

GLEANINGS FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

DANIEL CHAPTER 3:1-18

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. **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. **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. **4** Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, **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; **6** and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."

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.

8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews. **9** They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! **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; **11** and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. **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."

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. **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? **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?"

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

- 1) How is the image that Nebuchadnezzar made *different* from the image in his dream?

2) What do you think was Nebuchadnezzar's motive for making his image different than the one in the dream (Daniel 2:32-33)?

2.5) What (or who) was the golden statue an image of?

(this is a trick question)

3) What do you think Nebuchadnezzar hoped to achieve by making all the people worship the image?

4) We're told that Nebuchadnezzar gathered all of the leaders in his kingdom. Which prominent person is missing and why do you think that might be? (Sanctified speculation is okay here!)

5) King Nebuchadnezzar asks a question in verse 15 that he likely did not expect a literal answer to... What was his question, and what was the answer he received?

6) Why did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego refuse to worship the image?

7) What kinds of temptations have you faced where the vast majority of your peers were all engaging in the wrong behavior? How did you respond?

8) Do you think you would be able to demonstrate the same courage as these three young men? When you look at your current walk with Jesus, do you see things that would indicate that you would be able to stay faithful in a "Daniel 3 situation" (and explain your answer)?

NOTES:

-Verse 18: *But if not*: ESV Study Bible says, “There was no doubt in the three men’s minds as to God’s power to save them... Yet the way in which God would work out his plan for them in this situation was less clear.”

-GET KIETH GREEN ALBUM ART IMAGE, PUT IN YA ACTIVE SLIDES.

-

ANSWERS:

1:

2:

3: Unity across the kingdom, united around worshiping this one image on a plain- similar to the Tower of Babel (paraphrased version of ESV Study Bible’s input).

4: From the ESV Study Bible: “Daniel himself is curiously absent; perhaps he is away on a mission, or perhaps above the administrative rulers mentioned in 3:3 and thus immune from such displays of Nebuchadnezzar’s pride, or perhaps the Chaldeans did not feel safe accusing Daniel.” Remember that this all happened very quickly, so there may not have been time taken for someone else to show up and say “wait a second, there is another guy too, why don’t you throw him in?”

5:

6: In verse 18: because they had already adopted the identity of “we are people who do not compromise” rather than an identity of “we do not want to compromise.” They said “we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image...” They identified as people who “do not serve” anyone but the true God, rather than as people who try to seek God. [“trying to quit smoking” vs. “I don’t smoke” example]. APP: have you “purposed in your heart” (1:8) and assumed the identity of “I do not compromise”?

7:

8:

9:

10: