



Courage for a world that challenges our faith

MEN'S MORNING STUDY

BRAVE *by* FAITH

A STUDY OF DANIEL 1-7

THURSDAYS, JUNE 4-AUG 6 @ 6:30-7:30A
THE LOOP CAMPUS (GARDEN RM)
LEARN MORE AT HOUSTONSFIRST.ORG

BAND OF
BROTHERS
MEN'S MINISTRY

HFBCMen.org

DANIEL 3: TRUST YOUR FIRE GEAR

Personal Altars & Golden Images

"But 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." - Daniel 3:18

1. Where are you setting up golden images?

Have you built an altar to your performance as a father or husband, your status in your fellowship, or your faith habits?

2. What do you worship?

Does your emotional stability depend on family approval, social standing in fellowship, or your own spiritual track record rather than God?

3. Who do you put your trust in?

When a crisis hits your family, your fellowship, or your faith, do you rely on your own control, or do you trust God's promises?

COMMITMENT CHALLENGE

Take a few minutes of silent reflection to write down your answers. Share one specific area with your small group where you need to tear down a personal golden image this week to fully rely on God's provision.

“This week, I will stop putting my ultimate trust in _____ and re-focus my worship on God by actively _____.”

TRUST YOUR FIRE GEAR

DANIEL 3:1-30 | HFBC MEN'S GROUP

PRESENTED BY RICK PONCE





ENGINEERED TO PROTECT

PERSONAL PROTECTION GEAR

Fire gear is specifically designed to shield a person from extreme heat. However, it only works if you put it on ***properly*** before you go into the fire.

The thermal integrity of the gear holds up.

Stands firm in the fire.

Reliance on the maker's design.

FIREFIGHTER PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PPE)



The King's Golden Image

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits and its width six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent word to assemble the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

3 Then the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces were assembled for the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed: "To you the command is given, O peoples, nations and men of every language,

5 that at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up.

6 "But whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire."

7 Therefore at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshiped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

THE 100-FOOT CHALLENGE

A TEST OF FAITH AND COURAGE



THE PLAIN OF DURA

Nebuchadnezzar set up an image ninety feet tall..

The ultimate test of spiritual fire gear.

When the symphony played, the entire world bowed. Only three stood tall.



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Worship of the Image Refused

- 1. What made it so difficult to resist bowing down to this specific image?*
- 2. How does their refusal reveal exactly who they put their ultimate trust in?*

Worship of the Image Refused

vv. 16-18

16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter.

17 "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

18 "But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

THE PRESSURE TO CONFORM

The Absolute Command: Worship the king's image or face the furnace.

The Mass Influence: Every nation and language bowed in unison.

The Fiery Threat: Immediate death for those who refused the idol.

Modern Dura: Culture constantly demands we set up "Golden Images."

Modern Day Statues



- SUGAR LAND, Texas (CW39)
 - — It's a symbol of strength, devotion, and selfless service.
- Now one of the tallest statues in United States has been unveiled in Sugarland. It's called the "Statue of Union" and is now standing in full glory! At 90 feet tall this Hindu statue depicts the religious deity "Lord Hanuman" . It is also now the third tallest statue in the united states.

by: Sharron Melton



STATUE SCALE COMPARISONS

Our Lady Of The Rockies

BUTTE, MT

90 FT

This statue of the virgin Mary can be found in Butte, Montana and it weighs 80 tons!

STATUE OF UNION

(HANUMAN)

SUGAR LAND, TX

90 FT

Depicts the Hindu deity Hanuman, representing strength and unity within the community.

CHRIST OF THE OZARKS

EUREKA SPRINGS, AR

65.5 FT

A representation of Jesus Christ, it serves as a religious and cultural landmark in the region.

BUT IF NOT...

"But 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."

— DANIEL
3:18

DIAGNOSTIC HEART CHECK

WHERE?

Where are you setting up golden images in your daily life and routine?

WHAT?

What do you worship?
Does your stability depend on approval or on God?

WHO?

Whom do you trust in a crisis?
Your own control or His active promises?

THREE BIG ALTARS

FAMILY



Performance-based validation as a father or husband.

FAITH



Rigid religious habits that replace living reliance on Christ.

FELLOWSHIP



Social status and standing within the Christian circle.

SUCCESS VS. IDENTITY



A cautionary story of a man who climbed the success ladder, secured a major promotion, but faced the collapse of his marriage. He set up an image of career success that ultimately demanded his family as a sacrifice.

We often turn blessings into images that replace the Giver.

GOD'S POWER AND STRENGTH

v. 28

28 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God.

2026 COMMITMENT PLAN

1

PERSONAL GOAL

THE ACTION PLAN:

"This week, I will stop putting my ultimate trust in _____ and re-focus my worship on God by actively _____."

THE FOURTH MAN

When we refuse to bow to modern images, Jesus
meets us directly in the furnace of life's trials.
He is the ultimate Fire Gear.

QUESTIONS?

TEAR DOWN THE IMAGES. TRUST THE PROMISES.

HFBC Men's Group

Closing in Prayer...

References:

- ❑ <https://cw39.com/video/cw39-statue-of-union-90-ft-hindu-statue-3rd-largest-in-the-u-s/10011540/>
- ❑ <https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/make-image-open-plain-outside-260nw-2623399463.jpg>
- ❑ <https://www.statueofunion.org/about/>
- ❑ <https://youtu.be/1-1fzN3Ax-c?si=FmgEiva2NDlukC6r>