

**DANIEL**  
**THE RISE AND FALL OF KINGDOMS**  
**TESTING OF THE BRETHREN**

**1. KINGS FOLLY - IMAGE MADE AND SET UP**

- a. **Daniel 3:1- (NIV)** King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.
  - i. **Hebrews 11:34 (NIV)** quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.
  - II. NINE = JUDGEMENTS
  - III. NINETY NOT A PERFECT NUMBER BUT
    - (1) 9 [JUDGMENT] X 10 [PERFECTION OF GOD] WILL GIVES US 90 WHICH WILL SHOW GODS VIEW OF THIS. OR, THE KINGS FOLLY
  - IV. THE PLACE OF DURA IS NOT KNOWN TODAY, ALL WE KNOW TO DAY IS THAT IT WAS IN BABYLON

**2. Dedication service**

- a. Daniel 3: <sup>2-3</sup>He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. <sup>3</sup>So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.
  - i. Note that the people summoned before the king are named twice. The purpose, so that we will take note of whom they were.
    - (1) *m<sup>e</sup>diynah, med-ee-naw'*; from Hebrew 1777 (diyn); properly a *judgeship*, i.e. *jurisdiction*; by implication a *district* (as ruled by a judge); generally a *region* :- (× every) province.
      - (a) The governing bodies of the kingdom were summoned.
  - ii. The king stood them all before this image.
    - (1) **Romans 1:23 (NIV)** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.
    - (2) **Revelations 13:14 (NIV)** Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

**3. COMMAND TO WORSHIP**

- a. Daniel 3:<sup>4-7</sup>Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "This is what you are commanded to do, O peoples, nations and men of every language: <sup>5</sup>As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace." <sup>7</sup>Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music,

all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

I. WHAT WILL COME?

- (1) **Revelations 13:15 (NIV)** He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

II. WHAT IS SHOWN HERE?!

- (1) THIS IS WHAT YOU ARE COMMANDED TO DO, O PEOPLES, NATIONS AND MEN OF EVERY LANGUAGE:

- (2) <sup>5</sup>AS SOON AS YOU HEAR THE SOUND OF THE HORN, FLUTE, ZITHER, LYRE, HARP, PIPES AND ALL KINDS OF MUSIC, YOU MUST FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP THE IMAGE OF GOLD THAT KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAS SET UP.

- (3) <sup>6</sup>WHOEVER DOES NOT FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP WILL IMMEDIATELY BE THROWN INTO A BLAZING FURNACE.

- (4) ALL THE PEOPLES, NATIONS AND MEN OF EVERY LANGUAGE FELL DOWN AND WORSHIPED THE IMAGE OF GOLD THAT KING

- (A) ALL = KOL [CHALDEE] WHICH MEANS THE WHOLE, OR THE WHOLE NATION. IT DOES NOT LOOK AT THE INDIVIDUAL. IT IS LIKE SAYING THAT THE UNITED STATES IS A CHRISTIAN NATION.

4. DENOUNCED BEFORE THE KING

- a. Daniel 3:<sup>8-12</sup>At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. <sup>9</sup>They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! <sup>10</sup>You have issued a decree, O king, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, <sup>11</sup>and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. <sup>12</sup>But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon--Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego--who pay no attention to you, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."

I. LOOK AT THE ACCUSERS

- (1) 3:<sup>8-12</sup>AT THIS TIME SOME ASTROLOGERS CAME FORWARD

- (A) ASTRONOMERS HAD BECOME ASTROLOGERS

- (i) **Deuteronomy 4:16-19 (KJV)** Lest ye corrupt *yourselves*, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, <sup>17</sup>The likeness of any beast that *is* on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air, <sup>18</sup>The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that *is* in the waters beneath the earth: <sup>19</sup>And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, *even* all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

II. WHAT IS THE CHARGE?

- (1) <sup>12</sup>BUT THERE ARE SOME JEWS--WHO PAY NO ATTENTION TO YOU, O KING. THEY NEITHER SERVE YOUR GODS NOR WORSHIP THE IMAGE OF GOLD YOU HAVE SET UP.

(A) WHAT WOULD OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS SAY OF US TODAY?

(2) JUDGEMENTS

(A) WHY IS DANIEL FREE OF THIS [ANDY'S VIEW]

(i) THE BELIEVER'S JUDGMENT OF HIMSELF!

