



An Exploration of Eschatology in Exile

WEEK 3: September 29, 2020, 10 am

Pastor Andy Kinder
Seneca Church of God of Prophecy
12 Week Discipleship Course

Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Image & The Three Hebrew Boys: Daniel 3

Objectives

- Recognize the Sin of Idolatry
- Acknowledge saving faith and saving grace
- Submit all glory and honor to God at all times

Chapter Outline

- The King's Image of Gold (Daniel 3:1-7)
- The Jews are Accused (Daniel 3:8-13)
- The Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3:14-25)
- God's Servants (Daniel 3:26-30)

Review

- Daniel one begins with the history that leads up to this point in history.
- Daniel two discussed the dream of Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel's interpretation of it, both historically and futuristic.
- Each chapters common thread is that Yahweh is the only true God.
- Chapters 1-3 each end with worship and adoration directed towards Yahweh.

The King's Image of Gold (Daniel 3:1-7)

- The king made a huge idol and placed it in the plain of Dura.



- KJV: 60 cubits tall & 6 cubits wide
- Modern Measurements: (A Cubit equals 1.5 ft)
 - Tall: 90 ft
 - Wide: 9 ft
- A dedication service was called to order. Every nobleman and person of interest within the nation was called to honor the king and his image.
 - Every nobleman complied.
 - They would have been fearful of what the King may do to them or their families.
- A messenger stated that upon hearing the musical instruments play, everyone is to bow down to the idol. It was stated that they were to worship the golden image.
- The messenger informed the audience that upon failing to worship the image that individual would be cast in the fiery furnace.
- Upon the sounding of the musical instruments the noblemen fell down and worshiped the image. Some may have worshiped out of fear, others out of respect for the King.

The Jews are Accused (Daniel 3:8-13)

- Certain Babylonians accused the Jews of not bowing to the image.
 - Exodus 20:3, "Thou shalt have no other god before me."
 - Exodus 20:4a, 5a, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.....thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God..."
- Certain noblemen accused the Jews before the King. These noblemen would have heard of Daniel's gift of dreams and interpretation. Many would have been jealous of what he and the other Jews could do. Out of this heart of jealousy is birthed an act of hatred to punish and kill the Jews that worship the God of Heaven alone.
- Many would have been afraid of Daniel; however, they would go after his best friends of whom he included in his reward from the King (chapter 2).
- The accusation was that the Hebrew boys had no respect for the King by not serving his gods nor worshiping the golden image.
- The King commanded for Azariah, Mishael, and Hananiah to be brought before him for questioning and punishment.

- Notice: the noblemen called the three Hebrew boys by their Babylonian names. These names are tied to the Babylonian gods.

The Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3:14-25)

- The King begins questioning the Hebrew boys by calling them by their Babylonian names.
- The King tells them that upon hearing the instruments they must bow and worship. He even challenges their God by saying “Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?”
 - One would think that the same King that heard an interpretation from the Hebrew God would be willing to honor Him.
 - However, King Nebuchadnezzar was a prideful man.
- The three Hebrew boys were very clear. They wanted to be careful in their response to the King. However, their answer is marked by two things:
 1. Their God is able to deliver them from the furnace and from the King’s hand.
 2. If their God chooses not to save them, they will still honor Yahweh and not the King’s false gods or his idol.
- Their response angered the King immensely. One must assume there were others in the King’s presence that heard the Hebrews stand up to the King and his decree.
- Nebuchadnezzar’s face and disposition was changed. Anger had filled his heart. This is not the only time his visage will be changed due to an act of God or an act of God’s people.
- The King ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than normal. The “seven times” reference is still lost on modern scholars. Some debate this meant the temperature of the furnace was that much hotter than usual. Others take it to mean that the amount of fuel that was normally added was done seven times that amount. Either way, it was much hotter than normal and would have killed anybody except for God’s mercy and grace.
- The mighty men of Babylon were order to cast them into the furnace. However, the heat was so much that even they died. The irony is not lost on the mightiest men of the army being slain by their king’s own decree. Yet, the people of God were covered.
- Anything they had with them were to be thrown into the furnace with them. The King was extremely angry.
- Notice: the three Hebrews were bound and thrown into the furnace. They could not walk around or run or fight. Rather they were thrown so quickly that they would have been laying down. Yet, when Nebuchadnezzar gets a chance to look into the furnace he sees four men and they are all walking freely.
- The fourth man was described by the king as the “Son of God.” Many scholars view this as a Christophany (aka: theophany), per-incarnate appearing of Christ.

God’s Servants (Daniel 3:26-30)

- Upon seeing his own mighty men die and these Hebrew boys free with a fourth man walking with them, King Nebuchadnezzar calls them by name and recognizes them as the “servants of the most high God.”
- The noblemen noticed that these men were saved and that nothing (not even their clothing) was harmed by the fire. They did not even have the stench of fire upon them.
- The king recognized the great act by the Hebrew God and decreed that his mind, his decree, and even a natural occurrence (death) was changed by this GOD.

- The King made a national decree from this time forward that no individual or nation under Babylonian rule could ever speak against Yahweh. If they did, then they would be “cut into pieces.”
- Afterwards, the King promoted the three Hebrew boys.
- Notice: the three Hebrew boys may have seemed so small in Babylon. However, their act of faith led to a national and empirical decree that no one in the greatest world empire could speak against Yahweh. God is to be praised! For only He could orchestrate something of this magnitude.