

Daniel Chapter 3

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The Issue at Hand

Worship Nebuchadnezzar or God?

Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Image

“Certain Chaldeans” expose Daniel's Friends

Bow Down or Burn

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought.

So they brought these men before the king. 14

Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?”

15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?” –Daniel 3:13-15

The Issue Addressed

The God who is able to deliver

Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego Stand Firm

Neb throws them into the furnace

God delivers

28 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.

29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.” 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

-Daniel 3:28-30

The World of the Early Church

“Caesar Augustus Tiberius,
son of the Divine Augustus”



Antoninus Pius as Caesar (138-161 C.E.)



“Why is it so wrong to save yourself by saying ‘*Caesar is Lord*,’ making a sacrifice, and so on?”

–Chief of Police Herod, and his father Nicetas to Polycarp, Mid 150s C.E.

“...if you confess with your mouth that *Jesus is Lord* and believe in your heart that God raise him from the dead, you will be saved.” –Romans 10:9

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one Comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6



Source: Peacemonger.org

“All religions are basically the same.”

“Who am I to say what someone should or should not believe?”

“It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere and try to be a good person.”

¹⁶ “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour.

²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

-Jesus, Matthew 10:16-22

Questions for Reflection

1. Do I believe that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life?
2. Do I “bow down” to the god of the culture?
3. Who in my life do I need to pray for/engage with concerning the truth of Jesus?