1) SCRIPTURE BASIS;

A) 1 CORINTHIANS 11:31-32 BUT IF WE JUDGED OURSELVES, WE WOULD NOT COME UNDER JUDGMENT. WHEN WE ARE JUDGED BY THE LORD, WE ARE BEING DISCIPLINED SO THAT WE WILL NOT BE CONDEMNED WITH THE WORLD.

2) WHO IS JUDGED? BELIEVERS WALKING IN THE LIGHT.

A) 1 JOHN 1:4-10 . . IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT, AS HE IS THE LIGHT . .

3) WHEN? DURING THIS LIFE.

A) EPHESIANS 4:22-32 . . STRIP YOURSELVES OF YOUR FORMER NATURE . .

B) COLOSSIANS 3:5-17 . . MORTIFY THEREFORE YOUR MEMBERS WHICH ARE UPON THE EARTH.

4) WHERE? UPON THE EARTH, IN THIS KINGDOM.

A) ROMANS 8:1-16 . . WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH, BUT AFTER THE SPIRIT.

5) BASIS OF JUDGMENT? OBEDIENCE TO GOD.

A) **JAMES 1:23-25 (NIV)** ANYONE WHO LISTENS TO THE WORD BUT DOES NOT DO WHAT IT SAYS IS LIKE A MAN WHO LOOKS AT HIS FACE IN A MIRROR <sup>24</sup>AND, AFTER LOOKING AT HIMSELF, GOES AWAY AND IMMEDIATELY FORGETS WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE. <sup>25</sup>BUT THE MAN WHO LOOKS INTENTLY INTO THE PERFECT LAW THAT GIVES FREEDOM, AND CONTINUES TO DO THIS, NOT FORGETTING WHAT HE HAS HEARD, BUT DOING IT--HE WILL BE BLESSED IN WHAT HE DOES.

6) RESULT; EITHER CHASTISEMENT OR APPROVAL FROM GOD.

A) A. HEBREWS 12:5-11 . . .FOR WHO THE LORD LOVETH HE CHASTISETH, . . .

(B) DANIEL HAD MADE HIS STAND. THE KING KNEW WHERE HE STOOD. THESE THREE HAVE NOT. I BELIEVE THAT THEY HAD DECIDED TO DEFY THE KING'S DECREE. WHAT THEY NEEDED TO DO, DO AS DANIEL DID. FACE THE ISSUE WITH THOSE IN CHARGE.

(i) MY LIFE AT A.T.&T.

1) IT WAS KNOWN HOW I LIVED. I DID NOT HAVE TO SAY HOW I STOOD ON ISSUES BUT ONCE. AFTER THAT GREAT RESPECT WAS SHOWN REGARDING THE LAWS OF GOD.

5. WHAT GOD WILL YOU SERVE?

a. Daniel 3:<sup>13-15</sup>Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, <sup>14</sup>and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? <sup>15</sup>Now when you hear the sound of the horn,

flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

I. FURIOUS WITH RAGE,

(1) HOW OFTEN HAVE WE SEEN A LEADER REQUIRE THOSE UNDER HIM TO BELIEVE AS HE DOES?

(A) THE GREATNESS OF THE UNITED STATES IS THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION.

(2) IF A RELIGION WAS TO COME OUT OF THIS REGION AND THIS PEOPLE, WHAT DO YOU THINK ONE OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR IT MIGHT BE?

(A) WE CALL THAT A CULT TODAY!

II. THE QUESTION PUT TO THE THREE.

(1) IS IT TRUE?

(A) HE DID NOT WANT A VERBAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

III. NOW HE GIVES THE THREE A CHANCE TO PERFORM THE ACT.

IV. IF THEY DID NOT PERFORM, THEY WERE TO BE PUT IN A BLAZING FURNACE.

V. THE QUESTION FOR ALL MAN TODAY!

(1) THEN WHAT GOD WILL BE ABLE TO RESCUE YOU FROM MY HAND?

(A) THE KING ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE IS THE REQUIRING THIS.

6. THE GOD WE SERVE IS ABLE

a. Daniel 3:<sup>16-18</sup>Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup>If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup>But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

I. THE THREE

(1) SPEAK IN ONE VOICE, IN ONE ACCORD. UNITY

II. ADDRESS THE KING BY NAME.

(1) THEY ARE NOT SPEAKING TO HIS POSITION BUT TO THE MAN.

