worship.

Here is gratitude for you...they would not even be alive if it were not for Daniel and his 3 friends—jealousy! Anger! and note certain Chaldeans they were not all this way, but there were those who were jealous –resentful;

Why were they angry and resentful?

- 1 Because their religious hold on the king had been not only challenged but broken—he no longer considered them the elite; their religion; idolatrous gods were revealed as false and they no longer had that prestigious place before Nebuchadnezzar; **battle between False demonic Religion and True God, much like today Religion does not like competition –(Muslims—kill Jews and Christians...Hindus etc.)**

Religion hates competition and must control the people while on the other hand,
Christianity—Grace allows man to make his own decision concerning JESUS CHRIST

- 2 **They resented the fact that four of the highest positions in the entire nation of Babylon had been given to these Jews who were hostages from a foreign land. They resented it, they were jealous of them, and now was an opportunity to get rid of them.**
- 3 **Jealousy: destruction of the soul and relationships; it is one of the most vicious of Mental Attitude Sins. Satan rebelled against God out of jealousy; Cain murdered his brother Abel out of jealousy;**

and here these men seek to have these 3 brilliant men executed out of jealousy

There were those who were grateful! and who believed in the God of Daniel. But religion tries to get rid of completion in the most horrible of ways... note here—they want these Jews killed all through Times of the Gentiles there has always been those who seek to kill the Jews... Esther... Spain... Nazis... and throughout the world today—Supernatural hatred of the Jews—by Satan

⁸” For this reason at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and brought charges against the Jews. “

We'll continue here next Sunday Morning and discuss the “Charges Against the Jews”