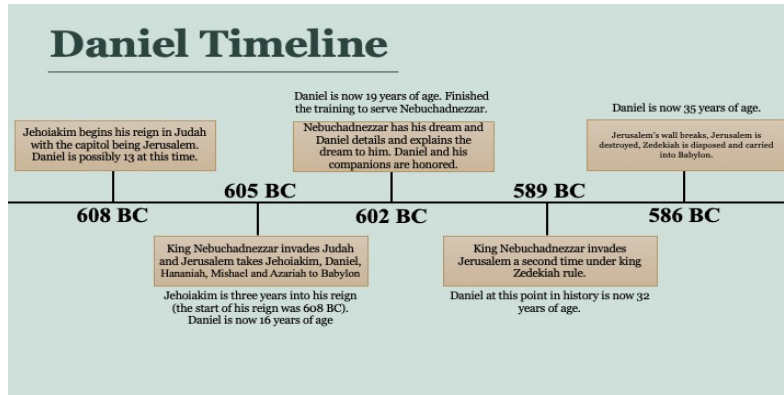


The Book of Daniel-Chapter Three (Part Two)
 Dr. Luther Ray Smith Jr.

Preliminary Historical Information



Details With Daniel's Description		
Satraps	אֶחָשְׁדָּרְפָּנִין (<i>akhashdarpan'</i>). Occurs 9x in the book of Daniel.	The people in this position of authority like that of a king over specific region (<i>satrapies</i>)
Prefects	סֵגָנִין (<i>segan'</i>) Occurs 9x in the book of Daniel.	The people in this position of authority are governors of certain groups.
Governors	פְּחָחָוּ (<i>pehkhaw'</i>). Occurs 4x in the book of Daniel.	The people in this position ruled over certain districts or city-states in the region of the Babylonian empire (Cross-Reference: Ezra 5:9)
Counselors	אֲדָרְגָזָר (<i>adargazar</i>) Occurs 2x in the book of Daniel.	The people in this position were more than likely the advisors of the rulers (i.e., <i>sorcerers, magicians, and witches</i>).
Treasurers	גְּדָוָבָוּר (<i>ghedawbawr'</i>). Occurs 2x in the book of Daniel.	The people in this position may have been responsible for collecting tribute to the king and distributing funds for projects throughout the empire.
Judges	דֵּתָוָבָוּר (<i>dethawbawr</i>). Occurs 2x in the book of Daniel.	These people in this position were responsible for evaluating disputes between parties as it pertained to Babylonian law.
Magistrates	תִּפְתָּיִם (<i>tiptayim</i>). Occurs 2x in the book of Daniel.	The people were more than likely those who would explain and enforce the law of Babylon (judge/sheriff).

The Possible Impact of this Event: Due to the fact that Nebuchadnezzar disposed the king of Jerusalem and Israel, gathered the rest of the things from the temple and burned it to the ground demonstrated in his mind that his god rules over the God of Israel. This would solidify in his mind that Marduk is indeed the Lord of heaven and earth.

Review From Last Week: This statement is important because this lets the readers (in this case all of the citizens in Babylon know) that the entire leadership of Babylon was found in the plain of Dura (more than likely not far from the city of Babylon) to pay homage to a possible image of Marduk.

Review From Last Week: All of those who have small and great influence in the region of Babylon are standing on the plain of Dura standing in front of the 90-foot structure of who I am convinced is the false god Marduk.

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Daniel 3:4-5 NASB95: “Then the herald loudly proclaimed: “To you the command is given, O peoples, nations and men of every language 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.”

From the account of Daniel concerning this event that the herald speaking for Nebuchadnezzar who has given the word (or command) to all the leaders in attendance: once the music from these instruments began this was the leaders of Babylon’s audio cue to kneel and worship the golden image (once more this is perhaps Marduk).

ܐܘܪܘܝܢܐ (Worship)

Segid

- This Aramaic word occurs 12 times in the Scriptures.
- This Aramaic word only occurs in the book of Daniel.
- This word corresponds with the Hebrew אָגַד (*sagad*) meaning “to fall down” or “prostrate.”
- This refers to the act or practice of acknowledging/honoring someone, whether it be a human being or a god.

Daniel 3:6 NASB95: “But whoever does not fall down, and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire...”

ܐܘܪܘܝܢܐ (Furnace)

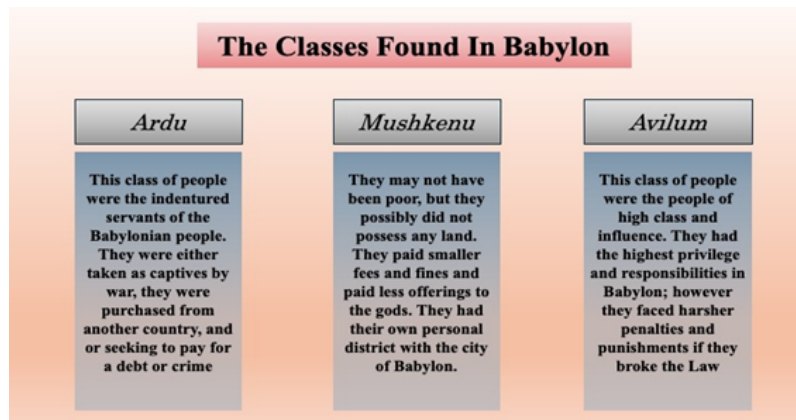
atun/attoon

- This Aramaic word occurs 10 times in the Scriptures.
- This Aramaic word only occurs in the book of Daniel (chapter three).
- This Aramaic word corresponds with the Hebrew word that is spelled the same.

Daniel 3:7 NASB95: “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. For this reason at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and brought charges against the Jews...”

