



Life More Abundant Bible Study

Bible Prophecy: Daniel Chapter 3

Historians claim that a revolt occurred in King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, led by some of his highest ranking generals between December 596BC and January 595BC. After brutally suppressing the uprising, Nebuchadnezzar sought to enforce the complete devotion of all of his subjects throughout his kingdom. This may partially provide background to the erecting of the massive golden statue on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon (Daniel 3:1).

1. Consider the material for which the statue was entirely comprised and the prophecies of the rise and fall of world empires recently revealed and interpreted to Nebuchadnezzar by the Jewish captive Daniel. What suggestions would Nebuchadnezzar be making with this statue?

The spirit of rebellion towards God and His word is something traceable throughout human history (see Genesis 4:3-15; 9:11-17; 11:1-9) and was no different with Nebuchadnezzar! Consider the spans of the subjects who were to obey the decree as shown in Daniel 3 verses 4 and 7. Can you see that Babylon was a "world empire", having people from all parts of the world as its citizens and subjects?

Notice that the command of Nebuchadnezzar by his herald is for the worship of the golden statue or image. Compare this command to the following verses:

- Exodus 20:2-6
 - Acts 5:28, 29
 - Acts 4:19, 20
 - Romans 13:1-7
 - 1 Peter 2:13-17
 - Mark 12:13-17
2. Compare the role of government here in the United States, where we enjoy freedom of religion, to the decree issued by Nebuchadnezzar. How would you handle being **forced** to worship a certain way as dictated by law?

The bible here gives a glimpse of the abuses that can occur should the institutions of church and state become united. We shall see other examples of the attempt to codify (make law) morality as we study prophecy.

3. Compare the words of Nebuchadnezzar after being shown the prophecy of Daniel 2:46, 47 and his boastful words of Daniel 3:15. Consider Nebuchadnezzar's fickleness in his original profession of faith in Daniel's God. At times, are we any different?
4. What are the charges levied upon the three Hebrew boys (v12)?
5. Consider the response of the three Hebrew boys in Daniel 3:16-18. Based on their response, were the three more concerned with pleasing God or man? Was their deliverance guaranteed according to their statement? Was their faith in God blind faith or had God given them sufficient evidence to believe He could save them? Consider Isaiah 43:1-3 when giving your answer.

God is seeking those who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth (John 4:24). He seeks those who would rather die than sin (Revelation 12:11; Luke 14:26). Based on this truth, how do you understand the following verse?

"Hath the LORD [as great] delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey [is] better than sacrifice, [and] to hearken than the fat of rams." 1 Samuel 15:22

6. Notice the events after being thrown in the fiery furnace. Who does Nebuchadnezzar perceive in the furnace with the three Hebrew boys? Compare this event with the words of the Babylonian wise men in Daniel 2:11
7. Consider that the fires of the furnace had no power on the three Hebrew boys (v27 - compare to Jeremiah 29:20-22). Read 2 Peter 2:9 and Malachi 3:2, 3; 4:1-3 and discuss what this event with the Hebrew boys foreshadow.

Consider Nebuchadnezzar's praise to God and for the young men after calling them from the furnace in Daniel 3:28.

8. Had Nebuchadnezzar learned his lesson regarding codifying (making law) worship based on verse 29?

As a result of faithfulness, the three boys were once again promoted and the true God of heaven was glorified before the entire nation.

9. Should we always expect the same type of deliverance as experienced by the three Hebrew boys?

10. If God chose not to deliver the boys, would it have meant that they were any less faithful or had done wrong? Read Luke 13:1-5, John 9:1-3 and Revelation 6:9-11 before giving your answer.

One of the beauties of the bible is the consistency found through and through. There are parallels that can be traced through the entire book that show a single mind of inspiration and the fact that world history repeats itself. With that said, complete the table below showing thematic parallels to the story of faithful triumph written in Daniel Chapter 3.

Daniel 3	King Nebuchadnezzar	Image of Gold	Chaldeans (False Prophets)	Those who bow and worship	Those who do not bow and worship
Revelation 13					
Exodus 32					

Summary:

Daniel chapter 3 demonstrates the head-to-head conflict between God and Satan, the Great Controversy, played out in the lives of God’s people. The three Hebrew boys were willing to stand tall while others bowed to the unrighteous decree and image; as a result they became the direct targets of Satan’s attacks. In actuality, one could reason that the original intent of the erection of the statue on the plain of Dura was Satan’s explicit goal for this confrontation against the people of God. Through their fidelity in obeying the commandments of God rather than the commandments of men, the three Hebrew faithfuls were willing to risk their lives to vindicate God’s law; so it must be with us living today. We must purpose to overcome the trials of the devil by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony, and love not our lives, even unto death (Revelation 12:11). In so doing, we too give God the opportunity to show Himself strong through our lives and that He be glorified!

For a better understanding of prophetic imagery, terms, and symbols used in this bible study, refer to the study, [Interpreting Bible Prophecy](#), also located on the Life More Abundant Bible Study website.

Key Themes in the Book of Daniel

The One and Only God of Heaven is Seeking to Reveal Himself to All Nations, Tongues and Peoples

God is in *Head-to-Head* Conflict With Paganism: False gods, Dogmas, and Worship

God Establishes His Supremacy Over Heaven, Earth, and All Living Things:

- God Rules Over Nature
- God Rules Over Time
- God Rules Over History

Sincere Followers of the True God Must PURPOSE In Their Hearts to Follow Him, Regardless of the Circumstances or Consequences