

Daniel

Chapter 3



Accusations brought against the three teenagers verses 8-12

⁸” For this reason at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and brought charges against the Jews.

Who were the Chaldeans? Special class of astrologers –priest, all of pure Chaldean blood dating back to tower of Babel; First Religion was based on Astrology –no redeeming factor in astrology-based on Satanic origin—demon gods were worshiped —gods behind all this worship.

Here is gratitude for you...they would not even be alive if it were not for Daniel and his 3 friends—jealousy! Anger! and note **certain Chaldeans** they were not all this way, but there were those who were **jealous –resentful;**

Why were they angry and resentful?

- 1 **Because their religious hold on the king had been not only challenged but broken—he no longer considered them the elite; their religion; idolatrous gods were revealed as false and they no longer had that prestigious place before Nebuchadnezzar; **battle between False demonic Religion and True God, much like today Religion does not like competition –(Muslims—kill Jews and Christians...Hindus etc.)****

Religion hates competition and must control the people while on the other hand,
Christianity—Grace allows man to make his own decision concerning JESUS CHRIST

- 2 **They resented the fact that four of the highest positions in the entire nation of Babylon had been given to these Jews who were hostages from a foreign land. They resented it, they were jealous of them, and now was an opportunity to get rid of them.**
- 3 **Jealousy: destruction of the soul and relationships; it is one of the most vicious of Mental Attitude Sins. Satan rebelled against God out of jealousy; Cain murdered his brother Abel out of jealousy;**

and here these men seek to have these 3 brilliant men executed out of jealousy

There were those who were grateful! and who believed in the God of Daniel. But religion tries to get rid of completion in the most horrible of ways... note here—they want these Jews killed all through Times of the Gentiles there has always been those who seek to kill the Jews... Esther... Spain... Nazis... and throughout the world today—Supernatural hatred of the Jews—by Satan

⁸” For this reason at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and brought charges against the Jews. “

Let's look at charges against the Jews.

What is so interesting is the Arabic word used here; is so befitting to the Jews bringing charges against Jesus.

the word *to bring charges* is made up of two Aramaic words:

1st *akal* a verb meaning *to eat* , to consume, to devour denoting hatred and desire to get rid of someone.

This word is combined with the Aramaic *qeras* pieces –to eat the flesh

To consume, to devour –Aramaic idiom to make malicious accusations at

someone to get rid of them—These Chaldeans were so jealous of these 3 men (include Daniel) that they seize this opportunity to have them killed –just as the Jews at the time of Jesus Christ just want Him dead...get rid of Him.

But for the Record,

This is not just the Chaldeans desiring to get rid of these 3 Jewish men, nor is it just the Jews wanting to get rid of JESUS CHRIST;

This is also true of Christians dealing with One Another. Paul in describing how believers treat One Another uses this same terminology:

Galations 5:

1⁵” but if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another

This is just another reason why the control of the Tongue is emphasized throughout the bible. Many Christians who would not murder someone with a knife but they murder with their tongue.

These Jews face two great tests from two different directions:

1st from the King who demands they worship him and false gods

2nd hostile resentment from other members in the government.

One attacks their faith, the other their race. Anti-Semitism has existed all through history of the Jews, but none as consistent and hostile as the Arabs, the descendants of Ishmael and Esau, right up to this very day.

The Accusations

verses 9- 12

⁹” They responded and said to Nebuchadnezzar the king: “O king, live forever! (Empty hypocrisy)

¹⁰” You, O king, have made a decree that every man who hears the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, and bagpipe and all kinds of music, is to fall down and worship the golden image.

¹¹ “But whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.

You can see their scheme—first they refer back to the King's own words to lay the foundation of their attack (Esther; Rome)

¹² “There are certain Jews (*certain Chaldeans, certain Jews-*)

Spiritual Warfare is between those who believe in JESUS CHRIST and
those who do not believe in Jesus Christ
Anti-Semitism

¹² “whom you have appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, *namely* Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego.

the Inference is that the King had made a big mistake in appointing these Jews and that they were ungrateful for his generosity and they do not respect him or his mandates
Do not be naïve –Christians are just as petty and jealous and vindictive against One Another.

¹² “who These men, O king, have disregarded you; (they do not respect You)

¹² “they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up.”

Here are their three charges:

- 1 They have right out disregarded you
- 2 They do not serve your gods, which is tantamount to not serving you
- 3 They do not worship your golden image, which again is tantamount to not worshiping you!

On this they are correct! and they want to make sure the king knows it.

Compare this to charges against the Jews in Esther by Haman

Esther 3:

⁸ “who Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from *those of all other* people and they do not observe the king’s laws, so it is not in the king’s interest to let them remain. And in verse 9 Haman asked permission to just kill these certain people, **kill these Jews.**

What these certain Chaldeans are doing is not unlike a lot of Self-Righteous Christians who want to make sure God, and other people know when a believer sins and make sure everyone else knows.

