

I. Intro

A. Series Overview: **Dan. 3:4-7**

*<sup>5</sup>that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. <sup>6</sup>And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.” <sup>7</sup>Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. (Dan. 3:4-7)*

B. Recap

1. Book **Theme(s)**
  - a. The Sovereignty of God
  - b. The Wisdom of God
  - c. The Providence of God
    - i. To deliver the Kingdom to His Bride (the Church)
2. **The Providence of God extends over the Kingdoms of the World**
  - a. Nebuchadnezzar’s Troubled Dream (**Dan. 2:1-6**)
    - i. Gold – Babylonian (**v.37-38**) (Statue **Images**)
    - ii. Silver – Mede/Persians (**v. 39a**)
    - iii. Brass – Greek Empire (**v. 39b**)
    - iv. Iron and Clay – Roman Empire (**v. 40**)
  - b. There is a Kingdom coming that will never be destroyed.
    - i. Break up all other Kingdoms (Rock)
3. **Favor With Man Comes From God**
  - a. Daniel was promoted instead of punished.

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- b. Daniel's friends were placed over all the affairs of the province.
- 4. **The God of Daniel is the God of gods (v.47)**

*<sup>47</sup> The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery." (Dan. 2:47)*

- a. Nebuchadnezzar makes a profound statement about the authenticity and superiority of Daniel's God.

## II. Body

### A. The Statue

- 1. Not long after declaring that Daniel's God was the true God (as revealed to him in a dream of a statue), Nebuchadnezzar decided to erect a statue.

*<sup>1</sup> King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. <sup>2</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up (Dan. 3:1-2)*

- 2. All the staff members of the kingdom were expected to bow before the statue as a sign of solidarity and loyalty to Nebuchadnezzar.
  - a. Refusal to bow to this image would have been regarded as an act of hostility against the government of Babylon.
- 3. Accusation: Chaldeans vs. Jews
  - a. Possible hostility because these Jews were appointed over the affairs over the province.

*<sup>12</sup> There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." (Dan. 3:12)*

### B. The Showdown

- 1. The Fury of the King (v. 13)

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<sup>13</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. (Dan. 3:13)

a. The Ultimatum

<sup>15</sup> 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?**” (Dan. 3:15)

- b. Nebuchadnezzar was essentially challenging the same God who gave Daniel the interpretation of the dream (in Ch. 2).
- c. Who is the God who can deliver out of my hand?

2. The Humble Answer.

<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” (Dan. 3:16-18)

- a. Our God is a defender/deliverer.
- b. But even if he doesn't deliver us (in particular), we will trust Him.

C. The Fire Fiasco

1. Before (Dan. 3:19-23)

<sup>19</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. <sup>20</sup> And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. <sup>21</sup> Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown

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*into the burning fiery furnace. <sup>22</sup>Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. <sup>23</sup>And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.* (Dan. 3:19-23)

- a. Furnace heated 7 times hotter than usual. (v. 19)
- b. The most mighty/brave men in the army were selected to toss the young men into the furnace. (v. 20)
- c. Bound fully clothed with overcoat and turban. (v. 21)
- d. The overheated flame killed the men who led the Hebrew boys into the fire. (v. 22)
- e. The three young men fell (bound) in the fire (v. 23)

2. After (Dan. 3:24-30)

*<sup>24</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." <sup>25</sup>He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."* (Dan. 3:24-25)

- a. 3-4 Question (v. 24)
- b. Unhurt and Unbound
- c. The Release

*<sup>27</sup>And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them.* (Dan. 3:27)

### III. Conclusion

- A. The Lord Delivered as a Prophetic Projection
  - 1. The 4 Kingdoms in the dream from the previous Chapter represented the Babylon, Medes-Persian, Greek and the Roman Empires.
    - a. Also represented all the Kingdoms of world that coincide with the "times of the Gentiles"

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2. Deliverance of these 3 young men is a type and shadow of the way that God will deliver His people at the end of the age.
  - a. Deliver Israel in the middle of Gentile world domination.
  - b. The times of the Gentiles will draw to a close with intense fiery trials, but the Lord will remain faithful to Israel.

## B. The Lord is Faithful Even In Fiery Trials

1. Most of our end-time eschatology teaches that God is faithful to deliver His people **FROM** trouble.
  - a. If the story of the fiery furnace has any prophet implications, then certainly it is instructing us that God is faithful to deliver in trouble.
2. Most of our right now theology teaches that YHWH is faithful to deliver His people **FROM** trouble.
  - a. If the story of the fiery furnace has any right now implications, then certainly it is instructing us that God is faithful to deliver in trouble.
  - b. Fire is one of the principal ways that He delivers.
    - i. **1 Pet. 4:12**: *Beloved, count it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you.*
    - ii. **1 Pet. 1:6-7**: *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to bring praise, honor and glory...*
    - iii. **James 1:2**: *Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces...*
3. It's in the fire that bands are loosed.
  - a. The Hebrew boys were thrown in fully clothed and bound by chords.
  - b. Walking around free, but in the fire.

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- c. Walking around without pain or panic.
- 4. It's in the fire that Jesus showed up.
  - a. *"I see four men loose and walking (free), and the 4<sup>th</sup> looks like the Son of God. "* (v. 25)
  - b. **Is. 43:1-2: But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.**

### C. The star of this passage.

- 1. Tendency is to make the 3 Hebrew boys the star of the passage.
- 2. Actually, the star is the God who is faithful to His people even when they are in fire, captivity, bondage.
- 3. The God of this world will influence nations and it will look like evil is winning,
  - a. But God has a breathtaking plan to show up, preserve those who trust in Him in the middle of the most intense fire.
  - b. He will prove His rule to be superior to any other world ruler.

<sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> 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. (Dan. 3:28-29)