

DANIEL 3: Fiery Furnace

Let us take a look now and start with the dream of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2 so to better understand what Daniel 3 is talking about....

Daniel 2:31-34, “Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness [was] excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof [was] terrible. This image's head [was] of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet [that were] of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.”

So, the king had a dream of an image. This image was a prophetic dream revealing much, which Daniel interpreted it perfectly to the king when others could not. After all that had taken place, where the king saw the Lord's hand moved in what Daniel was able to do in revealing the dream and the interpretation thereof, the king still purposed in his heart that his kingdom would not fall to any other and he will set up a statue of pure gold to show his supposed strength, completely not realizing that the kingdom of God is above all. As we all know in our very lives that after a period of time goes by, Satan works in the mind and sows doubt and then we forget just as Nebuchadnezzar did. So he was lifted up in pride again as Satan loves to get people to do this and wanted to make a statement that he was the king of Babylon and his kingdom will live forever.

Daniel 3:1, “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.”

King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue ninety feet tall and nine feet wide. **So, what did the king of Babylon do next?**

Daniel 3:2-3, “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. 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.”

Nothing has changed under the sun. Satan continues to do the same thing over and over again. How many times has something like this happened in the world where they will do such things

as this verse says? It is to mock the God of heaven and earth, but what does the Word of God say?

Galatians 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." So...

What were the people supposed to do to the image that Nebuchadnezzar built?

Daniel 3:4-5, "Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, [That] at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:"

So they were all told to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up. This reminds me of what the Catholics do here in the Philippines. We will be walking around in the public places and each day, at a certain time of the day, maybe three times a day or so, they all pause as the speakers will play a mother Mary prayer, music and such like or something. Everyone will stop shopping and pay homage to what the Pope's countries have set up. We continue to shop and do our thing. Soon, this will be for the Sunday worship Idol. And so, what would happen next to those who would not worship the image?

Daniel 3:6, "And whoso falleth not down and worshipping shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."

They would be cast into the fire. They would be put to death. So a death decree was imposed, just like it will be for us very soon, but instead of man doing it, it will be Satan himself at his appearing, but then the dream of Nebuchadnezzar will be at a complete fulfillment with the rock that was not cut out with man's hands will destroy the image of Sunday worship and all that Babylon has set up, and the everlasting kingdom will reign forever and ever. So, after the image was standing, and all were called from far and wide distances to come look at the image and then was told that if anyone does not pay homage, they would be killed, what happened?

What did all the people do after they heard this?

Daniel 3:7, "Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music, all the people, the nations, and the languages, **fell down [and] worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.**"

So, they all fell down [and] worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up, and of course, the 3 Hebrew friends of Daniel who were there in that province did not. So then...

What was the Chaldeans' next move towards the 3 Hebrew associates of Daniel who were set over the affairs over some province of Babylon?

Daniel 3:8, "Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews."

It was these men who had accused the Hebrews who had actually been saved from death by Daniel's appeal before when all the wise men of Babylon and such were called to be put to death at the orders of the king for not being able to interpret the king's dream. So these wise men of Babylon had lost their position to these faithful Hebrews and were envious of the them as any non-believer worldly person would do and feel like, and so by these Chaldeans' doings, their fruits proclaimed they wanted to hurt the Hebrews' influence that they had on the king and this is why they ran to the king of Babylon to bring charges against these three friends of Daniel who loved Jesus.

Daniel 3:9, "They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever."

Daniel 3:10, "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 music, shall fall down and worship the golden image:"

Daniel 3:11, "And whoso falleth not down and worshipping, [that] he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."

Daniel 3:12, "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."

And, so, what was...

What was king Nebuchadnezzar's action towards what he heard?

Daniel 3:13, "Then Nebuchadnezzar in [his] rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king."

Then Nebuchadnezzar said the following...

Daniel 3:14, "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?"

And as the three Hebrews stood before the king of Babylon in their moral courage, moral dignity, pure innocence, and purity of such love for God, Nebuchadnezzar was convinced that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were superior to the men in his kingdom. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had always been faithful, just as their God is in heaven in the

performance of all their duties, where they were reflecting the Great Divine of Heaven and Earth and so, the king decided that he would give them some grace, and give them a second trial.

Daniel 3:15, “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 music, 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?”

What was Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s response to all this?

Daniel 3:16, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we [are] not careful to answer thee in this matter.”

