



If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

BUT IF NOT,

be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

Daniel 3:17-18

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Daniel Chapter Three

Review of Chapter 2



Review of Chapter 2

- In his dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw standing before him a great image, excellent in splendor, and awesome in form (2:31).
- “This image’s head was of fine **gold**, its chest and arms of **silver**, its belly and thighs of **bronze**, its legs of **iron**, its feet partly of **iron and clay**” (2:32–33).
 - This portion of the dream represented four kingdoms, and the transition from one to the next—from the present kingdom, Babylon, and then Medo–Persia, Greece, Rome.
 - This chapter serves a foundation for the latter half of the book. We will find out much more about these kingdoms.

Review of Chapter 2

- Nebuchadnezzar also saw a stone cut without hands strike this image on its feet and iron and clay, causing the whole thing to be crushed to pieces and carried away by the wind (2:34–35).
 - This portion is explained in 2:44: “And in the days of these kings (fourth kingdom, Rome) the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”
 - This is without question the Messianic kingdom, the same one of which we are a part!

Questions

- “Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold” (3:1), which essentially means he made another god.
 - Man makes a god—anything strike you as odd about that?
 - “Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and He who formed you from the womb: ‘I am the LORD, who makes all things...’” (Isaiah 44:24).
 - “Those who make an image, all of them are useless, and their precious things shall not profit; they are their own witnesses; they neither see nor know, that they be ashamed. Who would form a god or mold an image that profits him nothing?” (Isaiah 44:9–10).

Questions

- This image of gold was how tall and how wide? (3:1).
 - Better present a strong case for this idol, because it sure can't present it's own.
 - “Present your case,” says the LORD. “Bring forth your strong arguments,” says the King of Jacob (Isa. 41:21).

Questions

- T F Nebuchadnezzar invited a few close friends to the dedication of this image (3:2–3).

Questions

- Think about the herald's message in 3:4–6.
 - Think heralds for Jesus Christ might have a better message to proclaim?
 - The heralds we read about in Acts—what message did they consistently proclaim?
 - “How you turned to God from idols to serve the **living and true God**, and to wait for His **Son** from heaven, **whom He raised from the dead...**” (1 Thess. 1:9–10).

Questions

- “ALL the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped...” (3:8). All except whom? (3:8–12).
 - The “Chaldeans” who accused them, do we still have folks like that around today?
 - “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they **defame you as evildoers**, those who **revile your good conduct in Christ** may be ashamed” (1 Peter 3:15–16).

Questions

- Remember that prior to this, Nebuchadnezzar had promoted these three men (2:30). Would this perhaps make it MORE difficult to defy His order?
 - Goethe: “Most men can oppose their enemies, but it takes a special person to oppose his friends.”

Questions

- Nebuchadnezzar was furious with these three men, but what offer did he make to them? (3:14–15).
 - “And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?” (3:15). Remind you of anyone else in Biblical history?
 - “Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?” (Exodus 5:2).
 - Pharaoh received a “ten lesson correspondence course,” and Nebuchadnezzar is about to get his lesson, too.

Questions

- What these three men said to the king (3:16–18)—what does that say about them?
 - When you know THE KING, other kings don't scare you.
 - Think about how many people must have been encouraged by their response—at that time, and in every age since!
 - Think about the excuses they COULD have made (so young; away from home; everybody's doing it; more useful alive than dead; it's just an idol so why not just go through the motions; etc.).

Questions

- And so into the fiery furnace they go, with what two additional stipulations from the king? (3:19–20).
 - So hot, in fact, that what happened to those who cast them into the furnace? (3:22).
 - Binding them in coats, trousers, turbans, and other garments will help make this miracle even more conspicuous.

Questions

- What did the king see in the fire that really got his attention? (3:24–25).
 - How does Nebuchadnezzar later describe this being? (3:28).

Questions

- T F These three men suffered a few minor burns, some smoke inhalation, but other than that, they were just fine (3:27).

Questions

- Look at the praise the king offers in v. 28. Anything in this that might have been particularly difficult for him to admit?

Questions

- The king's decree in v. 29—what would happen to anyone who spoke anything amiss against “the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego”?
 - Earlier, “Who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?” (3:15).
 - Now, “There is no other god who can deliver like this” (3:29).

Questions

- These three men were promoted by the king (3:30), but whose esteem you think mattered more to them?