

# The Ten Commandments - Part 7: Preparing for Tribulation, Mark of the Beast, The Mark of God (3/12/2023)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/vpsmrr3/the-ten-commandments-part-7>

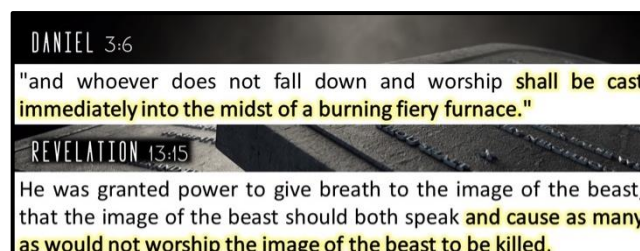
\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserving the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

We are going to finish the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego in its entirety today. That's a lot of ground to cover. Please pay attention and take this to heart, as I really believe a lot of what we are covering today is meant to prepare you for "the tribulation." It is also meant to prepare you for tribulation you'll experience before "the tribulation". I think some of you can relate to that statement. We all have tribulations we go through. This is meant to strengthen you, to equip you, and establish your heart. So, let this sink in today.

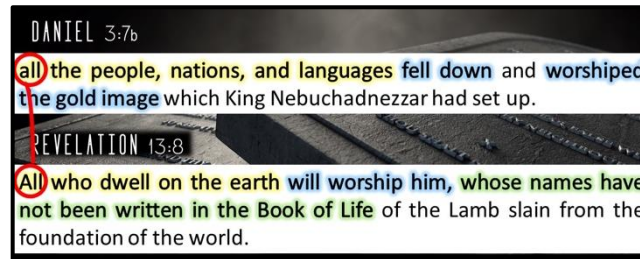
Let's start where we left off last week, at Daniel 3:6 – **and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of the burning fiery furnace** (*emphasis added*). Remember, this is the herald, the emissary of Nebuchadnezzar. He cried out with a loud voice and told virtually the entire world that you will bow, or you will die. That was the declaration! This was just the essence, the purity in an unholy way of idolatry. This was what was being requested.

We will be toggling back and forth between the book of Daniel and the book of Revelation. It would be a massive mistake to think the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego is simply a story recorded in history and tucked away in the Old Testament. This story is not just about history; it's about telling your future. That's the reality.

The apostle Paul, in Romans 15:4, says something so important in our understanding of the Tanakh or the Old Testament – **For whatever things were written before were written for our learning** (our instruction). The word in the Greek is didaskalian, (διδασκαλίαν). We are to be instructed by these things. They're relevant. And today, you will see how relevant the book of Daniel is in your life.



With that said I want to read Revelation 13:15 – <sup>15</sup> **He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed** (*emphasis added*). The very thing we see being declared in the book of Daniel is literally being declared in the book of Revelation. Now, if I knew nothing else about the book of Daniel and I saw this, it would be enough for me to immerse myself in this book and realize the Word of the Lord is here.



Moving on to Daniel 3:7 – <sup>7</sup> **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** (all not some), (all the) **nations, and** (all the) **languages** (We are dealing with the whole world. And what did they do?) **fell down and worshipped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up** (*emphasis added*). Somebody help me understand, how did this happen? How did this guy actually do this? How did he unify the entire world to come together as one and obey his command? You need to understand what his command is. His command is that you reject the very One Who created you, Who breathed life into you. His command is that you abandon the Word of the Lord and His commandments. This is his word. This is his law. This is diabolical opposition to the LORD's law. Arguably, I will say this is one of the most successful decrees in the history of humanity. No question about it.

But again, this is not just a story; this is future. Revelation 13:8 – <sup>8</sup> **All who dwell on the earth will worship him** (*emphasis added*). ALL!

