"The Fiery Furnace"
Daniel 3:1-30
Wednesday, September 10, 2025
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Hebrews 10:23-25: We hold tight our confession of faith.
1 Timothy 4:13: We gather to read, to preach, and to teach God's Word.

Context of Chapter: I. Ch. 1: Daniel the Prisoner. God brought a siege of Jerusalem by the armies of King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel and his three companions were taken captive**.** They resolve to remain faithful.

II. Ch. 2-7: God's Prophetic Plan for the Gentiles. Babylon's king serves a prophetic role. He depicts the Antichrist during the Latter Days. Three faithful Hebrew men are a picture of Israel during the Tribulation.

Main Thought of Chapter: "True faithfulness defies worldly pressures to prove a steadfast loyalty to God, who faithfully delivers His courageous followers."

Chapter Outline:
1. VV. 1-7: Test of Faith
2. VV. 8-12: Accusation Against the Faithful
3. VV. 13-18: Faithfulness Under Pressure
4. VV. 19-30: Divine Deliverance

<u>Prophetic significance</u>: In the Tribulation, worship of the image of the beast will be demanded. Those refusing will be killed **(Revelation 13:15)**. A believing remnant in Israel will refuse to bow down.

<u>1. VV. 1-7: Test of Faith:</u>

Vs. 1 "<u>Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold</u>."

Idols and huge relief sculptures were political and religious tools. To the Jews in Babylonian captivity, this golden image has alarming significance. Idol worship led to Judah's captivity. **Deuteronomy 32:16-17.**

The king had a shrewd plan for this idol. He was a brilliant military and political strategist. He conquered peoples and prevented rebellions by transforming them into Babylonians.

"Nebuchadnezzar made…" He ordered the construction of the idol after the events of **Daniel 2**: The king had terrifying dreams. He tested his wise men to tell him the dream, then give its meaning.

"There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king." All wisemen were ordered to be executed. Daniel and his three friends sought God for the answer.

God reveals the dream. It is a terrifying statue made of gold, bronze, silver, iron, and a mixture of iron and clay.

Daniel interprets the king's dream. **"You are the king of kings."** Nebuchadnezzar declared foremost king over all earthly kings. **"You are the head of gold"**.

Instead of praising God, the king is filled with pride. He constructs an idol to declare himself a god on earth.

"Height sixty cubits and width six cubits": The number six is the number of Man. **Revelation 13:18.**

Plain of Dura: An open area within Babylon's fortifications, a rallying point.

Vs. 2: Nebuchadnezzar assembled eight classes of officials from the empire. They represent all sectors of power. In the US, this is like bringing all of the federal, state, and city-level government officials together. A huge assembly.

A powerful pressure tactic: With their allegiances, the king controls all political, military, and wealth. The Hebrews **Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego** were also summoned. Daniel was absent.

Vs. 3: All were made to stand before the golden statue of the king. This huge assembly was well planned and choreographed. It projected Babylonian power and control. It even featured a patriotic anthem.

Vs. 4-5: Music has a powerful influence. Music can advance a political agenda. Totalitarian regimes have promoted music that reinforces their ideology while suppressing music that expresses dissent.

"**Herald"**: proclaims the king's commands. **Decree:** Orchestra signals worship of the king's image. For the Jews, this was a test of obedience to God. **Revelation 13:15.**

Vs 6: Penalty for non-compliance: cast into an industrial furnace for smelting gold ore. Used to construct the idol. Temperatures: 1800 degrees Fahrenheit.

Vs. 7: "All the people … fell down to worship the golden image." Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood firm.

2. VV. 8-12: Accusation Against the Faithful:

Vs. 8: "Chaldeans… brought charges": "ate the pieces of" the Jews. Chaldeans (astrologers) burned with jealousy over the advancement of

these three Jews. An opportunity to rid themselves of the Jews (antisemitic).

Today, Antisemitism is at record-high levels. The Jews are still being chewed to pieces. It will continue to grow worse until the end. It is inspired by Satan.

Vs. 9-12: Their charges: Jews do not respect the king. They do not serve the king's gods. They do not worship his golden image. These public accusations were designed to anger and provoke the king.

3. VV.13-18: Faithfulness Under Pressure:

Vs. 13: "Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego." These were public charges, so the King must deal with them publicly.

Vs. 14: The king knew these men. They served obediently in his court. Nebuchadnezzar responded, **"Is it true?"**

Vs. 15: The king extends a second chance by cuing the conductor again. He arrogantly asks, **"…what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?"** This king deliberately challenges the God of Heaven.

Vs. 16: "We do not need to give you an answer." An unmovable stance of faith. They trust in God and obey His word. They cling to God's promise of deliverance even in the face of death. **Exodus 14:14, Isaiah 54:17.**

Vs. 17: "God is able to deliver us." God can save them. He has the power to deliver His faithful from any fiery circumstance. No doubt existed in their minds, but they also humbly accept that God may choose not to intervene.

Vs. 18: "But even if He does not…" God has promised to save us from the ultimate death—the Lake of Fire. **2 Corinthians 1:9-10. Job 13:15.**

"We are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image."
Their refusal is a public confession of allegiance to the God of Heaven only.

4. VV. 19-30: Divine Deliverance:

Vs. 19: "Nebuchadnezzar filled with wrath…." He is filled with a demonic spirit. Nebuchadnezzar is a picture of Antichrist. He orders **"to heat the furnace seven times more."** Seven-year Tribulation.

Vs. 20-23: He commands warriors to cast them into the furnace. The soldiers tied up the three and threw them into the blazing furnace. The soldiers died instantly.

Vs. 24-25: "The king was astounded." He could not believe his eyes. He sees <u>four</u> men without harm. **"The fourth is like a son of the gods."**

Preincarnate Christ: **Genesis 18, Exodus 3, Judges 13, Isaiah 43:1-2**

Vs. 26: "Come out, you servants of <u>God Most High</u>." King's new title demonstrates his belief that their God was above all gods.

Vs. 27: "Gathered around". The representatives of the entire empire witnessed God's miraculous deliverance. The world will witness God's deliverance of the Jews during the Tribulation.

During the tribulation, Israel will come to saving faith in her Messiah, Jesus Christ **(Romans 11:25–27)**.

Vs. 28: "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego." He delivers His servants who trust in Him and <u>violate</u> the king's command**.** Nebuchadnezzar blesses God for their civil disobedience!

Millions of people throughout history have willingly died for their faith, rather than renounce Jesus Christ. Our love for God should take us as far as God's love for us took Him. **Matthew 10:32-33.**

Romans 13:1-2, 4: Government as God's minister of righteousness.
Acts 4:19-20: Courageously obey God's Word
Vs. 29: Nebuchadnezzar's new decree, **"There is no other god who is able to deliver in this way."**

Vs. 30: The king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper. Obedience in this fiery trial brought great blessing for these Jewish men.

John 14:21. God will make Himself known to you in the trials by fire if you trust Him and stand in obedience.
1 Peter 4:12-14: Rejoice in your fiery trials. Let the world see Christ in you.

Summary: Our obedience to God must not waver. He empowers believers to endure severe trials and grants miraculous Salvation. We are delivered from eternal death. We need not fear death if we trust in the Gospel of our Lord and Savior.

Application: Be obedient and trust God.

1. We trust in God in life-or-death situations.
2. As Christians, we will face tribulation in the world.
3. In all our trials, God is with us. Pray without ceasing.
4. God determines our end; never cease to expect His miraculous deliverance.