

# Daniel 3

God Who Knows All

- **Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon**
- Dream of Statue signifying 6 future Kingdom
  1. Babylon Gold
  2. Medo-Persia Silver
  3. Greece Bronze
  4. Rome Iron
  5. Rome AC Iron/Clay
- These 5 Kingdoms represent the **"Time of the Gentiles"** lasting to Jesus second coming
- Not to be confused with **"Fullness of the Gentiles"** when Jesus comes for the church; i.e. Rapture

## Last Kingdom is Jesus Eternal Kingdom

- **Last we saw Nebuchadnezzar he was laying on his face...**

**Daniel 2:46** [After Daniel tells the king his dream]...King Nebuchadnezzar **fell on his face** and did homage to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and fragrant incense. 47 The king answered Daniel and said, "Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery."

- **How much time** between Chapters 2 and 3 debated...
- Nebuchadnezzar's repentance short lived...

## I. Big Head of Gold:

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the **plain of Dura**, in the province of Babylon.

- **King made an image; Gold Statue:** 90 feet high and 9 feet wide

"On the plains of Dura there stands today, a ... mound, about twenty feet high, an exact square of about forty-six feet at the base, resembling the **pedestal of a colossal statue.**" [Heslop] [Archeologists constantly reaffirming biblical record]

**Current Events:** Terrorist in **Nimrud, Northern Iraq** are at this moment 03/10/2015] destroying artifacts in Iraq

- Nebuchadnezzar intentionally makes the whole statue gold
- **Not just the head as in his dream:** God revealed kingdom would eventually end

### **In spite of what God said...My Kingdom will never end?**

- **God's plan will stand...**

2 And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the

dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

- **Dedication of Statue:** Big Wigs invited
  1. Satraps: "Protectors of the Realm"
  2. Governors
  3. Councilors
  4. Treasures
  5. Judges
  6. Magistrates
  7. Officials over Provinces

**...come to the dedication of the image which I made.**

- **Test of Allegiance to Nebuchadnezzar:** Establish never-ending Kingdom
- Every prideful leader thinks their kingdom will not end...but it will!

**Acts 12:21** On an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them. 22 The people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" 23 And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was **eaten by worms and died.**

- **God will not share His glory:**

**Isaiah 42:5** Thus says God the Lord, Who **created** the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it...**8 "I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.**

- Creator God will not share His glory...Neb's time is short
- **Come see the huge statue... of me**

**3** So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

- Stood looking up at this abomination...God looks down

**Psalm 2:4** He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision [contempt].5 [God] shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: 6 "Yet **I have set My King** On My holy hill of Zion." [King of Kings]

- Neb has his day in the sun...

**4 Then a herald cried aloud:** "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall **fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up...**

- Herald cries out the **command of the king of the world!**

## 1. Audience is everybody

- All Peoples
- All Nations
- All Languages

## 2. When you hear playing together the sound of:

- Horn
- Flute
- Harp
- Lyre
- Psaltery

- Boys remember music they listened to in Israel? Babylonians would taunt them:

**137:1** By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept When we remembered Zion.<sup>2</sup> We hung our harps Upon the willows in the midst of it.<sup>3</sup> For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, And those who plundered us requested mirth, Saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

**1 Chronicles 25:1** [500 years previous]...David...separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals.

- **Babylon:** Similar instruments to what boys worshiped to
- Similar instruments but **Different Spirit behind the music...**

**Acts 16:16** Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "**These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.**"

- Sounds good. Something God's people would say themselves. Familiar
- **Paul discerns:** Sounds good but something is wrong...

<sup>18</sup> And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

## ▪ **Same words...different Spirit**

- Music: Power to move emotions, cave to pressure, conform to world, make us do things we would not have done
- Worldly Music has an agenda as the fortune-teller. To offer a **substitute for Truth**
- **Music should cause us to worship the True God...not**
  1. Drive 80mph
  2. Throw fists up in air at concerts/sign of devil
  3. Agree w/wickedness of performer [Katie Perry; woman who rides the beast?]
  4. Make decisions based on emotions song brings on
  5. Bring back memories better off forgotten
  6. Numb our minds to things of God
  7. Guide us to the broad path...everybody's doing it/peer pressure

**6 ...and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately**

into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.”

