

Faith in The Fire

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I. Introduction

- **The Bible is an Unfolding Revelation of Jesus Christ and The Kingdom of God**
 - Stories, people, and events all have a prophetic element ...pointing to Jesus Christ
 - All will find fulfilment at the end of the Age
 - Everything that can be shaken will be shaken.(Hag.2:6)
 - The whole earth will be filled with knowledge of the Glory of God.(Hab.2:14)
- ***Heb 12:28* Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.**
Heb 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.

II. Key Passage

- ***Dan 3:1* 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.**
***Dan 3:2* 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.**
***Dan 3:3* 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.**
***Dan 3:4* Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,**
***Dan 3:5* 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;**
***Dan 3:6* and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."**
***Dan 3:7* 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.**
The Fiery Furnace
***Dan 3:8* Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews.**
***Dan 3:9* They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever!**

Dan 3:10 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;

Dan 3:11 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

Dan 3:12 **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."**

Dan 3:13 Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king.

Dan 3:14 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?"**

Dan 3:15 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. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?"**

Dan 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

Dan 3:17 **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.**

Dan 3:18 **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."**

Dan 3:19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.

Dan 3:20 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.

Dan 3:21 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.

Dan 3:22 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.

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

Dan 3:24 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."

Dan 3:25 "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."**

Dan 3:26 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.

Dan 3:27 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.

Dan 3:28 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!

*Dan 3:29 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; because **there is no other God who can deliver like this.**"*

Dan 3:30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

III. **The Prophetic Meaning of The Story**

1. **What is Babylon?**

- "Babylon" means "Confusion" by mixing
- **Babylon was both a city and a World Empire**
- **Babylon appears in Genesis 10:10**
 - The City built by Nimrod and centre of Occult Religion and Queen of heaven
- **Babylon appears through The Old Testament**
 - 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel
 - It is the City and Empire where Israel went into captivity for 70 years because of idolatry & sin
 - It is where Daniel and his friends were held captive as youth
 - It represents the World Governments and System we live in, controlled by Demonic Powers
- **Babylon appears in Revelation 14-18**
- *Rev 17:5* *And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*
- *Rev 17:6* *I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.*
 - A Great Spiritual Empire ruling over all the nations of the earth
 - Pictured as a Woman the great mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth
 - Controlling politics, finances and wealth, religion, music and media, violence and war, sex trafficking, killing and murder especially of God's prophets and saints

2. **Who is The King of Babylon?**

- **The King of Babylon was a cruel King who destroyed Jerusalem and took the people captive**
- **The King of Babylon sought to train up Daniel and his three friends in the education system of Babylon**
 - He gave each of them new names, after the gods of Babylon
 - Name signifies nature. The King of Babylon wants to control of nature and

character

- **The King of Babylon, also known as Nebuchadnezzar was a symbol of pride, spiritual rebellion, tyrannical power and satanic opposition to God's Kingdom throughout the Bible**
 - Is.14:4,12-14 Describes the King of Babylon the oppressor, and then describes Lucifer full of pride and iniquity
 - The King of Babylon represents Satan himself seeking worship and control
- **God calls His people not to be conformed to this world (Rom.12:2)**
 - Daniel purposed in heart not to be defiled (Dan.1:8) by Babylon
 - Daniel and his friends determined to live a life that honoured God in the culture around them
- 3. What is The Golden Image? (Dan.3:1)**
 - The Golden Image that Nebuchadnezzar built on the plain was an act of defiance against God
 - **Gold:**
 - **Gold is a symbol in the Bible of divinity and also of material wealth and glory**
 - Gold = Babylon in Daniel 2:38. Nebuchadnezzar was called "the head of gold."
 - It symbolised his belief in his endless dominion over the earth
 - In Revelation, end-time Babylon is also pictured as clothed in gold (Rev. 17-18), emphasizing materialism, pride, and idolatry.
 - **The Dimensions: (Dan.3:1)**
 - The dimensions of the image are 60 x 6 cubits
 - Six is the number that represents man or humanity (created on the sixth day)
 - It is linked to occult numerology, and is the Number of the AntiChrist in Revelation.13
 - **All Must Bow Down (Dan.3:6)**
 - **To bow down means to honour or yield to a superior, someone of power and position**
 - Bowing down was worship, uniting religious worship and political loyalty
 - Refusing to bow was seen as treason and punishable by death
 - The King fought to eliminate dissent and to enforce allegiance to Babylon
 - This is seen also in Rev.13 when all are required to worship the image of the beast or die
- 4. What is the Burning Fiery Furnace? (Dan.3:11)**
 - **The furnace is a method or way of intimidation and punishment for non conformity**
 - The three references to burning emphasise the pain and suffering for not yielding
 - This represents punishment by intense suffering and is the ultimate cancellation
 - It is the fiery testing of our faith, whether we will stand or whether we will conform and bow
 - **Note:**
 - God was with them in the Furnace
 - God was Honoured before men by their courage

- God rewarded the three for their faithfulness

IV. **"We Will Not Bow"**

1. **Key Verse**

- *Dan 3:17* *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.*
Dan 3:18 ***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."***

