

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: *Daniel* – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Daniel 3:1-30 – a one-world religion is established by the king of Babylon

Today's Message:
"A Fiery Trial"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned of the king of Babylon's dream. And there was no person on planet earth that could know and interpret it according to *the wise men of Babylon*. Yet, the God of heaven revealed to Daniel exactly what he had shown the king in his dream. Today, we will see a historical event that is clearly a **PREVIEW** of what is soon coming to planet earth. After our God shocked the king with Daniel's exact, detailed account and interpretation, we will see the king's **PRIDE** set in. One of the challenges today may be your familiarity with the Bible story. Ask God to teach you of greater things and to change you as you peer into the future and consider your own **FAITH**. This is God's message to you today...

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text Daniel 3:1-30

#1. *The Golden Image* – the king decided to set up a colossal image of **HIMSELF**.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR THE KING MADE AN IMAGE OF GOLD

- ✓ God had previously revealed to the king the future in advance.
 - In **Daniel 2:37-38**, God told him that He had made him the world **RULER**.
 - In **Daniel 2:39**, God told him through Daniel, "*Thou art the head of gold.*"
 - In **Daniel 4:37**, the king will say, "*Those that walk in pride he is able to abase.*"
 - **James 4:6** says, "*God resisteth the PROUD, but giveth grace unto the HUMBLE.*"
- ✓ Nebuchadnezzar's decision aligns him perfectly with the coming **ANTICHRIST**.
 - In **Zechariah 11:17**, God says, "*Woe to the IDOL shepherd...*"
 - In **Daniel 9:27** and **12:11**, he will "*SET UP*" the "*abomination of desolation*"
 - In **Matthew 24:15**, Jesus quoted Daniel, "*When ye therefore shall SEE...*"
 - In **Revelation 13:15**, an IMAGE of ANTICHRIST will be *made* and *worshipped!*

#2. *The Universal Religion* – the king established a one-world **RELIGION**.

THEN NEBUCHADNEZZAR THE KING SENT TO GATHER TOGETHER... ALL THE RULERS

- ✓ A universal religion was established: ALL people **must WORSHIP** the king's image!

2023 VISION: *Hold the Fort!*
Making disciples and caring for souls!

Commandment #2
 "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images...
Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them..."
 Exodus 20:3-6

- In **3:2-3**, the king had a *dedication* of THE IMAGE with all the ELITE leaders.
- In **3:4**, an "HERALD cried aloud, To you it is **commanded**, O people, nations..."
- In **3:5-7**, the RULES of the RELIGION were dictated – **worship the image** or **DIE**.
- The execution procedure of choice was a BURNING FIERY FURNACE!
- ✓ The Problem: Jews were COMMANDED BY GOD not to BOW DOWN TO any image.
 - In **3:8-12**, the Bible says, "Certain Chaldeans... **accused the Jews...**"
 - In **3:13-15**, the king clearly gave the 3 friends an opportunity to **COMPLY**.
 - In **Acts 5:29**, Peter/apostles said, "We ought to **obey God** rather than men."
- ✓ Things to consider...
 - Clearly, the WISE men of Babylon had SET UP God's people to FAIL.
 - Clearly, the RAGE is being directed at God's people OBEYING GOD **FIRST**.
 - Clearly, this was a world-wide STRATEGY to EXPOSE and KILL God's people.

#3. The Fiery Trial – Daniel's 3 friends were tried by FIRE, and God got the glory!

HISTORICAL APPLICATION

- ✓ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not AFRAID to answer the king!
 - In **3:17**, they said, "**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.**"
 - In **3:18**, they said, "**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.**"
 - The king turned up the heat – 7 times – the backdraft killed his best soldiers!
 - They were cast into the fire, and Jesus Christ joined them and delivered them!
 - The king (*and all witnesses*) was able to **SEE** the **4th** man – the Lord Jesus Christ!

There is perhaps no greater opportunity for the world to see Jesus Christ than when He stands with His suffering servants!

PROPHETIC APPLICATION

- ✓ These 3 friends are a type of the **JEW**s in the Tribulation – who will be delivered.
 - In **1 Peter 4:12**, it says, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning **THE FIERY TRIAL which is TO TRY YOU**, as though some strange thing happened unto you."
 - In **Revelation 7:3-4**, 144,000 Jewish witnesses are SEALED and protected.

DEVOTIONAL APPLICATION

- ✓ These friends' **STORY (and fiery trial)** is your *practical* **HELP** from the Lord today!
 - The *fiery trials* of life WILL come; God's promise is that He will never leave you!
 - For some, it will be family, relationships, school, job, money, security, or **HEALTH**.
 - For some, it will literally be religious persecution, or threats of pain or **DEATH**.
 - If you are SAVED, it will give you and the world an opportunity to SEE **JESUS!**
 - If you are LOST, it will be designed to lead you to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

What if you were commanded by the Government to **DISOBEY** the words of our Lord Jesus Christ or lose your life and freedoms today? What would you do?

What if before you are raptured out of here, you are forced to take a stand for Jesus Christ or lose everything you value in this short life?

Your life is a letter and **STORY** known and read of all people. What are they reading today?