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Daniel 3

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Daniel 3.

Topics.

1. King Nebuchadnezzar makes an image of gold.
2. Everyone is commanded to worship the golden image.
3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do not worship the golden image.
4. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into the fiery furnace.
5. Four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire.
6. Nebuchadnezzar promotes Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
7. No other God, like the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

NOTE: for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

DANIEL 3:1-3

King Nebuchadnezzar makes an image of Gold.

- **Daniel 3:1-3:** King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. ²Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Nebuchadnezzar has an image of gold made six cubits high and six cubits wide.

Ponder for a moment: this is no small image of gold a cubit is about eighteen inches which means the image is about nine feet high and nine feet wide set up on a plain in Babylon so it would be visible from great distances for all to see. King Nebuchadnezzar gathered all the men of authority and influence to the dedication of this massive golden image and they all came and stood before it.

DANIEL 3:4-7

Everyone is Commanded to Worship the Golden Image.

- **Daniel 3:4-7:** And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace." ⁷Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, 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.

This is forced worship at its worst, whoever did not bow down and worship this monstrous golden image would be burned alive. Nebuchadnezzar commanded absolute control of the people he had power over. This is in absolute contrast to God's nature God invites mankind to worship Him He

showed His love by sacrificing His Son. Jesus is in a sense God's invitation card to join God's family. The LORD says whoever chooses to accept His Son will be saved. God never forces His will on anyone, but invites them to come to Him. Throughout the Bible we are told that the voice of the Bride and the Bridegroom is, "come" both the Lord and those who belong to him (unlike Nebuchadnezzar) are constantly inviting others to join His eternal family. Whoever comes to God comes not by compulsion or force but willing from their own free choice. God invites people to come to Him, He does not threaten or command them to respond. God's salvation through Christ comes through a response to love.

DANIEL 3:8-15

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do not Worship the Image.

- **Daniel 3:8-15:** Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. ⁹They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. ¹¹And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. ¹²There are certain Jews whom you have appointed 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 that you have set up." ¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. ¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? ¹⁵Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

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This is a manifestation of Nebuchadnezzar's extreme pride and arrogance, no-one in his kingdom is free to choose what god or faith they will embrace, the king commands they worship his gods or burn.

The message for today is amazing: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are faithful men of God Nebuchadnezzar is a heathen king full of fury threatening to have them burned if they do not worship his gods and bow down to his golden image, yet God is working through Nebuchadnezzar and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. God gave Nebuchadnezzar one of the greatest visions of the Bible and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in their denial to worship other gods, at the risk of their own lives beautifully testify to the commitment they have to their faith and love of God in their hearts. This is a good example of God working though not only His people, but even those who do not acknowledge Him. Sometime as Christians we can be so blinded that we limit God to only being able to work through the visible church or those that belong to the family of God, but God is not limited to using only those who have faith in Him. He is fully able to use any person Christian or not to bring about His purposes for this world and our lives. The king in fury tells Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego if they do not bow down to the image they will be immediately cast into a burning fiery furnace and no god will be able to save them from his power or the furnace.

Ponder for a moment: burning to death would be one of the most painful ways to die, the normal human response to Nebuchadnezzar's demand would be to tremble in fear, yet Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's following answer shows that no matter how powerful a man maybe their faith in God is so strong that it overcomes any fear he tries to put on them.

DANIEL 3:16-18

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's reply to Nebuchadnezzar.

- **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. ¹⁷If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

The power to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego's faith is that they have already purposed in their hearts that they are prepared to die and even suffer for the God they trust their eternal future to.

This is faith at its best: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego's tell the king they don't even have to think about their answer to him, in today's language for them it's a no-brainer, they remain faithful to God, regardless. They don't try to talk their way out of the impending fire or explain to Nebuchadnezzar their reasons, they simply tell him that their God is well able to deliver them from the fiery furnace, but if he chooses not to that is OK, either way they will not bow down to Babylon's gods or Nebuchadnezzar's golden image.

DANIEL 3:19-23

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego thrown into the Fiery Furnace.

- **Daniel 3:19-23:** Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. ²²Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

Imagine the heat, this furnace is so hot, that it actually burns the guards as they are throwing Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into its flaming fire.

DANIEL 3:24-25

Four Men Unbound, Walking in the Midst of the Fire.

- **Daniel 3:24-25:** Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." ²⁵He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

Imagine the amazement and wonder, three humans taking a stroll through a fire which was giving of heat so hot it burned the Babylonian guards as soon as they got near the furnace, King Nebuchadnezzar would be absolutely stunned.

The appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods (v25): some in the Christian faith use this verse to support the teaching that Jesus pre-existed, they say the one like the son of god was Jesus, but, Nebuchadnezzar says God sent his angel (v28) to deliver Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The one like the son of God was not the Lord Jesus Christ, but it could have been the Angel of the LORD, one of God's many angels, Gabriel or Michael who are both mentioned in the book of Daniel (Dan. 8:16) (Dan. 9:21) (Dan. 10:13) (Dan. 10:21) (Dan. 12:1).

For greater detail see the title:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity)
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

DANIEL 3:26-27

Nebuchadnezzar promotes Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

- **Daniel 3:26-27:** Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them.

God supernaturally protected and saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

NOTICE: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faith were not a faith of claiming God's deliverance; they accepted God's will in their lives either way. If God blessed them or if God allowed them to suffer it made no dent in their faith, they remained faithful either way. Their faith in God was not dependent on the good or bad circumstances of their life.

DANIEL 3:28-30

No other God like the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

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- **Daniel 3:28-30:** Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way." ³⁰Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar is left with only one declaration: "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego."

NOTICE: Nebuchadnezzar said Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego trusted their God and rather than obey the king's command, were prepared to yield up their bodies to death rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.

Why did God give Nebuchadnezzar the Dream? We might wonder why God would give a dream that encompasses the world's history as it affects Israel from the time of Babylon right through to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory to a heathen king who worshipped other gods rather than giving the dream to Daniel or one of his three companions who were all extremely faithful to God even unto death.

The LORD through Isaiah says:

- For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:7-12).

The following list gives eight reasons why God may have given a heathen king who worshipped other gods one of the greatest visions of the Bible.

1. Through the amazing miraculous events the most powerful king of that time had no other choice but to declare that there is no other god that can save as the LORD God.
2. Nebuchadnezzar the greatest king of his era now made a decree that protected everyone who believed in the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
3. The king would have had this decree of protection taken throughout his kingdom.
4. The story of the fiery furnace would have spread throughout the known world.
5. Nebuchadnezzar had within the royal house the best scribes in the known world of that time who would have meticulously recorded the king's dream and every event associated with it.
6. The scribes would have treasured and kept the scrolls so that God's prophetic message contained within the kings dream was available for future generations.
7. Nebuchadnezzar would have had the safest environment built in the royal house for scrolls to be stored and preserved in.
8. God's faithful men were promoted in the kingdom of Babylon.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.