

UNCOMPROMISING FAITH

... the just shall live by his faith Habakkuk 2:4



DANIEL

Faith In His Sovereignty

Purifying God's People

Daniel 3:1-30

Lesson 9

Background Information

We can learn much from these young Jewish men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who were willing to stand for truth, even though they put their own lives at risk. They stand as a model of confidence in God and submission to His will no matter what the cost. They recognize His sovereignty and power and choose to trust their lives into His hands. The fire had no power over Daniel's friends, it burned off their bonds, but did not even leave a hint of smoke on their clothes.

The state and its king could not be separated from its gods. To bow down to the image that king Nebuchadnezzar erected, was to worship. Much like we see all around us today, the demand that all comply with the king's demands was designed to use the worship of this image as a test of allegiance to the king. These Godly men placed their fear properly in God not men. Their actions were not *public* but neither were they *hidden*. These three Hebrew men must have known they would be discovered, yet *they obeyed God rather than man*.

God will never take His eyes off of His beloved Jewish people. We too can discover like Nebuchadnezzar, that the fourth figure walking in the midst of the fiery furnace was the presence of God Himself. He will never leave us or forsake us, no matter what comes into our lives, His presence will help us through.

"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear.
What can man do to me?"

Hebrews 13:6

Treasures of the Heart

...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. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods...

Daniel 3:17-18



What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Daniel 3:1-12

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

What does it mean?



What lesson can I draw from my observations? Ask yourself, "What was the intended meaning of the original author?" Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

Daniel 3:1-12 _____

Daniel 3:13-18 _____

Daniel 3:19-25 _____

Daniel 3:26-30 _____

How can I apply it?



Ask yourself, "What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?" How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 *words* or less)

Daniel 3:1-12 _____

Daniel 3:13-18 _____

Daniel 3:19-25 _____

Daniel 3:26-30 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.

What **D**id **G**od **S**ay?

God's Words to us reveal what He wants us to understand Who He is and know His ways. **See if you can discover God's sovereign rule behind the scenes – and how He expects His people to act in the midst of difficult circumstances. Simply state what God is trying to communicate about Himself and how it can help you trust Him when you can't see Him working.**

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

Define three words: does it supply any added meaning to the text?



Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Daniel 3:1-12 _____

Daniel 3:13-18 _____

Daniel 3:19-25 _____

Daniel 3:26-30 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth...

The world still has conformers, informers and transformers. Those who follow God, walk in His presence, no matter how hot the fire gets.

Unknown

