

Exiled Kingdom

TEXT: Daniel 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS



- **Male Mentors Needed:** If you'd like to serve in our city as a mentor to an at-risk middle school boy, please contact Jeff Marshall (252-314-7477).
 - **Fall at the Park/Chili Cook-off:** Sunday, October 14, 4:30pm-6:30pm. See church email or bulletin for more details.
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LEADING OFF...

1. How have you previously understood, or maybe misunderstood, the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?
2. Talk again about what the Kingdom of God truly is. What are some common misunderstandings about the Kingdom of God, and how is it best understood?

BIG IDEA: Kingdom citizens reject idols.

Read Daniel 3:1-3

3. This statue represented the gods of Babylonian culture. What are some gods of our modern-day culture?
4. How do we bow and give our allegiance to these gods?
5. What was the significance of Nebuchadnezzar tying the Babylonians' citizenship and national identity to their religious identity?
6. How is this different from how the Christian should view his citizenship?
7. What are the dangers today of Christians merging their allegiances to a government and the Kingdom of God?

Read Daniel 3:4-7

8. What was the command here, and who was this directed toward?
9. What would you do?

Read Daniel 3:8; 12

10. Why did these men refuse to bow their knee, without compromise?
11. What are the dangers of compartmentalizing our faith? What are some evidences that we do this?
12. We all have idols, or false gods we bow our knees to. What are your idols?
13. How can we easily identify idols in our lives?
14. How can we begin to put to death idols in our lives?
15. These three men stood together. How did they encourage one another?
16. What lesson can we learn from them?
17. What does fear tempt us to do?

Read Daniel 3:19-23

18. Why are these details included here?
19. What does God not deliver these men from?
20. Why do you think He did not deliver them from this?

Read Daniel 3:24-27

21. One of the symbols of judgment and wrath is fire. Who is the fourth man in the fiery furnace?
22. What is the significance of this?
23. Notice Nebuchadnezzar's words. How did his theology quickly change?

WRAPPING UP...Read Daniel 3:28-30

24. How is this so different than what Nebuchadnezzar knew to be true about gods?
25. How does all of this point us to Jesus?
26. In what specific ways does Jesus come to rescue His people?
27. All of us go through the fires of life. What happens when we run to idols of our culture for relief?
28. So, how do we kill idols, and not bow our knees to them?