It just makes you think! What kind of future generation is the book of Revelation talking about? What kind of generation existed in the book of Daniel when this unfolded? How does this happen? I'm going to tell you. The kind of generation that existed in the days of Nebuchadnezzar and that will exist when we enter the tribulation and there is a rise of the Antichrist is a generation which absolutely rejects any notion of the law of God. It's a generation which has no faith and is so perverse it will take you back to the days of Noah where the reigning law was lawlessness. It's a generation that will push prayer out of schools. It's a generation that will not allow you to sing praises or pray in the name of Jesus. Interestingly enough, the Speaker of the House, in the state of Washington, banned being able to pray at the capitol in the name of Jesus. That's what this generation would look like. It is a generation so given over to sin and debauchery that there is no moral compass. Nobody will be ashamed, instead they will parade their sin in the middle of the streets. It's the kind of generation where the Antichrist will have the ability to rise up and completely take them and consume them whole. It is getting real.

Continuing with Rev 13:8, we will see the author of Revelation add something that will put this whole thing into perspective. He says, – <sup>8</sup> **All who dwell on earth will worship him** (and he specifies) **whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world** (*emphasis added*). This refers to what I talked about last week. Please, listen to me carefully! Do not

think for a moment you'll be able to bend the knee before an image and say, "Well, because the Lord Jesus knows my heart, I'll bend down with everyone. They're praying to this idol, but I will pray to Jesus as I bend my knee before this idol. I will go through the motions so I will look like I'm doing this because I need to reach more people; I need to evangelize. These people are lost so it will be okay." I kid you not, you bend the knee, you will die! You will be excommunicated from the faith! You will lose your salvation!

I think about the words we read in the Torah in Exodus 32:33 where Moses tried to intercede on behalf of the children of Israel and the LORD responded with one of the most terrifying portions out of the entire Torah. – **33 And the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book."**

Some will say, "Well Daniel, you know that was Old Testament." No, that's New Testament. Go to the last book of the Bible, Revelation, where Yeshua is talking to the seven churches, specifically the church at Sardis. He says if they do not hold fast and repent, He will blot them out of His Book of Life. These are intense words. These are words HaSatan does not want you to believe. He wants you to believe you can bend the knee and you won't lose your salvation, but you will.

When you read something like this, do you know what it does? It puts the Ten Commandments of God (Aseret ha-D'varim) into perspective for you. You should put a lot of weight on them because this is the very thing the Antichrist is trying to get you to compromise and walk away from.

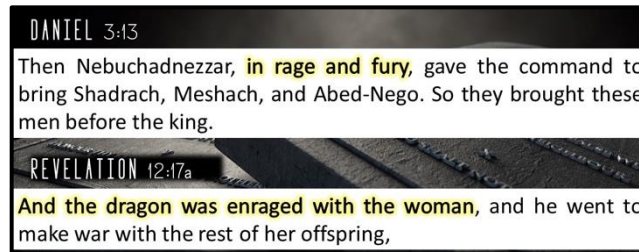
Daniel 3:8 – **8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans...** There is some discussion as to who these Chaldeans are. One thing I think we can safely assume is that these are governing officials with some level of notoriety. They have influence and positions of power. I say that because they have direct access to the king. That is just not something you had, especially with the kind of kingdom Nebuchadnezzar ruled over. So, we know that much, but there are some who speculate that what's being conveyed here is that these are the astrologers of the kingdom of Babylon. That's an interesting thought.

Daniel 3:8 – **8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and** (What did they do?) **accused the Jews** (emphasis added). They focused in on those who were not willing to comply to this antichrist mandate. When you think of this statement "**accused the Jews**", do you not think of Revelation 12:10? What does it say? There is a title given to Satan. He is called the accuser as this is what he does. So, what I'm telling you is the devil is in the details. He is behind this.

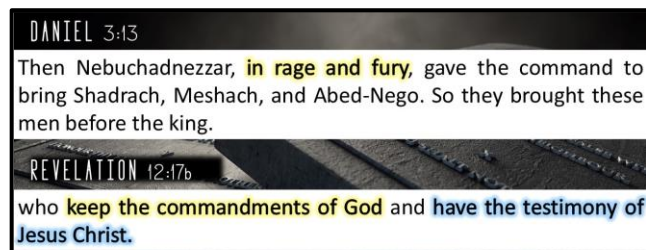
Jumping down to Daniel 3:12, this is what these informants came to say to King Nebuchadnezzar – **12 "There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up"** (emphasis added). It's interesting when I read this I'm taken back to the Nazi regime, the Schutzstaffel (the SS), and the Gestapo which were set up for a particular purpose. The Nazi empire had all these different agencies and was one of the most sophisticated and most technologically advanced empires. It was organized evil, pure evil. It was well organized for the only purpose of ensuring total compliance of their ideology.

