

## Stand Up People

Dan 3

Verse 1 An enormous idol which sounds like some of the Bhuddist 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 when 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 for that. If Satan can't keep us from hearing God, he will distort what God has said and try to get your motivation to err in carrying it out. What kind of idols does the world ask us to bow down to? How do they represent man?

verse 2-5 He was the head of gold so he made an image all of gold. Must have been awesome. Now it's a bunch of earrings. Interesting he uses music in the worship service to himself. Very few religions use music. He may have been copying Judaism.

verse 6 State religion, you must worship this way. Yes, you can legislate religion but you can't legislate righteousness.

verse 7 – 12 Envy, tattlers, reward seekers, who knows their motivation 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, from the enemies of these godly men. Are we standing in our work, our home life, our leisure?

verse 13 Fury and rage is an out of control ego that is wounded. Ego is Edging God Out.

verse 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. He challenged God's ability - not a good idea. Do you see second chances to compromise and present a mixed message in your life? I have rarely had a victory that I didn't get a second chance to fail.

verse 16 Guilty as charged - do what you've got to do. No defense is necessary when you have obeyed the Lord. What a hard lesson for us who always seek to defend our self! I know a man of God falsely accused a few years back who refused to defend himself because in so doing he would have had to speak against another brother. He lost everything but he has my respect and much more than that he has a heavenly reward and the blessing of the God He honored in being honorable.

verse 17 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.

verse 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! I wont compromise with the world so as to fit in and be accepted. Is that your firm conviction regardless of the price you must pay?

verse 19 They must have been faithful and respected 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 furnace how big the threat. Someone else is reigning.

verse 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.

verse 21 – 23 We will go into the flames so people can see Jesus. Laddimeir and Riddley did, and people saw Jesus.

verse 24 Oh no, something is wrong, wonder what's cookin?

verse 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.

verse 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."

verse 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. No doubt in anyone's mind that this was God's divine intervention. If you don't think so ask a dead guard.

verse 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.

verse 29 Still trying to legislate righteousness. Don't worry, God still has unlimited patience and seven years of being a cow will bring it home to you. That's in the next chapter.

Verse 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. Which would you prefer? Time to be stand up people in a bow down world!