Let us learn from this: they proclaimed to the king of Babylon "we [are] not careful to answer thee in this matter". Why are they not careful? They are grounded in the truth with God and they will absolutely not bow and serve other Gods. This is the same way we have got to get before the king of Babylon the pope setup his Sunday Worship in the plain of the earth to be worshipped. And our answer is to be "we [are] not careful to answer thee in this matter"and our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from them if it be his will or if it be his will that we glorify Him in them beheading us, so be it to the King of kings and in all His glory.

So, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego confidently exclaimed...

Daniel 3:17, “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.”

Note: They were full of such faith and confidence.

They also went on to boldly proclaim before the king and others...

Daniel 3:18, “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.”

They then said that even if we are to die and knowing that we may die, we will still not worship your golden image. That is the power of God working through these three friends of Daniel, the servants of the Most High God.

Why did they refuse to worship the golden image?

Exodus 20:3-6, Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or 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: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon

the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”

God’s people know the commandment not to bow down and worship nor serve other gods. So...

When Daniel’s three friends refused to worship, what did the king do to them?

Daniel 3:19-23, “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. 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. 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. Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.”

How true it is when the Lord says...

1 Chronicles 16:22, “...Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.”

Those three men were killed for what they did to God’s anointed ones.

And so, the prophesied statement of Isaiah once again came to pass, but for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in where we read **Isaiah 43:2**, “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

What did the king notice in the midst of the fire?

Daniel 3:24-25, “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. 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.”

How did this heathen king of Babylon know what the Son of God looked like? Look into the life of Daniel and his three Hebrew friends. They were steadfast in the principles of God. They had been trained in the school of Christ before they were sent off to Babylon as Christ representatives. They were full of love and had the power of God with them daily for their loyal to Him that sits on the Throne of Heaven. These four Hebrew captives had filled positions of

trust in the courts of Babylon. They were tempted by others to be disloyal to God, in order to gain advantages, but they were faithful in all their doings. In the life and character, they represented the truth as Christ had taught them through their obedient parents, and when Daniel's 3 associates were asked to give a reason for their course of action, in why they would not bow to the image, they gave it without hesitation. They plainly and in simplicity presented to all the living principles of the truth that bore the mark of God, and it was through this method that Babylon was made acquainted with the Source of their strength. It was in presentation of these four faithful soldiers of Christ that even Nebuchadnezzar became acquainted with the form of the Son of God. This is why we need to have a life sermon that speaks for God to all that are around us. However you represent God to others is how much you are acquainted yourself with God. Your actions speak about your own personal relationship with God. If your fruits of your doing do not speak so well for God in your tones, in your actions, in your conversations, in your demeanor, in your movements, in your statements, in your expressions, or what have you, then that will speak of your walk and relationship with God. If you're not representing Him as you should, in the way that you should, in all things, then we need to closely examine our own very lives and fix what it is we are lacking and stop misrepresenting God especially in our own homes, to our wives, to our children, to everyone. This is not a joke. God will neither be mocked nor allow anyone's misbehavior to proceed any further or any longer..Again...time is running out...time to change or be replaced...the shaking will go on. We have lives to help before the doors to the ark are shut permanently.

So let us take a look at our Example found in Christ that Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego followed. Let us do a comparative to that will help us learn from and see what we need to do and apply in our very lives.

JESUS The Example	DANIEL
<p>John 3:25, "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."</p> <p>John 15:10, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."</p>	<p>&</p> <p>THREE FRIENDS</p>
<p>Act of worship:</p> <p>Matthew 4:8-10, "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto</p>	<p>Daniel 3:18, "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."</p>

<p>him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."</p>	
<p>Healthy diet over the evil foods of flesh: Isaiah 7:15, "Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good."</p>	<p>Daniel 1:8, "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." Daniel 1:12, "Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink."</p>
<p>Love our neighbor: Leviticus 19:18, "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I [am] the LORD."</p>	<p>Daniel 2:24, "Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise [men] of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise [men] of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will show unto the king the interpretation."</p>
<p>Prayer life: Matthew 26:36, "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder."</p>	<p>Daniel 6:10, "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."</p>
<p>Promised Blessing for being loyal: Matthew 25:23, "His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."</p>	<p>The Fulfillment: Daniel 2:48-49, "Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise [men] of Babylon. Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel [sat] in the gate of the king."</p>

Amen...And so, the Lord did not forget His own in the midst of their trials and persecutions. 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, the heat of the flames lost their power to destroy the body of these faithful servants. God protected them. And at this time, the king of Babylon saw what was occurring. From his earthly royal seat, the king of Babylon was expecting to see Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego burning, But his feelings suddenly changed, just like any of us would have done if we saw the men that were cast into the fire, not burning and then to see another man standing in the midst with them not being hurt. Amazing!! All the people standing near saw his face grew pale as would anyone who just saw what the king saw. In alarm to all this, the king, turning to his lords, asked, "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." Then with deep humiliation and remorse, the king stood as near to the furnace as possible, and called forth, "Ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither.