- **Disobey:** Cast **immediately** into the “burning, fiery furnace”
- Power of the this music/threat of death would have everyone bowing...almost

7 So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

- **So;** i.e. *because of the consequences of disobedience* they obeyed evil
- **The world fell down and worshiped**

**Revelation 13:5** And [the Anti-Christ] was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. 6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. **8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him**, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

- How did it get to the point of the whole earth worshipping AC?

**2 Thessalonians 2:9** The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- **Belt of Truth**
  1. Did not Receive the Truth
  2. Did not Love the Truth
  3. Did not Believe the Truth

**SUMMARY: Big Head of Gold wants more.** Statue of Gold head-toe; presumptuous sin.

## II. Facing the Music

8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews.

- **Certain Chaldeans** came forward and accused... the Jews!
  1. People of Babylon or...
  2. **Name the of 4 Groups** of Occultic Advisors to the King

**Embarrassed by Daniel and 3 Boys able to tell king his dream...  
When they could not!**

- By the way...where is Daniel?

9 They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! 10

You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image; 11 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. 12 There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up."

- We will have to face the music in our lifetime. What will we do?
- No such thing as an undercover Christian; i.e. a coward

"You will not be able to go through life without being discovered: a lit candle cannot be hid. There is a feeling among some good people that it will be wise to be very discreet, and hide their light under a bushel. They intend to lie low all the war time, and come out when the rewards are being distributed. They hope to travel to heaven by the back lanes, and creep into glory in disguise. **Ah me, what a degenerate set!**" [Spurgeon]

- **Flattery:** O King leave forever

**Psalms 5:9** [Of the wicked] ...there is no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part is destruction; Their throat is an open tomb; They flatter with their tongue.

**Romans 16:18** [Of those who cause division/offenses] ... they do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

**Daniel 11: 32** [Of Antiochus and AC rise to power] Those who do wickedly against the covenant he [AC] shall **corrupt with flattery**; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

- **Certain Chaldeans:** Tattletales; Envious of boys from Israel being raised up...

*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up."*

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king.

- **Nebuchadnezzar**
  1. Rage and Fury
  2. Commanded to bring them [Immediately]
  3. Don't let them set a precedent for mutiny, rebellion, sedition
    - Rabble rousers
    - Trouble makers
  4. Yet he breaks his own word giving a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance...

14 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?"

## Standing before the king of the world...in front of the world

- **"Is it true":** Peter would fail in this area. I do not know Him

15 Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace...

- **One more temptation** to listen and obey man
- **One more opportunity** to listen and obey God

"If, standing before the heart-searching God at this time, you can't say, 'It is true,' what should you say? If you can't say that you take Christ's cross, and are willing to follow him at all cost, then listen to me and learn the truth.

Do not make [say anything] at all. Don't talk about baptism or the Lord's Supper, nor of joining a church, nor of being a Christian; for if you do, you will lie against your own soul. If its not true that you renounce the world's idols, do not profess that it is so.

It is unnecessary that a man should profess to be what he is not; it is a sin of [doing more than is required], an [indulgence] of naughtiness. If you cannot be true to Christ, if your coward heart is [unfaithful] to your Lord, don't profess to be his disciple, I begh you. He that is married to the world, or fainthearted, had better return to his house, for **he is of no service in this war.**" [Spurgeon – Old English]

15b...And **who is the god** who will deliver you from my hands?"

- Defying the God he preciously worshiped?

**Daniel 2:47** "Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery."

**Exodus 5:2** [After Pharaoh saw The Lord's power]...Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go." [Did not end well]

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

- **KJV:** "we are not careful to answer thee"
- We belong to the One in Control.
- We know Him...we trust Him...**one day we will be with Him**

**2 Timothy 1:12** [Though I suffer]... nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know **whom I have believed** and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

- Boys would not permit any **man** put him/herself in place of **God**:

**Nobody should rule our life but God.  
Manipulation/Intimidation are Unacceptable in the life of a Christian**

**Luke 23:8** ...when **Herod** saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. 9 Then he questioned Him with many words, but **He answered him nothing.**

- **Jesus committed his life fully to the Father**

**John 19:8** ... **Pilate** ...said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" 11 Jesus answered, "**You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.**"

- Neb's power: Loan from God that will soon mature and be called in. Balloon payment
- Boys continue...