Make no mistake. When the spirit of antichrist is on the move and he imposes an antichrist type law such as we see happening right here, you better believe he will use every resource at his disposal. He will have surveillance. He will be gathering intelligence. Think about the technological advancements

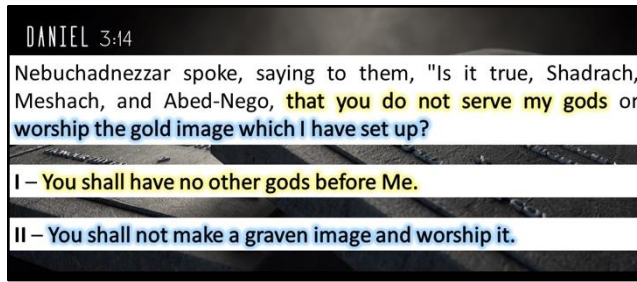
we've had since the time of World War II. World War II is nothing compared to what we have now. He will utilize every aspect to find you. I am not saying this to scare you. I am saying this because you need to understand the devil is "all in". He is not playing. He is out for blood. This is his final play. This is his final move.



Daniel 3:13 – <sup>13</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar, **in rage and fury**, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king (emphasis added). How does Nebuchadnezzar respond when he hears there are certain men that are not abiding by his law? He flips out and gets angry. Interesting! In Revelation 12:17 we read this – <sup>17a</sup> **And the dragon was enraged with the woman** (meaning Israel) **and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring** (meaning all those who have become children of the covenant through faith in Yeshua) (emphasis added). Anger is an antichrist behavior, and we see this unfolding by the devil himself.



Do you know what I like about this passage though? As we continue reading verse 17 in Revelation, it will get hyper specific as to what causes the dragon to be enraged. This reveals why Nebuchadnezzar was enraged specifically, lest we come to a different conclusion. This is what we read: <sup>17b</sup> **who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Messiah Yeshua** (emphasis added). This is what enrages the antichrist. This is what enrages the devil. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego will not let go of the ten commandments. They won't do it. They cling to them with everything they have. One of the things you'll see today in the story is they have the testimony of Yeshua the Messiah. They literally are the template of the remnant at the end of the age. Because of where they're standing, in Nebuchadnezzar's day, we know the good news is despite all the world falling, there is a remnant who will not bow. They won't do it.



Moving to Daniel 3:14 – <sup>14</sup>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?” (Emphasis added). Now, let this sink in for a moment. I have it highlighted for you. This is for simplicity's sake. We just saw this statement back in verse twelve. I highlighted it. At that time, it was the representative of King Nebuchadnezzar who made this statement. Now, Nebuchadnezzar himself has made the same statement again. It's interesting, as we will read in verse eighteen that Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego make this very statement.

Pay close attention to what is said here. Look at the construction. The first thing Nebuchadnezzar comes out and says, “Is it true that you do not serve my gods?” What is the first commandment? **You shall have no other gods before me.** Then Nebuchadnezzar continues, “or worship the gold image?” What is the second commandment? **You shall not make a graven image and worship it.** Do you understand what is happening? In essence, Nebuchadnezzar is saying, “Are you really telling me you're going to cling to the commandments of God, and you will not compromise them, and you will not obey my law?”