(A) WE DO NOT NEED TO DEFEND OURSELVES BEFORE YOU IN THIS MATTER

(B) <sup>17</sup>IF WE ARE THROWN INTO THE BLAZING FURNACE, THE GOD WE SERVE IS ABLE TO SAVE US FROM IT,

III. NOW THEY SPEAK TO THE POSITION.

(1) HE WILL RESCUE US FROM YOUR HAND, O KING.

(2) <sup>18</sup>BUT EVEN IF HE DOES NOT, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW, O KING,

(3) THAT WE WILL NOT SERVE YOUR GODS OR WORSHIP THE IMAGE OF GOLD YOU HAVE SET UP.

IV. WHAT DID WE LEARN IN CHAPTER 2 ABOUT KINGS AND DOMAINS?

(1) THEY ARE UNDER THE CONTROL OF GOD.

(A) THEY RULE OR FALL AT THE WILL OF GOD.

(B) IF THEY DO DAMAGE THEY WILL BE DESTROYED.

7. THE TRIALS OF THIS WORLD!

- a. Daniel 3:<sup>19-23</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual <sup>20</sup>and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. <sup>21</sup>So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. <sup>22</sup>The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, <sup>23</sup>and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.
  - I. TAKE A LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE IN THE ATTITUDE OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR BETWEEN THESE THREE WHEN THEY SERVE ANOTHER GOD AND HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS DANIEL.
    - (1) WAS FURIOUS
      - (A) HOW OFTEN DO WE GET THIS TYPE OF REACTION?
        - (i) DO WE CONTRIBUTE TO IT?
    - II. WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
      - (1) HE ORDERED THE FURNACE HEATED SEVEN TIMES HOTTER THAN USUAL
        - (A) SEVEN TIMES
          - (i) SPIRITUAL PERFECTION
            - 1) IT WILL BE A GOD THING.
              - A) THEY WILL COME OUT WITH OUT SPORT OR WRINKLE.
        - (2) <sup>20</sup>AND COMMANDED SOME OF THE STRONGEST SOLDIERS IN HIS ARMY TO TIE UP SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO
        - (3) THROW THEM INTO THE BLAZING FURNACE
        - (4) <sup>21</sup>SO THESE MEN, WEARING THEIR ROBES, TROUSERS, TURBANS AND OTHER CLOTHES, WERE BOUND AND THROWN INTO THE BLAZING FURNACE.
      - III. WHAT IS GOD GOING TO DO?
        - (1) <sup>22</sup>THE KING'S COMMAND WAS SO URGENT AND THE FURNACE SO HOT
        - (2) THAT THE FLAMES OF THE FIRE KILLED THE SOLDIERS WHO TOOK UP SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO
      - IV. WHERE ARE THE THREE?
        - (1) <sup>23</sup>AND THESE THREE MEN, FIRMLY TIED, FELL INTO THE BLAZING FURNACE.
8. THE EYES OF NATURAL MAN
  - a. Daniel 3:<sup>24-25</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, O king." <sup>25</sup>He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."
    - i. Who leaped to his feet.
      - (1) King Nebuchadnezzar
        - (a) How often have we seen this name in this manner?
          - (i) WHY NOW?
        - (B) WHAT DOES THE KING DO?
          - (i) ASKED HIS ADVISORS?
            - 1) WEREN'T THERE THREE MEN THAT WE TIED UP AND THREW INTO THE FIRE

- A) THREE = DIVINE PERFECTION - THE PERFECT DELIVERANCE OF MAN
- 2) "LOOK! I SEE FOUR MEN WALKING AROUND IN THE FIRE, UNBOUND AND UNHARMED,
- A) FOUR = CREATED THREE PLUS ONE - GOD IS KNOWN BY WHAT HE CREATES.
- 3) FOURTH LOOKS LIKE A SON OF THE GODS."
- A) GOD IS WITH US!

## 9. THE KING RECOGNIZES THE GOD OF SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO

- a. Daniel 3:<sup>26-28</sup> Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, <sup>27</sup>and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. <sup>28</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.
  - i. What does he now say about these three?
    - (1) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God
  - ii. What did he see?
    - (1) They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.
  - iii. What did the king now do?
    - (1) Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego,
      - (a) Who did he praise?
  - iv. Why did he praise this God?
    - (1) sent his angel and rescued his servants!
    - (2) They trusted in him
    - (3) defied the king's command
    - (4) were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God

## 10. THE DECREE OF THE KING

- a. Daniel 3: <sup>29-30</sup>Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way." <sup>30</sup>Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.