

Daniel the Prophet

Man of Purpose

Man of Pridelessness

Man of Prayer

Man of Prophecy

Man of Perseverance

Taken in part from J.V. McGee

Daniel 3

3:1-7 Nebuchadnezzar's Image of Gold (Pride)

:8-12 Nebuchadnezzar's Dilemma (# 1)

:13-15 Nebuchadnezzar's Rage and Demand

:16-18 The Faithful Youths' Answer

:19-23 Nebuchadnezzar's Full Fury

:24-25 Nebuchadnezzar's Dilemma (# 2)

:26-30 Nebuchadnezzar's Awakening (Humility)

Nebuchadnezzar's Dilemma # 2

Daniel 3:24-25

v. 24

3 men

bound

in fire

v. 25

4 men

loose, walking

not hurt

Varietal Notes on Daniel 3

- The miracle was a one-time event, and as such is not to be considered normative for daily living

- The miracle, like so many others, was multi-faceted
 - release from their physical bonds
 - protection from the fire: no burns or singes, or even smell of fire
 - ability to breathe despite the fire and smoke
 - spiritual refreshment from the Lord in the midst of the fiery trial

- A man's impatience and uncontrolled anger becomes costly to him personally, and to others
 - consider the subsequent humiliation
 - consider the loss of some choice warriors

- The Most High God shows Himself to be far above all others
 - For some, this is realized in *time*
 - For all, it will be realized in *eternity*

Nebuchadnezzar's Rage and Ultimatum Daniel 3:13-15

---His lack of control: “in rage and fury”

---His ultimatum: “If you are ready”

---His proud, boastful challenge: “Who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”

The Faithful Jewish Youths' Answer Daniel 3:16-18

---Our God is able to deliver us

---Our God will deliver us

---But even if He doesn't deliver us, we *do not* serve your gods and we *will not* worship your image of gold

Nebuchadnezzar's Image of Gold

Daniel 3:1-7

The Gold Image

3:1

Dedication of the Image

3:2-3

The King's Surprise Command

3:4-7

Nebuchadnezzar's Dilemma # 1

Daniel 3:8-12

Refusal of God's people to worship another god.

The Chaldeans accuse the 3 Jewish youth of disobedience to the king's command.

Why was Daniel not also named here?

Possibly: *He obeyed the king, and bowed.* **NOT!**
He was out of town (or, in town).
See 2:49—taking care of business!

Here in Daniel 3 the enemies of God are accusing the people of God for wrongdoing with reference to their pagan religion. This is an old ploy of Satan. There is nothing new under the sun. . . . the same is happening in our country today. Remember, Satan is the accuser of the brethren. (Rev. 12:10)

Nebuchadnezzar's Full Fury

Daniel 3:19-23

“filled with fury”

Uncontrolled Extremes of an Unstable Man: Nebuchadnezzar

Jer. 29:22 roasted his enemies in the fire

Daniel 2:5 the king's extreme severity

2:12 angry and very furious

2:46 fell on his face, . . .

3:13 in rage and fury

3:19 full of fury

heated furnace 7x hotter than usual

3:28f blesses God

threatens his own people

promotes the Jewish youth

:26 Calling the youth to come out of the fire

:27 The youths' miraculous unscathed condition

:28 Blessing the God of Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego

Blessing God for delivering them

They have frustrated the king's word

They would worship their God solely

:29 A new decree

Note the extreme again.

Reason for the decree: “There is no other god who can deliver like this.” Cf. v. 15.

Our God, the only TRUE God, is a delivering God!

Nebuchadnezzar promoted the disobedient.

“We must obey God rather than men.”