

The Book of Daniel Syllabus

Chapter 3

Dan. 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.*

Dan. 3:2 *Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the satraps, the deputies, and the governors, 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. (ASV)*

The “head of gold” made an image of gold.

According to Bullinger and Jewish sources its dimensions reveal that it was impossible to stand.

...*Rabbi Ravai*, They put it up and it kept falling, until they brought all the gold of Jerusalem and poured a base for its feet, to fulfill the prophecy “*Their gold will be for an object of disgust*” (Ezekiel 7:19).

Representatives from the vast Babylonian Empire were invited to “the dedication of the image.”

They arrived at the dedication and were told to face the image.

The representatives of the nations and peoples obeyed the instructions they were given, thereby representing their nations as submitting to Babylon and King Nebuchadnezzar.

Dan. 3:8 ¶ *Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and brought accusation against the Jews.*

Dan. 3:9 *They answered and said to Nebuchadnezzar the king, O king, live for ever.*

Dan. 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;*

Dan. 3:11 *and whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.*

Dan. 3:12 *There are certain Jews whom thou hast appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. (ASV)*

Inspired by Satan, the accuser. Jealousy. Perhaps what we would call Anti-Semitic.

According to Jewish history, Daniel was not in Babylon at the time.

Nebuchadnezzar's Rage and Fury

Dan. 3:13 ¶ *Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Then they brought these men before the king.*

Dan. 3:14 *Nebuchadnezzar answered and said unto them, Is it of purpose, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, that ye serve not my god, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?*

Dan. 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? (ASV)*

The Confession of the Three Hebrews

Daniel 3:16-18, ArtScrolls Translation

16 *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king: 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not concerned to reply to you about this matter.*

17 *Behold there is our God Whom we worship — He is able to save us; from the flaming kiln and from your hand, O king, He can rescue.*

18 *But if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not worship your god, and before the golden image you set up we shall not prostrate ourselves.'*

Into the Fiery Furnace

Dan. 3:19 ¶ *Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed [his face was contorted] against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace seven times more than it was wont to be heated.*

Dan. 3:20 *And he commanded certain mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

Dan. 3:21 *Then these men were bound in their hosen, their tunics, and their mantles, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.*

Dan. 3:22 *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 Abed-nego.*

Dan. 3:23 *And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. (ASV)*

Considering the terrible persecution the Jewish people have known throughout the centuries, I was touched to note something they learned from this passage and put to use through the years of exile:

ArtScrolls Commentary Verse 21

They went to the king arrayed in their official vestments. Though they knew that sentence was to be pronounced upon themselves, they did not change their clothing in order not to demean their noble standing. From this our Sages learn: Even in the time of danger a person should not change from [the garb of] his high office (Sanhedrin 92). By not appearing afraid and confused, he will shame his enemies (*Rashi, ibid.*).

...Chananyah and his companions did not don sackcloth when they went to the king, rather they went arrayed in their best (*Toaliyos*).

Four Men Walking

Dan. 3:24 *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.*

Dan. 3:25 *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.*

Dan. 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.*

Dan. 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. (KJV)*

The Fourth Man Oral Roberts

Excerpts from what might be his most requested sermon.

These three young men came face-to-face with this inescapable fact of life: *True salvation will be tried!* Whether God's people live in Jerusalem, Babylon, or Tulsa, Oklahoma, at some point we will have the opportunity to prove what we are made of. We will face some kind of ultimatum as these three young men faced—*either bow or burn...*

When Nebuchadnezzar said, "And what god can deliver you out of my hands then?" ...

Without a moment's hesitation, without the flicker of an eyelash, the three young men declared, "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us!"

Filled with fury, Nebuchadnezzar ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual. But when his soldiers threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the fiery furnace, the Fourth Man hurled Himself through space and in a moment's time was beside them, walking through the burning fiery flames with them!

And by the time the door was shut, the Lord had ripped off their bonds and clothed them with divine protection.

When the king looked into the furnace, he shouted in amazement, "Didn't we cast three men into the furnace? I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound, unhurt, and untouched by the flames! And the form of the Fourth Man is like the Son of God."

The Fourth Man had come forth in the urgency of the three Hebrew children's needs, subduing the crackling flames, robbing the fire of its violence, and delivering them.

Nebuchadnezzar shouted into the flames, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, come forth!" The three young men stepped out of the furnace, rejoicing and praising God, without even the smell of the fire upon them!

Upon witnessing this mighty miracle, Nebuchadnezzar...declared, "There is no other God that can deliver after this sort!"

And this truth is as genuine and eternal today as it has ever been. **There is no other God who can deliver like our God can!**

...It's very easy to meet this Fourth Man. His name is Jesus...Once you receive Him, He'll never leave you or forsake you...He'll go with you into the storms of life, and He can bring you safely to the other side.