Remember Satan, means accuser and that he goes about seeking Christians who sin so he can accuse them before God.

**Cross Examination by Nebuchadnezzar
verses 13- 15**

Just as Pilate cross examined JESUS CHRIST so Nebuchadnezzar now cross examines these three certain Jews.

¹³ “Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego; then these men were brought before the king.

rage and anger (characteristic of people who have to be in control and who don't get their way)

rage (Aramaic word –violent anger that comes on all of a sudden)

anger (when one does not get his way;)

These are characteristics of the Inherited Sin Nature which always seeks to be in control We are building a profile of this Nebuchadnezzar and are seeing how hardened his nature is and why it will take an extreme measure from God to get his attention to truth of God.

¹⁴ “Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?

Is it true NASB; NIV, and KJ but this is a difficult concept to translate from the Aramaic.

It is really an interesting word: we should have it in our English!

the Aramaic word *seda* means **purpose, not true** doing something on purpose, with the negative connotation: *to do something with malicious or disobedient intent—*

is it on purpose that you do not serve my gods...

He cannot believe that they willfully disobey him!

The two important words here are **serve and worship my gods**

If man does not serve and worship the true God, he will serve and worship false gods

First: note what is the foundation of these three young men:

Deuteronomy 5:

⁹ “You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and the fourth *generations of those who hate Me,*

¹⁰ “but showing loving-kindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Here is what guides these three young men.

Are your actions guided by society or by the Word of God?

Are your actions guided by God the Holy Spirit?

We have so much to learn about 'Love' Divine Love and Spiritual Love

It is amazing how sloppy Christians thinking is today about love—*that God is not going to cast anyone into a lake of fire...*

oh yes He is!

and

that we are to accept all the immorality today out of love for these people.

These are the kinds of misunderstanding about love when you get your eyes off the cross, off the +R of God and on people.

God does not set aside His +R for His Love

We now enter into a very important historical issue!

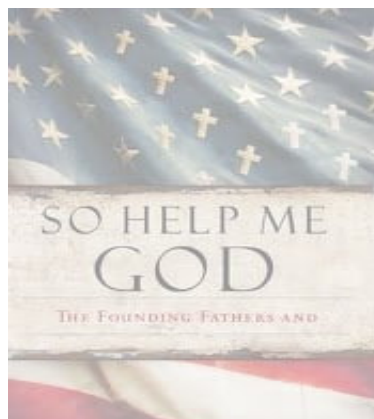
Religion and the State!

(Church and State)

The United States was founded on the premise that America would have no nationally imposed Religion

Separation of Church and State

has now been used to separate this nation from the Bible and the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob



—whom most of our founding fathers did believe in—

But now we are to recognize the Islamic movement as Religion
while in reality it is political state
based on worship of a false god-Allah

It is truly a state ruled by Religion-based on religion
but our leaders here in America are afraid to acknowledge this

Rome had a mixture of worship of Caesar and Roman Law;
To obey Roman Law was to worship Caesar
and to worship Caesar was to obey Roman Law;

Nebuchadnezzar took it as an attack against him if one did not serve and worship his gods
and of course his gods always supported whatever he said

so that not to worship and serve his gods
was in effect not to worship and serve him

And while America moves further away from our foundation of the bible,
we still enjoy the freedom to worship the one true God.

And while our government is moving closer to telling us what we
can and cannot teach out of the bible, like moral issues,
we can still worship JESUS CHRIST and Christians should take full advantage of this freedom

¹⁵ “Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn,
flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall
down and worship the image that I have made, very well.

Let's stop right here

It would be so easy for these 3 young men to back off; to think they can serve the Lord if they continue to live!

Satan makes it so easy for believers to compromise their faith, just as so many today compromise so much in the bible with what is popular today--and I am not even thinking of moral issues... but things like distortions of the Gospel—(inviting Jesus into your heart)...(Lordship Salvation), etc.

the image that I have made

Note the emphasis on Nebuchadnezzar by Nebuchadnezzar:

¹⁴ “you do not serve my gods or worship the image that I have set up

¹⁵ “fall down and worship the image I have made

Here is idolatry: worshipping what we make with our own hands
To worship and serve his gods and his image is to worship and serve Nebuchadnezzar

But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?”

Here is the Battle!

Nebuchadnezzar has just stated the place and issue of the Battle.

All the false gods vs. the God of Israel

What god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?

Deliver —rescue you out of my authority, or my power or rescue you out of what *I can do to you?*

Nebuchadnezzar has so quickly forgotten his own words in verse 47 *your God is a God of gods and Lord of Kings*

Wisdom from book of Daniel

Knowledge of God leads to Courage of Faith?

In verses 16-18

Relationship of these 3 teenagers and the Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar

Relationship between these three teenagers with One Another.

Relationship of each of these teenagers and Jesus Christ.

