

## Studies in Daniel: Lesson Three

Daniel 3:1-30

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### A Dream Comes True

The Book of Daniel tells a story. It is essentially a chronological sequence of events experienced by Daniel during his lifetime in Babylon. And so it is that Nebuchadnezzar has had this terrifying dream in the previous episode. Now the fear seems to have left him but an idea is born:

#### I. Nebuchadnezzar has a Statue Built in His Honor

- A. The dream of chapter two give the king an idea: he will make a similar statue unto himself
- B. It will be made of all gold, disregarding the other kingdoms and suggesting his eternal might
- C. Like his dream, this statue was huge and majestic: 90' tall and 9' wide and all gold
- D. He set it up on the plain of Dura, about half way between the narrowing of the land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers just Northwest of the city of Babylon.
- E. Interestingly, this was in the area where the tower of Babel was constructed

#### II. The Main Truth of the King's Dream

- A. In the previous chapter, the dream which Neb has ends with the stone from the mountain crushing the feet and pulverizing the statue of the kingdoms of the world and establishing God's eternal kingdom.
- B. Evidently, the more Neb pondered this, the less he liked it, so in his version of the statue it is all of gold—representing only his kingdom—and it is established as the object of worship to which everyone is to bow down every time they hear the musical instruments play.

#### III. The Three Hebrew Provincial Governors Stand Out

- A. Daniel had, inadvertently, made fools of the Chaldeans, who, rather than being grateful that their lives were spared, bore a grudge against Daniel and his colleagues.
- B. As soon as the initial calls were made to fall down and worship the image, the three friends of Daniel stood out—because they stood up.
- C. The Chaldeans bring charges against them and infuriate the king.

#### IV. The Fiery Furnace and The Son of God

- A. The king orders Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego to be brought before him. Apparently he genuinely likes them and gives them a chance to redeem themselves.
- B. Not only do they not take the do-over, but they declare furnace or not, deliverance or not, they will not worship a false god.
- C. The king is more furious than ever; he orders the furnace heated seven times hotter and tells his temple guard to throw them in right now!
- D. The guards are consumed, but the three Israelites are joined in a leisurely stroll through the flames by One Who has the appearance of a son of the gods. It IS the Son of God, Jesus Himself.

#### V. Choices God Honors

- A. The outcome of their decision was not the primary concern of these Hebrew governors. They know God could deliver them, but also that He might honor them with martyrdom.
- B. God promises to be with us always, even in the fiery trials (Is 43:1-5a). It is a promise I am sure the Israelites had memorized since it comes in a passage of the restoration of Israel.
- C. Even with the deacon Stephen it was true as he saw Jesus STANDING at the right hand of God (Acts 7:56)