

Lessons from Daniel

Lesson 3: *Stand for God* Daniel 3

Daniel 3:1 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and **set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon**. 2 He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. 3 So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.

4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed, “Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: 5 As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 **Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.**”

7 Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, **all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image** of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

8 At this time some astrologers came forward and **denounced the Jews**. 9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “May the king live forever! 10 Your Majesty has issued a **decree** that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, 11 and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. 12 But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.”

13 Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, 14 and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? 15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. **Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?**”

16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, **we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter**. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the **God we serve is able to deliver us** from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. 18 But **even if he does not**, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that **we will not serve your gods** or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual 20 and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. 21 So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. 22 The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of **the fire killed the soldiers** who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, 23 and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “**Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?**” They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.” 25 He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a **son of the gods**.”

26 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, **servants of the Most High God**, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, 27 and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was **no smell of fire on them**.

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and **defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God**. 29 Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.” 30 Then the king **promoted** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Background from 600-599 BC

2 Kings 24:10 “At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up to Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. 11 And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to the city while his servants were besieging it, 12 and Jehoiachin the king of Judah gave himself up to the king of Babylon, himself and his mother and his servants and his officials and his palace officials. The king of Babylon took him prisoner in the eighth year of his reign 13 and carried off all the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king’s house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold in the temple of the LORD, which Solomon king of Israel had made, as the LORD had foretold. 14 He carried away all Jerusalem and all the officials and all the mighty men of valor, **10,000** captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained, except the poorest people of the land.”

Jeremiah 23:36 But you must not mention ‘a message from the LORD’ again, because each one’s word becomes their own message. So **you distort the words of the living God...40 I will bring on you everlasting disgrace...**

Jeremiah 29:10 This is what the LORD says: “**When seventy years are completed for Babylon**, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. 11 For **I know the plans I have for you**,” declares the LORD, “**plans to prosper you** and not to harm you, plans **to give you hope and a future**.”

The World's Stance

▲ **Jerusalem fell in 588 BC, Ezekiel's dry bones were in 587 BC. The plain of Dura in 580 BC, is Kirkuk, Iraq today**

2Kings 25:8 On the seventh day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard, an official of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. 9 He set fire to the temple of the LORD, the royal palace and all the houses of Jerusalem. Every important building he burned down.

Daniel 3:1 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and **set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.**

▲ **The governmental command was disrespectful and harsh**

Daniel 3:6 **Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."**

▲ **Every other nation went along with it**

Daniel 3:7 Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, **all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image** of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

▲ **The true followers of the LORD will always be denounced**

Daniel 3:8 At this time some astrologers came forward and **denounced the Jews.**

▲ **The opposition is done by legal decree**

Daniel 3:10 Your Majesty has issued a **decree** that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, 11 and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace.

▲ **The world will mock our God**

Daniel 3:15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. **Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"**

God's Stance

▲ **God is our Defender so we don't have to be**

Daniel 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, **we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.**

▲ **God is able to deliver us if he sovereignly chooses to do so**

Daniel 3:17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the **God we serve is able to deliver us** from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand.

Our Stance

▲ **But even if he does not, we must be prepared to stand for God anyway**

Daniel 3:18 But **even if he does not**, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that **we will not serve your gods** or worship the image of gold you have set up."

▲ **The supporters of the enemy will suffer for doing so**

Daniel 3:22 The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of **the fire killed the soldiers** who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, 23 and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

▲ **Jesus will be with you in the fire**

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "**Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"** They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

25 He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a **son of the gods."**

▲ **We are servants of the Most High God**

26 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, **servants of the Most High God**, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire,

▲ **We can escape without being tainted even by their smoke**

27 and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was **no smell of fire on them.**

▲ **Willing to give up our lives for the cause of God**

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and **defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.**

▲ **We are really promoted by God**

30 Then the king **promoted** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

▲ **God sovereignly allows some to die and miraculously rescues others**

Acts 12:2 He had James, the brother of John, **put to death** with the sword. ... 7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the **chains fell off** Peter's wrists.

▲ **Why were there only three?**

2 Kings 24:14 He carried away all Jerusalem and all the officials and all the mighty men of valor, **10,000** captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained, except the poorest people of the land."

▲ **Stand for God**

Daniel 3:18 But **even if he does not**, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that **we will not serve your gods** or worship the image of gold you have set up."