Daniel records that when all the people present there heard the music they fell and prostrated before the image before them. Then certain Chaldeans (more than likely the rulers within Nebuchadnezzar’s court) accused the Jews (the rulers within Nebuchadnezzar’s court) that they did not recognize the golden image (possibly Marduk).

Daniel 3:8-12 NASB95: “For this reason at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and brought charges against the Jews. They responded and said to Nebuchadnezzar the king: “O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree that every man who hears the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, and bagpipe and all kinds of music, is to fall down and worship the golden image. But whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire. **There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, namely Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego.** These men, O king, have disregarded you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up...”



Daniel 3:13-15 NASB95: “Then Nebuchadnezzar in **rage** and **anger** gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego; then these men were brought before the king. Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, very well. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands...?”

- Nebuchadnezzar was beginning to become upset and orders Daniel’s companions to come before him.
- Nebuchadnezzar inquired of Daniel’s companions about their lack of participation in this worship, and gives them another chance to worship this image.

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שִׁיב (Deliver)

šêzib/shezab'

- This Aramaic word occurs 9 times in the Scriptures.
- This Aramaic word occurs throughout this book.
- This word emphasizes that a person is rescued physically from calamity or disaster.

“...and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?...”

This is a rather interesting rhetorical question. Remember this question is not made in terms of him boasting of himself for the mere sake of boasting of himself. This is made in the context that he believes *Marduk has installed him as the king of Babylon and has given him authority over who lives or dies.*

Tablet of Nebuchadnezzar: “I am Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, the exalted prince, the favourite of the god marduk, the beloved of the god Nabu, the arbiter, the possessor of wisdom, who reverences their lordship, the untiring governor who is constantly anxious for the maintenance of the shrines of Babylonia and Borsippa, the wise, the pious, the son of Nabopolassar, king of Babylon...”

Daniel 3:16-17 NASB95: “Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. 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.** 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.”

“...and He will **deliver** us...”

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

šêzib/shezab'

- Verb
- This word is written in the *shaphel* stem.
- The *shaphel* stem in Aramaic is similar to the *hiphil* stem in Hebrew (expresses the causative force of the *Qal* (action)).
- This word is also written in the imperfect (*yiqtol*) type.

Daniel's companion's statement that he said to Nebuchadnezzar spoke to the certainty that God would save them *physically* from the hand of Nebuchadnezzar. This is their response to Nebuchadnezzar's answer.

פָּלַח (Serve)

p'lah/pelakh

- This Aramaic word occurs 10 times in the Scriptures.
- This Aramaic word occurs nine times in the book of Daniel.
- This word is used to discuss the service that a human being gives to a deity.

Daniel 3:18 NASB95: ““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...”

Daniel's companion's continued reply is even more incredible. He mentioned that even if God did not physically rescue them from the furnace, they still refuse to give service to the gods (The seven gods we mentioned in the introduction to Daniel, or the fall prostrate to the golden image (which is more than likely Marduk)!

Daniel 3:19 NASB95: ““Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and his facial expression was altered toward Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. He answered by giving orders to heat the furnace **seven times more than it was usually heated.**”

Daniel recorded that Nebuchadnezzar was rageful and that his “face image” changed when he looked at them, expressing his pure hatred and fury concerning their answer. Nebuchadnezzar responded by commanding his servants to heat the furnace seven times more than it was normally heated. In the mind of Nebuchadnezzar, they were going to pay for not only disrespecting him as the king, but also Marduk who installed him.

“...seven times more than it was usually heated...”

Although Daniel does not give a base temperature in this text for how hot a furnace (or kiln) would get. The maximum average temperature for an ancient furnace could get to 1600-2500 degrees Fahrenheit!

Daniel 3:20 NASB95: “...He commanded certain valiant warriors who were in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego in order to cast them into the furnace of blazing fire...”

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Nebuchadnezzar commands “mighty” warriors who were a part of his army bind Daniel’s companions and for the sole purpose of tying them and throwing them in furnace of burning fire. This communicates to the reader the how intense the flame within the furnace was.

Daniel 3:21-22 NASB95: “...Then these men were tied up in their trousers, their coats, their caps and their other clothes, and were cast into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire. For this reason, because the king’s command was urgent and the furnace had been made extremely hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire *still* tied up...”

Some Details To Consider Here

- Daniel’s companions were tied up in all their royal attire, and they were thrown into the midst of the fire (this was more than likely at the top of the furnace where the smoke was released).
- Daniel observed the impact of Nebuchadnezzar’s command on his mighty soldiers. The furnace was made exceedingly hot that the impact of the furnace killed the soldiers that placed them in the furnace.

Interesting Observations

Thermal Burn: This is a skin injury that occurs when there is a thermal heat source. The heat raises the temperature of the skin and as a result can damage or char the skin tissue. Burns at higher temperatures of course are more severe and more painful.

Smoke Inhalation: This occurs when harmful fumes are breathed into the person’s respiratory system, which can cause severe irritation to the physical senses, and can also contribute to a person’s physical death due to lack of oxygen and being poisoned.

Some Details To Consider Here

- The flames from the furnace at this point impacted the mighty soldiers (it killed them). However, Daniel **does not** mention that the extreme flames (and the effects from the flames) from the furnace did not negatively impact them.
- Daniel’s companions were cast into the furnace while being bound up. This is important note because Daniel’s companions **could not** escape.

To Sum Up: Daniel’s companions, due to disobeying the orders of Nebuchadnezzar were thrown into the blazing furnace. **Keep in mind: This was done and seen in front of all of the rulers and civil workers (and possibly the citizens) of Babylon.** Remember, this was not only to show Nebuchadnezzar’s word is authoritative, but Marduk who installed Nebuchadnezzar was the god the Jews in captivity and the Chaldeans ought to acknowledge.

To Be Continued...