

## Daniel--Daniel 3

### The Fiery Furnace

#### I. Additional Scriptures...

1. God is a very present help in trouble (Ps 46:1-2).
2. Fear not, stand still, see the salvation of the Lord (Ex 14:13-14).
3. In the midst of a raging storm Paul could say, "... *I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me...*" (Acts 27:22-25).
4. Having confidence in God's presence makes His people bold (Josh 1:5-8; Isa 12:2; Jer 1:8; Acts 4:13; Eph 6:10-11).
5. Revelation 3:10.

#### II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Babylonian Captivity.**

#### III. Summary.

Nebuchadnezzar created a huge golden statue (about 90 feet high and 9 feet wide) and demanded that everyone bow in worship to it when the musical instruments were sounded. Those who refused to do so would be thrown into a fiery furnace. Everyone bowed except Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (evidently Daniel was off on some business of the king at this time).

Word of the Hebrews failure to bow was given to the king by certain Chaldeans. The king ordered Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah to come before him. He gave the another opportunity to bow before the image. Their answer, respectfully given, was that they did not intend to bow before the image and that their God was able to deliver them, but even if he did not deliver them they could not bow to the image.

This greatly angered the king so that he ordered the furnace to be heated up seven times hotter than every before and had the three thrown into it. The soldiers who threw them were slain because of the heat of the flame. The king was able to peer into the flame and what he saw astonished him greatly. There were four walking around in the flames, unharmed. He called them forth from the furnace. Their hair was not singed and there was no smell of the fire on their clothing.

Nebuchadnezzar decided that all people must not speak anything amiss against the God of Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah upon penalty of being cut in pieces and their houses being made a dunghill. The king promoted the three in Babylon.

#### IV. Outline.

1. The image the king created is described and instructions given about when it was to be worshipped (1-6).
2. There was a "test run" and everyone bowed except Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (7-12).
3. Nebuchadnezzar is enraged that the three Hebrews did not bow to the statue and commands that they be brought before him (13).
4. The Hebrews are given another chance to bow (14-15).
5. They refused to bow and stated their confidence in God (16-18).

6. The king's anger boiled over and he had them the thrown into a super-heated furnace (19-23).
7. The king saw a fourth person walking in the furnace (24-25).
8. He called them out of the furnace and there was no evidence of them ever being in a furnace (26-27).
9. Nebuchadnezzar praised the God of Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (28-29).
10. The three Hebrews were promoted by the king (30).

## V. Questions.

### WHO is it--WHO Said it--WHO Did IT?

01. \_\_\_\_\_ "... there is no other God that can deliver after this sort."
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Accused the Jews.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ Slain by the fire.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Would not worship the golden image.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ Able to deliver.

### Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. \_\_\_\_\_ A cubit is measured from elbow to the tip of the middle finger and is usually estimated to equal: (a) 24 inches; (b) 36 inches; (c) 18 inches.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ What did Nebuchadnezzar say the three Hebrews did in relation to their God: (a) trusted in; (b) sought after; (c) prayed to.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ When the Chaldeans brought up charges before the king against Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, they referred to them as: (a) your servants; (b) certain Jews; (c) foreigners.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ What does this chapter state that Nebuchadnezzar was full of: (a) wisdom; (b) baloney; (c) fury.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ After having been thrown into the furnace, the three Hebrews did not even have the--(a) smell; (b) smoke; (c) embers--of fire on their clothing.

### Fill in the Blanks

11. Anyone who spoke against the God of the Hebrews, besides losing their houses, would be \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Acts \_\_\_\_:13 "Now when they saw the \_\_\_\_\_ of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with \_\_\_\_\_."
13. \_\_\_\_\_ 1:8 "Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to \_\_\_\_\_ thee, saith the LORD."
14. "But if \_\_\_\_\_, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not \_\_\_\_\_ thy gods, nor worship the \_\_\_\_\_ image which thou hast set up."
15. The approximate dimensions of the golden image in feet was: \_\_\_\_\_ feet high; by \_\_\_\_\_ feet wide.

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

Answers will be given on next week's handout

**ANSWERS for Lesson 01-15...** [01--True, 21; 02--True, 2; 03--False, 5; 04--True, 15; 05--False, 14; 06--a, 20; 07--c, 3; 08--a, 7; 09--b, 6; 10--a; 11--25, desolation, seventy; 12--8, sown whirlwind; 13--Melzar, 16; 14--10, scales, unclean; 15--The Lord, 2.]