Daniel 3:26, "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."

Were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego hurt?

Daniel 3:27, "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."

The God of Daniel and his three friends has put the king in his place. And the fact that these three Hebrew friends of Daniel who had come forth from the flames of death, having not one ounce of their skin nor clothing singed, was beyond any understanding the wise men could ever imagine. Oh, how the God of heaven had revealed Himself that day to Babylon. Who knows how many people were converted to our Lord that day in seeing His hand moved before their eyes? You can just imagine the tidings this carried to all the other nations by the representatives of each nation. God was once again glorified, not by just His doing but by the unchangeable faith and cooperation Daniel and his three associates held fast to Jesus.

Let this be a lesson for each of us, dear family, because history will repeat. The false religion of idol worship is here as it was in Daniel's days. In the first day of the week, Sunday worship, which is a common workday, exulted by Babylon and her king the Pope, will soon have their day enforced upon the world. All nations and tongues and peoples will be commanded to worship this false Sabbath idol.

This same trial and persecution will come to all who, in obedience to the Word of God, refuse to worship this false Sabbath idol. Know this, the people of the world who have to be forced, is the

last resort for every false religion because Jesus does not force. He reveals Himself in many ways, in many different ways.

At first, all false religions will try to attract people with beauty, just like Satan did in the Garden of Eden with the forbidden fruit, so will the king of Babylon in the end, the pope, will play music to entice the hearers and perform a show to lure more people into the deception. And if the attractions don't work, if the inventions of entertainment made by men that are inspired by Satan, fail to make people worship something other than God, the flames of the furnace, or the end of the guillotine were and are ready to consume. This day is coming for all of us. Most of us standing here this day are going to see it come to pass. The Papacy has exercised her power to attract others to obey her, and the Mother of harlots, the abominations of the earth will continue to do so. We need to put on Christ and have the same spirit that was manifested by God's servants that are recorded in the book of Daniel and most of all the perfect example that is found in Christ...They may throw us to the beast to be fed upon to try and make us turn away from God, but we won't. They may burn us in the flames at the stake to try and make us recant, but we won't. They may try and cast us into prisons to have us turn away from God, but we won't. They may try to banish us to lonely Islands or burn us in a pot to try and force us to convert to falsehoods, BUT WE WON'T if we love and obey God and walk with Him. He is the source of our strength and power and without Him we CANNOT stand. We must be unwavering and steadfast for the truth and keep our eyes ever before the throne of God to glorify Him and not self.

John 14:15, "If ye love me," says the Saviour, "keep my commandments." **John 14:21**, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." Just as Christ did for the three Hebrew friends of Daniel, Christ will do for us if we would but love God. Let us not doubt for one moment.

John 14:26, "But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

Remember this verse and take it with you in the hour of testing that stands before us, when most of us who stand here this day will be cast into prison and tested and tried and will suffer much, glorify God and keep this verse ever before you,

John 14:23, "If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

And so, when Jesus came to the rescue of His three loyal soldiers, which was seen by all that were around, what did the king of Babylon say?

Daniel 3:28, “[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.”

Praise God. Can you imagine the conversations that had been in that hour? This was needed in the time of Babylon and it was masterfully handled by God and His loyal children. What a blessed work God can accomplish to those that will yield EVERYTHING to Him. And so, therefore, the king made a decree...

Daniel 3:29, “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.”

AMEN for the words spoken by the servant of God the king Nebuchadnezzar. And then the Lord blessed the three Hebrew men once again for their steadfast allegiance to Elohim.

Daniel 3:30, “Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.”

Those of us who will endure till the end for the Lord will receive the blessing of heaven and what little you rule over now in this world, where God has placed us to glorify Him, in revealing to the lost His unchangeable love to those who love Him and reflecting His character to all so that they may see HIS endless bountiful love, will receive the gift of heaven and the reward.

Matthew 25:21, “His lord said unto him, Well done, [thou] good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”

We have a heaven to gain and a hell to shun...Let us march to the city of God as we are called to do and not look back. We need to work, work, and work for the lost or we will go back ourselves and be lost for not helping others as Christ has done for each of us. Let us learn from the life of Daniel and his three friends and apply it. Sabbath Blessings and God bless.