



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## DANIEL 3:1, 8-18

### THREE YOUNG MEN REFUSE TO BOW—

August 8, 2021

#### INTRODUCTION /SYNOPSIS:

DANIEL SERVES UNDER NEBUCHADNEZZAR/ DANIEL INTERPRETS THE KING'S IMAGE DREAM

**Chapter 2:1-49** Daniel is the author of this book under the kingship reign of Nebuchadnezzar. Belteshazzar was the Babylonian or Aramaic name given to Daniel while exiled in Babylon. He still honored God by not defiling himself; by not eating the king's food. The king had a dream so he called for the magicians and astrologers to tell him what he had seen, and also to interpret the dream unto him. And when they could not, the king became angry. Daniel was then brought before the king by Arioch (captain of the king's guard) with the stipulation that the men wouldn't be destroyed because they couldn't interpret the dream. Well, Daniel interpreted the dream as the God in heaven revealed it to him. The king rewards Daniel with gifts and to be ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief of the governors over all of the wise men of Babylon. Daniel then requests Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to help him over the affairs of the provinces of Babylon; and Daniel set in the gate of the king.

#### LESSON:

#### I. THE GOLDEN IDOL DANIEL 3:1

**3:1** Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. In Babylon's religious culture, statutes were frequently worshiped. However, Nebuchadnezzar erects a golden image (90ft high and 9ft wide). Nebuchadnezzar hoped to use this statute as a strategy to unite the nation and solidify his power. The gold may have been inspired by his dream. Instead of having only a head of gold, it was gold from head to toe. Nebuchadnezzar wanted his kingdom to last forever. When he made the statute, he showed that he did not understand the God behind the dream. He set it up in the Plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

#### NOT APART OF THE LESSON VERSES 2-7

**3:2** Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. Nebuchadnezzar sent for the princes, the governors, the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, that is, a prestigious delegation for the dedication of the image in which he had set up. Of course this is another false god.

**3:3** Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. The delegation of prestigious people apparently came from every area of the realm and represented practically his total officiation as a public statement, that the unity of Nebuchadnezzar's empire was rooted in the common worship of the golden image.

**3:4** Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,—



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the herald cried aloud commanding the people, nations, and languages that...

**3:5 That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:—** At the sound of the cornet, flute, harp (Gk. Name), sackbut, psaltery (Gk. Name), and dulcimer (Gk. Name), and all kinds of music from the instruments, they were to fall down and worship the golden image that king Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

**3:6 And whoso falleth not down and worshipping shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.** They were to fall down and worship the golden image that king Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And whoever didn't worship the image would be cast into the fiery furnace. The fiery furnace was not a small oven for cooking dinner or heating a house. It was a huge industrial furnace that could have been used for baking bricks or smelting metals. The temperature was hot enough to assure that no one could survive its heat. The roaring flames could be seen leaping from its top opening and a fiery blast did kill the soldiers who went up too close to the furnace door (3:22).

**3:7 Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.** So, at the sound of the cornet, flute, harp (Gk. Name), sackbut, psaltery (Gk. Name), and dulcimer (Gk. Name), and all kinds of music, they fell down and worshiped the golden image that king Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

## BACK TO THE LESSON

### II. THE SCHEMING INFORMANTS DANIEL 3:8-12

**3:8 Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.** Well, certain Chaldeans were jealous and envious of the positions held by these young Jews and reported that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not obey the king's decree. What was not understood was that these young Jews were committed to still follow God's Law. Exodus 20:4-5 says:

*4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

*5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;*

So, these certain Chaldeans had observed that the Jews had refused to worship the image. How, were they not bowed to the ground honoring the decree and the king? They could not have been bowed themselves.

**3:9 They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.** They told this to king Nebuchadnezzar, giving homage to him with a sly motive of spite— "*O king, live forever.*"

**3:10 Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image:—** They would not let this go, telling the king his written word for word of the specified decree and what is to happen when hearing the great sound, meaning fall down and worship the golden image.

**3:11 And whoso falleth not down and worshipping, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.** And when the people don't fall down and worship, they should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.



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**3:12** There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. Yeah, they're jealous! They're like little children telling on each other. They let the king know that he has put Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in high positions over the affairs of the province of Babylon. They are not even from Babylon, but held captive as slaves there, so the Chaldeans makes it known to the king that these young Jews serve not his gods nor worship the golden image which he's set up. It's like a slap in the face for the king.

## III. THE BRAVE YOUNG MEN DANIEL 3:13-18

**3:13** Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. Well these three Hebrew youths refused to bow, the king was informed of it, and he was so angry with rage and fury. He commanded that they be brought to him. And they brought them before king Nebuchadnezzar.

**3:14** Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?— Well, the king questions them about not serving his gods or worshipping the golden image.

**3:15** Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?— So the king gives them a second chance for them to bow down at the sound...and fall down and worship the image. But if they don't, they will be thrown into the mist of a burning fiery furnace. The king's snarly comment: "*And who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?*" meaning no god can rescue them from his power.

**3:16** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. They boldly replied: "*We are not worried about what will happen to us.*" What courage must have been in these young Jews! Instead of rationalizing their way into compromise and sin, they literally stood fast for the Lord.

**3:17** If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. "*But if we are thrown into the flaming furnace, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.*"

**3:18** But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. They disobeyed a civil law because God's law had clearly instructed them to not have any gods before Him (Exodus 20:3). Now, this took bold faith for them to say: "*But if He doesn't, please understand sir, that even then we will never under any circumstance serve your gods or worship the golden statue you have erected.*" Today in Acts 5:29b tells us "*...We ought to obey God rather than men.*"

## SUMMARY:

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**Nebuchadnezzar erects a golden image (90ft high and 9ft wide) and sets it up in the Plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. The delegation of princes, the governors, the captains, the judges, the treasurers, and all the rulers of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image in which king Nebuchadnezzar had set up. The herald cried aloud that at the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, they were to fall down and worship the golden image that king Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And whoever didn't worship the image would be cast into the fiery furnace. They fell down and worshiped the golden image that king Nebuchadnezzar had set up (3:1-7).**

**Well, certain Chaldeans were jealous and envious of the positions held by these young Jews and reported that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not obey the king's decree. They told this to king Nebuchadnezzar, giving homage to him with a sly motive of spite— *"O king, live forever."* They would not let this go, telling the king his written word for word of the specified decree and what is to happen when hearing the great sound, meaning fall down and worship the golden image. So, now they mention that these young Jews didn't fall down and worship, and that they should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. They informed the king that these were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the ones he had put in a high position, over the affairs of the province of Babylon. It's like a slap in the face for the king (3:8-12).**

**When these three Hebrew youths refused to bow, the king was furiously angry, commanding that they be brought to him. Well the king questions them about serving his gods and worshipping the golden image. So the king gives them a second chance for them to bow down at the sound...and fall down and worship the image. But if they don't, they will be thrown into the mist of a burning fiery furnace. The king says *"And who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?"* meaning no god can rescue them from his power. They boldly replied: *"We are not worried about what will happen to us. But if we are thrown into the flaming furnace, our God is able to deliver us, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if He doesn't, please understand sir that even then we will never under any circumstance serve your gods or worship the golden statue you have erected"* (3:13-18).**