2. **Forms of the Golden Idol today:**

- The idol Nebuchadnezzar built was a visible object of worship,
- **In today's world, the idols are ideologies, cultural systems, and values that demand allegiance and compromise.**
- **Examples:**
 - **Humanism**
 - Glorifying man as self-sufficient and autonomous from God.
 - Truth is relative and not objective. "My Truth"
 - Feelings become Facts or Truth
 - **Sexual and Gender ideologies**
 - Demanding affirmation of lifestyles that contradict biblical design (Gen. 1:27; Rom. 1:24–27).
 - These ideologies stifle difference of opinion and label people who disagree
 - **Abortion as. Human Right**
 - Demanding the right to terminate an unborn child that is inconvenient
 - Refuses dialogue and denies reality of human life at conception
 - **Critical Race Theories (Marxism)**
 - Insisting identity is attached to a victim class or race and not to Christ
 - Forceful redistribution of wealth (Socialism)
 - **Woke Ideology**
 - Emphasising group guilt and shame and ignoring personal sin and responsibility
 - Words are called 'Violence', feelings are called Truth, and compliance to ideology is demanded
 - **DEI Ideology**
 - Diversity.....Prioritising group or race identity over individual character and ability
 - Equity.....Equal outcomes in place of equal opportunities, forcing redistribution
 - InclusivenessDemanding conformity to alternate ungodly lifestyles
 - **Climate Alarmism**
 - Extreme environmentalism under the guise of "saving the planet"
 - Pressure to conform to an unproven religion of fear and alarm whose goal is to consolidate power in the hands of a few
 - **Materialism & consumerism**
 - Wealth, status, and success as ultimate goals (Matt. 6:24).
 - **Cancel culture**

- Fear-driven conformity; silence or punishment for speaking truth (Gal. 1:10).
 - Discussion is stifled with hatred, name calling and violent opposition
 - **Technological dependence & transhumanism**
 - Elevation of technology over God’s design for humanity.
 - AI Dependency
 - Addiction and mental programming by social media algorithms
 - **Progressive Theology**
 - Reinterpretation or removal of biblical authority for cultural relevance.
- **“The Idol of our day isn’t a Golden Image—it’s a Golden Ideology.**
- All these ideologies pressure people to bow down and worship them

3. **Pressure to Bow**

- **Followers of Christ face pressure to bow to these Ideologies:**
 - **Compromise** truth to be **included**
 - **Remain silent** on moral issues to **avoid offending**
Silent on marriage, gender, family,
 - **Affirm** ungodly ideologies such as LGBTQ under **guise of tolerance**
- **The Furnace today is Emotional, Social, Financial, Legal,**
- **The choice is the same:**
 - **Bow or Burn**
 - **Compromise or be Cancelled**

V. **The Bible and History is Full of Cancellation**

1. **There are consequences for speaking truth...especially to Power**

- **When People speak unpopular truth there is Reaction**
 - Offended
 - Angry
 - Label
 - Hate/Cancel the Messenger
 - Violence: Kill the Messenger

2. **Bible and History abounds in people not afraid to stand up for the Truth**

- **Many Men and Women were Not afraid to speak truth even when unpopular**
- **Bible Examples:**
 - Elijah.....Sawn in two
 - Jeremiah.....Imprisoned
 - Zechariah.....Stoned to death
 - MichaiahThrown into prison
 - DanielThrown to Lions
 - Friends thrown into furnace
 - John the Baptist...Head cut off

- Jesus.....Crucified
 - Stephen.....Stoned
 - Apostles.....All but John Murdered
- Heb 11:33 *who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,*
Heb 11:34 *quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*
Heb 11:35 *Women received their dead raised to life again. **Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.***
Heb 11:36 *Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.*
Heb 11:37 *They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—*
Heb 11:38 *of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.*
Heb 11:39 ***And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,***
- **History**
- **History is full of God's People who were murdered for Speaking Truth**
 1. **Foxes: Book of Martyrs**
 2. **William Tyndallstrangled and Burt at a stake**
 3. **Many, Many other Believers in Nations of the earth today- martyred for faith**
 - Africa
 - Middle East
 4. **Charlie Kirk (Turning Point)**
 - **Extraordinary Example today of Faith, Courage and Compassion**
 - Deep personal Faith in Jesus- Unashamed
 - Courage to speak Truth and challenge Lies
 - Love for Youth ...initiate connection
 - Refused to being bribed, and resisted extraordinary pressure to drop principles, and comply
 - **Killed because of what he stood for ...attempt to intimidate and silence**
 - **His death inspiring Millions to arise and become vocal**
- **Holy Spirit stirring a new generation to arise and to not bow down**
 - **Love Jesus?Keep His Commandments**
 - Jhn 14:15 *"If you love Me, keep My commandments.*
Jhn 14:21 ***He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."***
Jhn 14:23 *Jesus answered and said to him, "**If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.***
Jhn 14:24 ***He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.***

VI. **How Can Believers Respond?**

1. **How Daniels Friends Responded**

- ***Dan 3:17*** *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.*
Dan 3:18 *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."*
 - They did not react against culture or Government
 - They stood firm on their identity's and their convictions
 - They respectfully resisted bowing down to the Image
 - They trusted God with the outcome

2. **How The NT Church Responded**

- ***Act 4:29*** *Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,*
Act 4:30 *by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."*
Act 4:31 *And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*
- **The Church faced intimidation and cancellation**
 - They Came together as a community
 - They Held onto the Word of God
 - They Prayed Strongly
 - They Spoke Boldly

3. **Practical Actions**

- ***Rom.12:2***: *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."*
 1. **Become Grounded in The Word of God**
 - Develop a Biblical World View (2Tim.2:15)
 - Develop identity and convictions
 2. **Build a Strong Prayer Life**
 - Become strengthened with might in the inner man (Eph.3:16)
 3. **Commit to Godly Community**
 - Daniel and his three friends stood together
 4. **Speak up and Refuse to Remain Silent**
 - Speak truth in love, without hate (Eph. 4:15).
 - Be unashamed of Christ and His Words (Mk.8:38)
 - Be prepared to pay the price for following Christ (Mk.34)
- ***Rom 1:16*** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to*

salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.