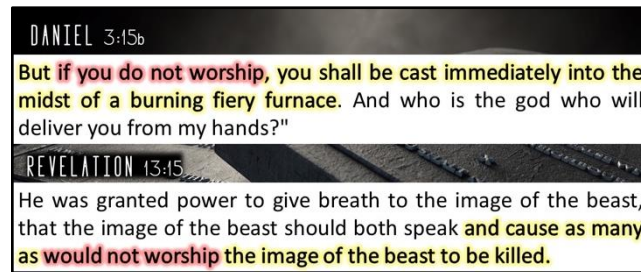
We learn a lot here. We learn the antichrist spirit's, the devil's law is the antithesis, the exact opposite of the law of God. Do you understand this? Satan's law encompasses the idea of getting you to walk away from the law of God. In any way, if Satan can accomplish that, you are abiding in the law of antichrist. That is the reality.

Daniel 3:15 – <sup>15a</sup> 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, (Nebuchadnezzar sets the mood) and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! Nebuchadnezzar may be thinking, “This is fantastic! Everything's going to be copacetic. There's no disunity in my kingdom. I feel everything is right. You know what? If you guys would just think about your neighbor; if you guys would just think about how this will impact society, you wouldn't be so selfish, and you would just bow down.” Do you understand what is coming? Do you understand the kind of lies we will be up against? It's demonic. But Nebuchadnezzar is not done. He says – <sup>15b</sup>But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. The king seems concerned that the communication lines might have been broken between what was going on with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. You can see the king is taking the time to go through this explanation. He wants to make sure they understand what is at stake. Maybe they didn't understand that their lives were on the line, but these are the parameters.

Then he says something at the end which is mind-blowing. He says – <sup>15b</sup> And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands (emphasis added)? Let that sink in for a moment. The spirit of the devil is very good at getting you to do what he wants you to do. This statement is specifically targeted to rip your faith apart. This statement is targeted to destroy any hope you have in the God of Israel, in the

Messiah Yeshua. This statement is designed to get you to focus on your flesh and to cater to the weakness of the flesh.

We've seen this exact same statement elsewhere in scripture because this is what the devil does. Think about what happened with Rabshakeh in 2 Kings 18 and Isaiah 36. Rabshakeh is an emissary for the king of Assyria. He speaks to the representatives of King Hezekiah and tells them – <sup>18</sup> **Beware lest Hezekiah persuade you, saying, "The LORD will deliver us." Has any one of the gods of the nations delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria?** (Isaiah 36:18). The king was making a true statement. Assyria was a global superpower, and they were wiping out nation after nation, people after people and no one could withstand them. At that moment, he was trying to get into Hezekiah's head, trying to get him to cater to fear and intimidating him. Just submit and all will be well. It's ironic after what we looked at last week. Do you know that Rabshakeh was willing to bless them if they surrendered? That's what the statement is all about. The enemy wants you to surrender your soul, because the war is all about worship and who you are going to follow.



Let's look at Revelation 13:15 and consider what we are reading in Rev. 13:15-<sup>15</sup> **He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed** (emphasis added). Again, I'm highlighting exactly what is being described: if you will not worship, you will die. The exact same thing will happen with the rise of the antichrist: if you don't worship the image, you will be killed.

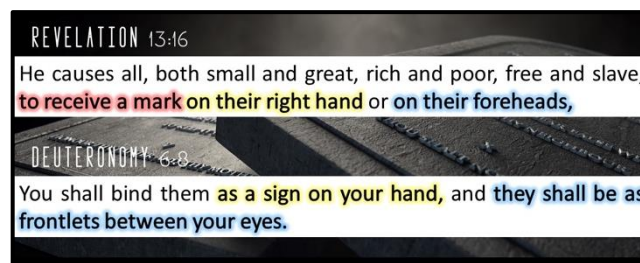
I want to draw your attention to the next verse in Revelation 13:16 – <sup>16</sup> **He causes all, (the entire world) both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave** Isn't that nice, Satan doesn't discriminate? When it comes to serving him and destroying you, he will not discriminate. It doesn't matter how much money you make. It doesn't matter how much money you don't make. It doesn't matter what ethnicity you are. It matters not, he's coming for you. He wants you to bow before him. Then he says this and let it sink in – **to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads** (emphasis added),

I want to pose a question. Unfortunately, this is a topic far too big for today, but I want to touch the surface of this a little bit, so let me pose the question: How did they actually get the mark? It fascinates me how historically, Christianity has been obsessed with the notion of the mark of the beast. There are all these Christians running in every direction and all these books going in different directions, trying to tell us what the mark of the beast is and looking for the actual symbol: it's an RFID chip; no, it's a tattoo; no, it's a stamp; no, it's a green pass; and the latest one is the hydrogel patch. We could go on and on. Many are completely consumed with trying to identify the mark of the beast.