17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.

- If you do this our **God is able** to deliver us from the flames...

**18 But if not**, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

- But if not...why not "**name it and claim it?**"

**2 Corinthians 12:7** ... lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord **three times** that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

- **God just want you to be happy?** God has a wonderful plan for your life?

**Maybe God wants you to suffer? More interested in your growth than happiness**

**Job 13:15** Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him

**Whatever God chooses**

**We don't/we won't serve the gods** of this world or images of this world

**Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

It took great faith to say this. God brought them to this place of great faith by preparing them with tests in less dramatic areas. [Guzic] [Not eating kings food]

**No "Everyone else is doing it!" garbage. Everyone is walking down the broad road**

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego...

- Nebuchadnezzar
  1. Full of fury
  2. Expression changed: As do Babylonians today when talking about Israel

19b He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. 20 And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

- **Commands:**
  1. 7 Times hotter
  2. Certain strong guys bind 3 boys
  3. Cast them in
- Nebuchadnezzar does not bluff

**SUMMARY: Facing the Music.** We will have our own moments of truth

1. Boss at work
  2. Teacher at School
  3. Friend/Peer Pressure
  4. Family
  5. Wife/Husband: Husband cowering to Catholic wife
- We dance to a different rhythm. Sing a New Song

### III. Deliverance though Tribulation

21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

- Thrown fully clothed [Inc. Turbans] into burning, fiery furnace

22 Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.

- Because king's command was urgent: Strong guys ran carelessly to near the fire
- Flames killed them

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

- 3 Boys fall down in worship in midst of fiery trial?

**1 Peter 4:2** Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

**Paul knew after visiting Heaven that all temporal suffering would  
Be worth eternal reward**

**Romans 8:18** ...I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

- 3 Boys had an Eternal Perspective
- They would not be embarrassed/ashamed at judgment

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

- Rose in haste and looked in. How many did we through in there...3 wasn't it?

25 "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

- Four are walking around in the middle of the fire
- 3 Boys and one that looks like the "Son of God"? Lit. a son of the gods

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.

- Nebuchadnezzar gets as close as he can and calls 3 boys

**Servants of the Most High God...come out and come here**

- 3 Boys come out. 4<sup>th</sup>?
- And where is Daniel? Isn't he a top guy in Babylon?

27 And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.

- **Big wigs gather round to observe:**
  1. Fire had NO power
  2. Hair not singed
  3. Clothes in tact
  4. Not even smell of fire
- Saved **through** the Tribulation of Fire [Testing]

28 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!

- **Nebuchadnezzar's 2<sup>nd</sup> proclamation of faith!**

1. "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego"
2. God sent a messenger to deliverer; i.e. His Angel
3. Delivered His servants [because] they trusted in Him
4. He "frustrated my words" i.e. command to serve my gods and the idol
5. He saved them for a greater purpose...

**...they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!**

29 Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap...

**New Decree to the Entire World:** No one talks smack about this God

- Cut in pieces
- Houses an ash [dung] heap
- Why...

29b...because **there is no other God who can deliver like this.**"

- Our God is the God of Deliverance.
- Deliver us from:
  1. Bondage to Freedom
  2. Darkness to Light
  3. Death to Life

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

- Already leaders the Jewish boys are promoted in a foreign land

**SUMMARY: Deliverance through Tribulation**

Picture/Illustration/Foreshadow of the **Rapture of the Church**

- **Nebuchadnezzar:** Picture of AC and his demand for forced worship of the Image
- Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego: Picture of 144,000 Jews preserved/saved through Tribulation and AC
- **Strikingly Missing Daniel:** Picture of the Raptured Church with the Lord during Tribulation. Saved from the Tribulation [Not appointed to wrath]