

Daniel Lesson 4; From Furnace to Palace

The Study of Daniel Chapter 3

Dan 3, Rev. 13:11–18, Exod. 20:3–6, Deut. 6:4, 1 Cor. 15:12–26, Heb 11.

Memory Verse

Daniel 3:17 (NKJV) ...Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.

The Golden Image

Daniel 3:1 (NKJV) Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

Exodus 30:1–2 (NKJV) “You shall make an altar to burn incense on; you shall make it of acacia wood. ²A cubit shall be its length and a cubit its width—it shall be square—and two cubits shall be its height. 6x6x6

It is about fifteen times the ordinary stature of a man.

Isaiah 40:19 The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.

Habakkuk 2:19 (NKJV) Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Awake!’ To silent stone, ‘Arise! It shall teach!’ Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, Yet in it there is no breath at all.

Why? He was the head of gold and was haunted that he was to be followed by another kingdom.

The wise men of his realm, taking advantage of this and of his return to idolatry, proposed that he make an image similar to the one seen in his dream, and set it up where all might behold the head of gold, which had been interpreted as representing his kingdom. Pleased with the flattering suggestion, he determined to carry it out, and to go even farther. Instead of reproducing the image as he had seen it, he would excel the original. His image should not deteriorate in value from the head to the feet, but should be entirely of gold--symbolic throughout of Babylon as an eternal, indestructible, all-powerful kingdom, which should break in pieces all other kingdoms and stand forever. {PK 504.2}

He invites the rich and powerful

***Luke 14:13** (NKJV) *But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind.*

If he could persuade leaders to help him inaugurate his new religion, the rest of the people would follow.

- Many of them took long and expensive journeys to be there.

The Call to Worship

Exodus 20:4–6 (NKJV) “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

Daniel 3:8–12 (NKJV) Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews. ⁹They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image; ¹¹and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. ¹²There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.” **Where was Daniel?**

Revelation 13:14–17 (NKJV) And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. ¹⁵He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,

Babylonian music and false worship? The wrong kind of music can lead you into the wrong kind of worship. Pentecostal experience.

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego could have tied their shoes. The music to charm and the fire to terrify them, like heaven and hell.

The Test of Fire

Daniel 3:8 Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews. (Some who could not translate the king’s dream.)

Daniel 3:15 (NKJV) Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. **And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”**

The powerful people, the music and the fire had no effect on them.

Daniel 3:16–18 *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

Daniel 3:13 (NKJV) *Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.*

Daniel 3:19 *Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. They are on the king’s payroll. He had been feeding and housing them.*

Daniel 3:22 (NKJV) *Therefore, because the king’s command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. Egyptian soldiers drowned, conspirators eaten by lions. Haman hanged on gallows he built.*

Brush fire Covelo burnt eyebrows

***Isaiah 43:2–3** (NKJV) *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;*

Fiery trials burn our shackles

The Fourth Man

Daniel 3:24–25 (NKJV) *Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” “Look!” he answered, “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 the Son of God.” **Moses and the bush that would not burn.***

“But the Lord did not forget His own. As His witnesses were cast into the furnace, the Saviour revealed Himself to them in person, and together they walked in the midst of the fire. In the presence of the Lord of heat and cold, the flames lost their power to consume.”—P&K , pp. 508, 509.

We need the experience of Shadrack and his friends.

Isaiah 33:14–15 (NKJV) ... *“Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?” He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, He who despises the gain of oppressions, Who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, Who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, And shuts his eyes from seeing evil:*

2 Peter 3:10 (NKJV) *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*

Daniel 3:28–29 (NKJV) *Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this.”*

The testimony of their wonderful deliverance was carried to many countries by the representatives of the different nations that had been invited by Nebuchadnezzar to the dedication. Through the faithfulness of His children, God was glorified in all the earth.

The Secret of Such a Faith

Hebrews 11:32–35 (NKJV) *And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: ³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.*

There faithfulness and little tests such as diet, chapter 1, and regular devotions, chapter 6 are keys to their strong faith.

If we would pass the “big test” at the end, we must be faithful in the daily little tests.

God’s people are going to face a similar test at the end of time. The anger and fury of the Dragon will be directed against those who keep the commandments of God instead of the commandments of men.

Acts 5:29 (NKJV) *But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men.*