Let me ask you, why are we not identifying the decision you made to acquire the mark? Do you understand? The question you should ask is: "What activity, what decisions, what choices have I made that got me marked?"

I don't watch sports anymore, but I grew up playing sports and I've seen enough sport interviews. When you see interviews with the winner after a game or after a long race in which they had won, holding this big, huge trophy, the interviewer is not picking the trophy apart. The interviewer doesn't say, "Hey dude, where'd you get that medal? Is that actual silver? Is it gold? Who did the carvings? Who did the engraving on this? What company did this come from? What are its actual measurements? How heavy is it?" You don't hear them saying any of this. You hear them saying, "What did you do to win? What decisions did you make to overcome?" The focus is, "How did you do this?"

I kid you not, if you as a believer are interested in the mark of the beast and truly understanding it, don't put the cart before the horse. Understand the aspects and the things that bring you to receive the mark. The mark is later. The mark is merely a symbol of the very one you have chosen to serve. There are two marks. There is the mark of HaSatan which is the mark of the beast. And there is the mark of the Lord. We find this in Deuteronomy 6.



Deuteronomy 5 is all about the Ten Commandments of God (Aseret ha-D'varim). This is the subject we are studying. Then Chapter 6:8 gives instructions regarding the commandments. What is the instruction? <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them. How? as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes (emphasis added). Do you understand: a mark on your hand or on your forehead? Now, let me be very clear. I don't care who you are. Every single person in the world will be marked. They will be marked based upon whom they serve. They will be marked based upon whom they obey. Isn't that what Paul said when we read in Romans 6:16 – <sup>16</sup>...you are that one's slaves (slaves were marked) whom you obey?

Now, we are getting into obedience. Now, we are getting into this whole concept of the commandments. When you understand that to receive the mark of the beast, you must let go of the commandments. You must walk away from God. All our emphasis should be on the commands. What an amazing thing! Have you read the Bible? Have you read Genesis through Revelation? Do you see how much emphasis there is on His commands? Is there a reason why it says you are to ...talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up? (Deuteronomy 6:7). We are to be completely consumed because the deception coming is so wicked, so vile and so believable if it is possible the elect will be deceived. There's no room for error. There's no room for compromise. There's nothing but His Word. We need His Word.

Mark of the Beast Moment!

DANIEL 3:15b

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?"

Again, look at the passage in Daniel 3:15b – <sup>15</sup> 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? Understand this is a mark of the beast moment! Do you understand that? Every time the enemy is trying to come into your house, whether he's trying to come into your marriage, get into your mind, or get into your heart to get you to walk away from the Lord and His commandments, you are dealing with a mark of the beast moment. Who are you obeying? You're that one's slave whom you obey. (Romans 6:16). It's a reality nobody wants to look in the mirror and face.

It will be too late, as many stand at the judgment and cry out to Yeshua saying we did miracles in Your name, we worked ministry in Your name and He says, ... "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" (Matthew 7:23). Those who preach the law today are the ones who are ridiculed by their own. Most pastors won't last two weeks in the church. We live in scary, scary, scary times.

Moving on to verse 16, we see Shadrach Meshach and Abed-Nego respond, and this is priceless: Daniel 3:16 – <sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter" (emphasis added). Why? Think about that response. Their response is essentially, we have nothing to talk about. Please take that in. Why do they have nothing to talk about? Because they have already made the decision to live for the Most High God. There is nothing to talk about. Do you understand Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego didn't come to this moment to be brought before Nebuchadnezzar and get all nervous and start twiddling their thumbs and start mumbling, "What are we going to do? Shadrach, what are you going to do? I don't know, what are you going to do, Meshach? I'm not sure." They are not at that moment making the decision. The decision was already made when they came into covenant.