**VI. Lessons & Applications.**

1. Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits and the breadth thereof six cubits;... (Daniel 3:1). It could be that the image in the dream of chapter two inspired the king to do this thing. It could be that this was a means he sought to bring unity to his kingdom. Whatever motivation it was that led to the building of the statue and the decree that went along with it, it would be a violation of the very foundational commandments of the Hebrews (Ex 20:4) to bow to such an image and faithful Jews could have nothing to do with it. Here is a strong test of the courage and conviction of Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. The folly of idol worship is presented by Isaiah (Isa 44:10-19).
2. There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province... (Daniel 3:12). As the Chaldeans address the king they seek to make their case as strong as possible by indicating that these Jews are traitors and have no regard for the king. Actually, the Hebrew young men were model citizens, good advisors to the king, and were obeying the laws in Babylon EXCEPT when the law of the land came into conflict with the law of God. In such an instance, it was their determination to obey God rather than man (cf., Acts 4:19-20). We are thankful for the courageous example these three set before us and we are hopeful that if we ever are tested by the same principle that we will choose wisely as they did.
3. O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter... (Daniel 3:16). These words indicate that it was not a great worry or cause of anxiety for them to respond regarding the matter of bowing down to idols. It was not a hard question for them. From childhood, these young men had been taught the Law (Deut 6:1-9), part of which forbade them to bow to idols. It was not a matter that was even open for discussion in their minds--this thing they were being asked to do was WRONG and they would boldly refuse to do it. It is the obligation of fathers today to maintain that same type of training in the home that these three had received (Eph 6:4).
4. our God is able to deliver us ... But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods... (Daniel 3:17-18). **What remarkable faith is shown by this statement.** They knew God could, if He chose to do so, protect them from the fire. However, if God should choose not to do so, it would be best for them, STILL, to refuse to disobey God, even if it meant their lives would be snuffed out by the flames. Here are three young men who have a thorough understanding of Who God is.
5. Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury ... (Daniel 3:19). Here is the mark of a man in love with self. One who is willing to substitute himself into the place of God and be outraged that anyone would choose God over himself is a man eaten up with pride. Jesus teaches us that PRIDE is a mark of defilement (Mark 7:20-23).
6. and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God (Daniel 3:25). These words of course, come from Nebuchadnezzar. We always ought to ask: WHO IS SPEAKING. Some explain this as a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus. Others believe that such an appearance of Jesus would, in some sense, take away from the marvel of the actual coming of Jesus in the fullness of time (Gal 4:4). I've never come to any certain conclusion on this matter.
7. delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God (Daniel 3:28). It is obvious that the courage and dedication of these three have made a solemn impression upon this heathen ruler. As we have opportunity let us come to know and understand that we too can influence others in powerful ways by our trust and dedication to the Lord (2 Cor 3:2).

## VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

N W S X C D E R F V B T G N H Y U J M I  
 O K L U I O K I N G P O I K M J U Y H N  
 T N H Y T G B R W O R S H I P F V E D C  
 S W S X Q A Z X S W E D C V K R F V B G  
 E S T G B N H Y U J M K I O L N P O L I  
 R K E M J U Y H O U T N B G T R O F V E  
 V D C R Q A Z X S W E D C B R F V W T G  
 E B N H V Y U J M K I O L P U M J U N Y  
 Y G H N G E T B R F N V E D C R Q A Z X  
 S O W S Y I M A G E X C D E R F N V B G  
 T D Y R J K L O D P I K M D J U Y I H N  
 B S E G T R F L V E D C E W S X Q A N Z  
 X I S W E D O C V F R L T G B N H Y U G  
 F J M Y H G T G B R I F V B E E D C W S  
 C D E D V F R T G V B N H Y C U J M K I  
 O P I K U A B L E J M Y H N A T G B R F  
 R F V B G T Y R H N Y H M J N U I O P L  
 K J U Y H N T G B R F V E D R W S X Q A  
 Z X S H A N D W E R F V B G U T G Y H N  
 A S W X C D E R F V T G B T F B N U I O

[The words in bold type and ALL CAPS below are also in the puzzle above. What a great answer this is that Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah gave to the king!]

Dan 3:17 If it be so, our God whom we **SERVE** is **ABLE** to **DELIVER** us from the **BURNING FIERY FURNACE**, and he will deliver us **OUT** of thine **HAND**, O **KING**.

Dan 3:18 But if not, be it **KNOWN** unto thee, O king, that we will **NOT SERVE** thy **GODS**, nor **WORSHIP** the **GOLDEN IMAGE** which thou hast set up.