

Daniel Chapter 3

One would think after King Nebuchadnezzar experienced his dream in Chapter 2, and Daniel interpreted it, that he would clearly understand the Will of God for his life and his kingdom, However, unfortunately he did not. Twenty years later he had another disturbing spiritual experience. It's strange to me he would build a statue for people to worship after Daniel interpreted his dream about "that statue." What are your thoughts about this?

It's also amazing to me he used a musical orchestra to prompt all people to worship him! At this point I am very curious about what Daniel was thinking about this development...as the scripture notes, 20 years earlier, Daniel was given a great amount of power in the kingdom. Yet there is nothing mentioned about Daniel in this passage. What are your thoughts about this?

I believe the Astrologers were just waiting for an opening to "tattle" on the Hebrew young men as they were extremely jealous...obviously? Of what? Your thoughts?

Again, King Nebuchadnezzar was so hasty with anger issues, full of himself, narcissistic, being the sovereign of most of all the world at the time... He flew into a rage because the 3 Godly men; (Hananiah) Shadrach, (Mishael) Meshach, and (Azariah) Abendnego, would not bow down to the king's image as they were devout Jews. King Nebuchadnezzar said, "What god will be able to rescue you?" He obviously forgot that 20 years earlier he bowed down to Daniel and literally said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal (this) secret! . Now he is saying, "What god will be able to rescue you from "my" power then? Read Daniel 3:15. The 3 Hebrew children stood FIRM in their faith, not wavering and declared that God would save them from the fire ... "but even if He doesn't, we will not bow!" How many of us here would or could have that kind of faith?

As we read on, Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage, then commanded that the fire be 7 times hotter. What is the significance of the number 7 here I'm wondering. Google search...the number 7 is considered Lucky and is a Prime number.

7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord...(Isaiah 11:2-3)

So Nebuchadnezzar ordered the strongest men of his army to tie the young men up...do you think they protested or fought then? What a tragedy for those soldiers and their families when they perished from the heat!

King Nebuchadnezzar was paying close attention at this point! Who do you think was the 4th man in the fiery furnace? What impact do you believe HE had on the king?

If there were only the 3 young men being noticed alive in the furnace, that would have been enough but our Father, the God of the 3 young men, knew that Nebuchadnezzar would believe without a shadow of

a doubt when he saw the 4th man (Jesus) UNHARMED...ALL 100%! So what was the outcome of this event?

A takeaway: We can trust in God fully in all circumstances. He will walk into the fire with us, remain with us when the heat turns up, and bring us out unharmed in His deep goodness and faithfulness. His presence is never separated from us, no matter what. Amen.

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