Do we understand the gospel today? Do you know when you make that commitment to Yeshua/Jesus, it's at the cost of your own life if need be? There's no turning back. I will follow Him to be His disciple. There is that resolve. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego are resolved in their hearts. If you are not resolved in your heart, and if that radical commitment is not real in your life, please stop lying to yourself by telling yourself that you have some rough edges, and there are things you need to work out.

Here's the deal! When you accepted the gospel and accepted the reality of Jesus' crucifixion and His resurrection and the power and the call, you ended all the garbage, and you need to make that commitment now. Because if you can't make the commitment today, do not think you will make it tomorrow. Before you leave here, if you know you're not right with the Lord, and you don't make a commitment today, I pity you, because when this moment comes, you don't stand a chance. The pressure will be great. This will be as intense as it gets. Your own life is being called upon. Society is going to bear down on you. If you haven't made the decision and commitment when the wood is green, how will you make it when the wood is dry?

What does the gospel say? When I read scripture, the gospel is so clear. It says in Joshua 24:15 – <sup>15</sup> choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. This is not a decision you will make tomorrow.



Joshua didn't say that. He says you choose now. You want to serve a demon, you want to serve Baal, go serve him. You want to serve the LORD God, then serve Him.

In Psalm 95, "today" is not tomorrow, not the day after, not when you think it's important to make the decision. Psalm 95:7-8 <sup>7</sup> Today, if you will hear His voice: <sup>8</sup> "Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. That's the gospel. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego have the gospel. If you don't make the commitment today and you think you will make it tomorrow, when you come to where Shadrach Meshach and Abed-Nego are, you will have weakness; you will have excuses; you will have justifications; and you will compromise. That is not where you want to be. Today, you need to accept the gospel.

Daniel 3:17 – <sup>17</sup> If that is the case, in other words, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego are saying, "If what you're telling us is that you will cast us into a fiery pit unless we compromise the Word of God, <sup>17</sup>if that is the case, (guess what?) **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** (emphasis added). Understand, this is one of the most radical statements of faith you will find anywhere. Do not think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego just said "O king, if that is the case, we know our God can change your mind and look favorably toward us and not cast us into the furnace fire" or "O king, we know God can rain down such heavy rain that He'll put the fire out and we won't have to endure it." They do not say any of that. God certainly can do those things as it's nothing for God, but if that's what you're thinking, you're not understanding the passage. The passage is unbelievable faith. The passage is "king, you can throw us into the fire" which is absolute certain death as it is sheer natural law. Anyone who is thrown into the fire will die. And their statement is you can do that and we will live because that's the power of our God

If you don't have this kind of faith, you will never stand in the day of tribulation. You won't even stand in the little tribulations you will face. You will give into the weakness of the flesh. You will give into fear. You will give into compromise. You will fill your life full of justifications and clothe yourself in deception. Let me take it a step further, a far scarier step; if you don't have this kind of faith, you will never make it into the Kingdom of God. This is the reality that needs to jar you as we look at these stories. They are templates of what it takes to get into the Kingdom. Remember what we read in Luke 13:24. Yeshua says – <sup>24</sup> **Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.** Why? Because they don't have the faith like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego had. They don't have what it takes.

If you think this is impressive, look at what they say next: Daniel 3:18 – <sup>18</sup> "But if not (in other words, if He chooses not to deliver us), **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**" (emphasis added). Again, there's that structure of the first and second commandment. They say, "We will not compromise the first commandment. We will not compromise the second commandment. We're not doing it. Kill us." That's the gospel. These people have received the true gospel and they do not love their lives to the death. They're willing to forsake all that they have to follow the LORD.

Daniel 3:19a – <sup>19a</sup> **Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression of his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego** (emphasis added). Now, we need to stop here. You need to understand this. What just happened? Let's follow the order of events. Certain little tattle tails, little Nazis, told on these Jews to this "picture of the antichrist", Nebuchadnezzar, and said there's certain people who do not follow your law O king. The king was enraged and furious and called for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. By the time the three men get to the king, the king has calmed down. He becomes reasonable. He wants to reason with them, at least in the sense that you will do exactly what I

say. I'm going to make sure a clear line of communication is open. But when they refuse to his face, he loses it. Did you catch that?

