

Daniel 3

1 Neb sets up an enormous idol which sounds like some of the Buddhist idols. This King had just confessed Daniel's God was God of gods but the image from his dream and the fact that he was the head, captured his imagination. Image nation - and untrue to his own confession he wanted people to worship it which was indirectly worshipping him since he was the head. (2:37,38) The point of the dream was the end where all man's governments come to naught and the Rock - Jesus establishes his Kingdom. Can God's revelation to us be taken by our flesh and distorted to serve us instead of Jesus? You bet. We must watch out for that. 2,3 If all the leaders will do it, then the people will follow. First you find out if the leaders are behind it.

4,5 He was the head of gold so he made an image all of gold. Must have been awesome. Now it's earrings. Interesting he uses music in the worship service to himself. Very few religions use music. He may have been copying Judaism.

6 State religion, you must worship this way. Yes, you can legislate religion but you can't legislate righteousness. You can force a form of worship, but genuine worship is from the heart.

7 Do or die. Conformity to save your life is hardly worship and yet there were only three willing to lose their lives to proclaim truth by non-conformity.

8-11 First they quote the law to set up the king before they tell him who it is that's guilty. Is there a hint of jealousy here?

12 Envious reward seekers, but when you stand up in a bow down world it gets attention, and not always the healthy kind. Notice they claim more than standing when they are suppose to bow but standing in everything they do (neither serve your gods). Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The 'pay no attention to you' was a Satanic inspired jab at Neb's pride. We've already read how they were better looking, and had wisdom 10x greater than these guys. Daniel saved their lives with the revelation of the dream but also showed them all up - and was given a reward they all wanted.

13 Fury and rage is an out of control ego that is wounded.

14,15 He knew they served another God. He gave them a second chance to conform. We are often tested a second time to see if we will compromise in the face of suffering if we don't. He challenged God's ability - not a good idea. What god? JHWH!

16,17 Guilty as charged - do what you gotta do. No defense is necessary when you have obeyed the Lord. They did respond to God's honor and not their own. These are men after God's heart. He is able to save and one way or the other He will rescue from the hand of the tyrant. How many of us would be concerned over the honor of God in this type of situation?

18 But even if he does not!!! I wont bow down to you - I wont worship a man - I wont worship your gods or images! They know what is right, and in spite of all the indoctrination they have received they are faithful to the true God.

19 They must have been faithful and respected before, because his attitude changed. He hadn't learned the lesson from the last chapter and the unlimited patience of God was still trying to get the message across. Christ is King! Doesn't matter what you decide or do. Christ is King. Doesn't matter how hot the fire or how big the threat. Someone else is reigning.

20 He sentenced his best soldiers to death in this decision. Doesn't matter how tight they tie you up or how strong the guards are. There is a condition greater than all the physical ones. My God reigns.

21-23 We will go into the flames so people can see Jesus. Laddimeir and Riddley did and people saw Jesus. The big muscle boys are crispy critters.

24 Ought oh, something's wrong, wonder what's cookin'?

25 Walking around. We haven't got to do that since the Garden. I bet it looked like a garden to them with Jesus present. He is the Son of God Mr. Neb. At least you got that right.

26 They probably didn't want to come out. Would you if Jesus was in there? Oh shucks, I gotta go back out of this beautiful place in the very presence of Christ and talk to some king.

27 Ever light a stove a bit too late and lose all the hair on your arm? There was no smell of smoke because they were surrounded by the protecting presence of the Son. He was literally their shield. No doubt in anyone's mind that this was God's divine intervention. If you don't think so ask a dead guard.

28 The light dawned. He says, "Thank God there are some stand up men in this bow down world so we can all learn who the true God is." Thank God there are men who are so different their lives tell us we are worshipping false gods in vain. Thank God there are men willing to risk their lives for what they know is right, unwilling to compromise.

29,30 It doesn't always come out like this. Lat and Rid died in the flames and so did thousands of others. But they got a promotion much greater than Shad, Me, and Abed. They got an eternal promotion.