

## The Book of Daniel

### Part 3: The Furnace of Fire

#### Recap The Book of Daniel Series

- ◇ Israel is Conquered by Babylon
- ◇ Daniel and Friends are Educated in Babylonian Culture
- ◇ Daniel and Friends are Established as Leaders in Babylon
- ◇ Nebuchadnezzar Has a Dream that Daniel Interprets
- ◇ Nebuchadnezzar Praises God as the God of gods
- ◇ The Book of Daniel is about Refusing to Compromise Your Convictions

#### Nebuchadnezzar Sets Up an Image

- ◇ Daniel 3:1-7
- ◇ Sets Up 90 foot Gold Image
- ◇ Requires All Officials to Bow Down to the Image - Executive Order
- ◇ Why does Nebuchadnezzar do this?
  - ◇ Compensating for Something? ;-)
  - ◇ Response to Image in Chapter 2
  - ◇ Defiance of True God- Trying to One-Up God!
  - ◇ Why a Furnace of Fire?
  - ◇ Nebuchadnezzar is Interested in Supremacy and is using Intimidation to Make his Point - A Loyalty Oath

#### Hebrew Men are Reported

- ◇ Daniel 3:8-12
- ◇ Chaldeans - "Dropping a Dime"
  - ◇ Wisemen from Chapter 1
- ◇ People Looking for Ways to Bring you Down-
  - ◇ Intimidated by Your Faith / Success

#### Before Nebuchadnezzar

- ◇ Daniel 3:13-15
- ◇ Called Before Boss/Principle
- ◇ Nebuchadnezzar Gives an Appeal & Threat
- ◇ *"What god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?" Daniel 3:15*

#### The Hebrew Men Respond

- ◇ Daniel 3:16-18
- ◇ A Faith That is Tested is a Faith That Can Be Trusted
- ◇ *"In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:6-7*

- ◇ Three Options to Compromise:
  1. Fake it - Witness to Others
  2. Ask Forgiveness - No Demonstration of Real Faith
  3. Rationalize - Small Compromise (leads to something next)
- ◇ Satan will Always Give an Option to Compromise
  
- ◇ Real Tension is in the Ten Commandments
  - ◇ Exodus 20
  - ◇ Have No Other gods
  - ◇ Do Not Bow Down to Idol
  
- ◇ Not Between You & Me - But Between Me & God
- ◇ *"The fear of man is a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord will be set securely on high." Proverbs 29:25*
  
- ◇ Their Minds are Already Made Up
  - ◇ *"Even if He does not..." vs 18*
  - ◇ Left the Decision to God

### **Nebuchadnezzar Responds**

- ◇ Daniel 3:19-23
- ◇ Filled with Wrath- Ego
- ◇ Seven-times Hotter- Why?
- ◇ Nebuchadnezzar is Trying to Cancel Them

### **The Hebrew Men are Saved**

- ◇ Daniel 3:24-27
- ◇ Four Men- "son of the gods" vs. 25
  
- ◇ Christ, in the Midst of the Fire
- ◇ *"Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6*
  
- ◇ Faithful Obedience is Our Responsibility- the Outcome is God's
- ◇ *"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." 1 John 5:4*
  
- ◇ God Does Not Cancel Me- but My Sin!
- ◇ *"When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross." Colossians 2:1`3-14*

### **Nebuchadnezzar Praise God Again**

- ◇ Daniel 3:28-30
- ◇ Blessed their God- Again
- ◇ Another Decree
- ◇ The Hebrew Men are Vindicated