Let's go back to last week and again read Job 2:4 – <sup>4</sup> So Satan answered the LORD and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.” The devil believes you will compromise at that moment. Job, as righteous as he was, HaSatan believed he could take him out. Do you understand the mindset of HaSatan? Unfortunately, he will get many Christians. We know this for a biblical fact. The apostle Paul makes it clear; Peter makes it clear; John makes it clear; and Yeshua makes it clear. The New Testament is inundated with that reality. He will get some. But this is his expectation, and he is stunned when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego don't give in to him because it's so unlike humanity. They are a peculiar people. They're blowing his mind in a very good way.

Daniel 3:19b – <sup>19b</sup> He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace **seven times more than it was usually heated** (emphasis added). The king was pretty upset. They're not going to obey him, so he's absolutely coming unglued. A lot of scholars will look at this and say “seven times” is just an idiomatic phrase. I don't believe that. There's much more going on here. As we get to the end of the story, you'll see what I mean. The number seven is very significant scripturally. The number seven refers to consecration; it refers to fulfillment; it refers to completion; it refers to purification which is very important because they're going to be put in a furnace that purifies. You throw gold and silver in the fire so the dross can rise; so all evil and iniquity and anyone who has embraced it, do not survive, yet the precious metals do.

Daniel 3:20-21 – <sup>20</sup> And he commanded certain **mighty men of valor** (Nebuchadnezzar's elite squad of soldiers, powerful men) **who were in his army** (he sent them out) **to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.** (he sent the strongest men to take them out. He's angry. It's the wrath of the dragon) <sup>21</sup> **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** (emphasis added). The Masoretic text really focuses on how bound these men were. There's no way they can get out. The whole concept is that Nebuchadnezzar doesn't want to throw them in, and have them run out. Kind of defeats the purpose of being incinerated while you're alive. So, they're bound in every way. The Septuagint says they were bound at the feet. I think that's significant. I'll hold back on that until later in the coming weeks.

Daniel 3:22 – <sup>22</sup> **Therefore, because the king's command was urgent,** (He wasn't going to have it) **and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego** (emphasis added). The strongest of the strong, who put their hands against the righteous elect, found themselves dead.

I think of the LORDS' words in Zechariah 2:8 – <sup>8</sup> ... **for he who touches you, touches the apple of His eye.** I also think of what was promised to Abraham and all his descendants in Numbers 24:9 – <sup>9</sup> ... **Blessed is he who blesses you, And cursed is he who curses you.** It's amazing. The very purpose of why they're putting them into the fiery furnace is to kill them and yet they themselves are killed.

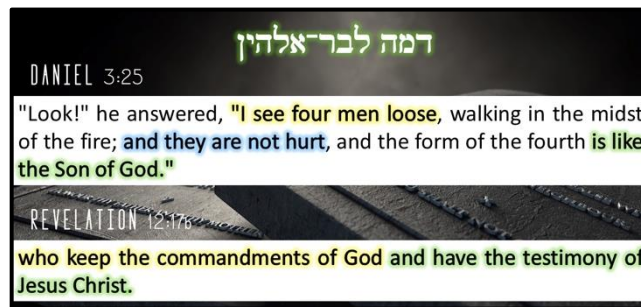
It reminds me of Haman and his sons who went against the Jews. They were going to put their hand against the Jews, and he took them out. This is the reality of the future for the wicked who are going to come against the righteous. Not a good idea.

In the New Testament, there's a story in the book of Acts in Chapter 12. Peter, an anointed man of God, is thrown into prison. There are guards guarding him and we're not told whether they abused Peter, but an angel comes, and Peter's chains literally fall off. He walks out the front door. It's totally insane, but it literally happens. It's interesting that Herod has the guards that bound Peter killed because he disappeared. The very next thing you read after their death is that God takes out Herod. It's unreal. This is something of which we should take special note.

Daniel 3:23 – <sup>23</sup> **And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.** Let me reemphasize, they are bound. What these strong men did had succeeded as they bound Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego and they fell down.

Daniel 3:24-25 – <sup>24</sup> **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."** <sup>25</sup> **"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking (they were bound, but now they're walking) in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt,** (The king recognizes they're not hurt, but then the king's attention is drawn to the fourth one. He's consumed by this) **and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God** (emphasis added).

I'm going to put this up here because some people have argued that "Son of God" is not accurate. There's some really poor commentary on this. I will put this up in the Aramaic:



Dāmêh ləḅar- 'ēlāhîṅ. (דְּמָה לְבַר-אֱלֹהִין). Bar means son. This phrase is incredible: One like the Son of God. Elāhîṅ is basically your Aramaic version of Elōhîm in the Hebrew.

As a side note, which is so peculiar, this term for God, Elohim, is also used for pagan gods. In the book of Daniel, it's used a couple of times exclusively of pagan gods, but when you get to this passage and every time afterward, it's used exclusively of the one true God of Israel. It's just an interesting thing.

But here you have literally the One, so let's go back to Revelation 12:17 (the ones who are righteous and holy) – <sup>17</sup> **who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Messiah Yeshua** (who is called Ben Elohim) (emphasis added). He's called the Son of God, the most prolific title He bore.

When Yeshua asked His disciples, <sup>15</sup> ...**"But who do you say that I am?"** <sup>16</sup> **Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** (Matthew 16:15-16).

This was the title Satan was obsessed with. This was the title that he used. When Yeshua and Satan battle in the wilderness, Satan says, **"If you're the Son of God."** It's fascinating! He doesn't say, "If

you're the Messiah." Satan says, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.'"... "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down (from the temple)." (Matthew 4:3-6).

This is a picture of what the elect look like and how they are redeemed, how they will be saved from the wicked. It's the fourth man! It's the Son of God! It's an amazing and precious story. It's so insightful.

Daniel 3:26 – <sup>26a</sup> 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**, (*emphasis added*) (servants - He knew they were slaves of God. He knew they only obeyed Him and not Nebuchadnezzar. Listen to this) <sup>26b</sup> **come out, and come here** (Why don't you go in O king and get them? How about sending in some more men to retrieve them? You want to talk about the power of Yeshua, the safety we have in Him as a protector, as a provider, as a defender? Psalm 3:3 – <sup>3</sup> **But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up of my head.**" So, out self-preservation, the king doesn't go in, but calls them out. <sup>26c</sup> **Then Shadrach Meshach and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.**

Daniel 3:27 – <sup>27</sup> **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.** Do you understand this is a prophetic picture of the fire that will be kindled at the end of the age? The earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Everything will be on fire. The only ones that will "make it" are the ones who have this fourth one with them, the Son of God!

1 Peter 1:7 says – <sup>7</sup> **that the genuineness of your faith, being more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Messiah Yeshua** (*emphasis added*). Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were tested. If they had not been faithful to the commandments of the LORD, they would have ended up like those strong men Nebuchadnezzar sent to bind them. They would have been totally destroyed.

Daniel 3:28-29 – <sup>28</sup> **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** (*emphasis added*)! In the days we are embarking on right now, you must have this kind of faith. You must be willing to yield your bodies. You must be the servant who trusts in the Lord Yeshua. <sup>29</sup> **Therefore, I make a decree that any people, nation, 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; (listen to this) because there is no other God who can deliver like this** (*emphasis added*). None! Let that statement of faith sink in. Let that declaration be your declaration. I think about the things you suffer. We can talk about the fear many of you have to deal with. We can talk about the addictions you're bound in right now. We can talk about all the health and mental health issues you have. We can talk about the marriages you believe are not repairable. We can talk about the disease that you suffer. And the answer is this: **There is no other God who can deliver like this.** We know through faith in Yeshua, there is total deliverance. Nothing is too hard for Him, including throwing men, in the flesh, in an incinerator and nothing happens to them.

We need to stand by this reality. This reality of faith changes your walk.