¹⁶“ Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter.

the Aramaic **need** means it is not necessary that we give you an answer

In our study of the **Six Trials of JESUS CHRIST**, more often than not, He remains silent, before both Jewish and Roman authorities.

The unbelievers have rejected the truth and would not understand a truthful answer, so He lets silence speak for Him, where we see the virtue of silence.

*O Nebuchadnezzar it is not necessary we give you an answer whether our God,
(whom we serve and worship) is able to deliver from your power
...from your furnace of blazing fire*

– He will deliver. Us –

These 3 young teenagers are not being disrespectful – they know that Nebuchadnezzar can have them thrown into the fire, but more real to them is the fact that their God CAN deliver them and WILL deliver them

Their God is more real than the furnace, more real than death!

Is God more real to you than life?

Or do you compromise to hold on to things of this world?

Declaration of No Compromise

Teenage statement of Faith

In the face of horrible painful ending of their young lives,
these three young men refuse to turn from their God and worship idols!

Wisdom from Daniel

How durable is your Faith?

IT IS **NOT** HOW STRONG OR POWERFUL YOUR FAITH!

THE FAITH THAT GOD IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR
IS FAITH THE SIZE OF A GRAIN OF MUSTARD SEED!



WITH FAITH THIS SMALL... GOD SAVED YOU FOR ALL ETERNITY...
AND EVERY DAY OF OUR LIVES THIS IS ALL THAT GOD IS LOOKING
FOR.

TO SAY THAT GOD IS LOOKING FOR *MORE* FAITH; *GREATER* FAITH
IS TO MAKE FAITH A WORKS—WHERE WE HAVE TO COME UP WITH MORE
AND MORE TO PLEASE GOD.

DON'T MAKE FAITH A WORKS!

NO MATTER THE CHALLENGE IN YOUR LIFE—WHETHER IT IS A FIERY
FURNACE OR LIT MATCH, ALL GOD IS LOOKING FOR FROM US IS FAITH
THE SIZE OF A MUSTARD SEED

THE POWER OF FAITH IS IN THE **OBJECT OF FAITH**
NOT IN YOUR FAITH!

WISDOM: WE ARE ABLE TO TRUST GOD THE MORE WE KNOW ABOUT
GOD

WE START OFF BY **TRUSTING HIM FOR OUR SALVATION,**
THEN
AS WE GROW IN KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND OF JESUS CHRIST AND OF
HOLY SPIRIT WE **TRUST HOLY SPIRIT FOR RECOVERY FROM**
PERSONAL SINS, THEN WE LEARN THAT WE CAN **TRUST HIM IN**
LIFE, THROUGH THE DIFFICULTIES OF LIFE

¹⁷ “ If it be so, our God (**OBJECT OF THEIR FAITH**) whom we serve is able
to deliver us
from the furnace of blazing fire (**TEST AND TRIALS IN LIFE**); and He will
deliver us out of
your hand, O king. (**FAITH, THE SIZE OF A MUSTARD SEED!**)

18 “But *even if He does not*, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

HERE IS ONE OF THE STRONGEST STATEMENTS OF THE FATHER IN THE WORD OF GOD.

NOT HOW STRONG

SO IT IS NOT A MATTER OF HOW *STRONG IS YOUR FAITH* AS IN
WILL YOUR FAITH CARRY YOU INTO THE FIERY TEST OF LIFE.

FAITH THE SIZE OF A MUSTARD SEED

ALL YOU NEED IS A GRAIN OF MUSTARD SEED OF FAITH.

CAN YOU COME UP WITH JUST ENOUGH FAITH TO TRUST GOD IN
TRIALS OF LIFE?

NOT HOW POWERFUL

IT IS NOT A MATTER OF HOW *POWERFUL IS YOUR FAITH*.

GOD IS POWERFUL ENOUGH

GOD IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO GET YOU THROUGH THE TRIALS
OF LIFE.

SIMPLE FAITH – TRUST HIM

OUR WITNESS OF HIS POWER IS OUR SIMPLE FAITH IN HIM IN
THE FIERY FURNACES OF LIFE!

They are not teaching as to how one ought to think,
this is their testimony; this is a statement of their faith!

We could spend a couple of hours just on
the courage,
the faith,
the witness
of these three teenagers.

If it be so As John Whitcomb points out, it is not the sovereignty of God that is in question but His Perfect Will and Plan.

Our God Nebuchadnezzar has encountered their God in reference to his dream and it's interpretation

Now he is going to encounter their God again.

Whom we serve they are making a public declaration that while they carry on the affairs of State, they are serving their God—reference to Jesus Christ.

What they are saying is that they do not worship or serve any other gods, nor do they worship any idols.

How do we serve our God? by Trusting in Him by obeying all His commands...and how do we obey His commands? By Faith in the Holy Spirit.

He is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire;

Now pay close attention, they do not say He will deliver them from the blazing furnace,

But that He is **able**... indicating the ability to do something—
They declare the sovereignty of God.

This Aramaic word is all through the book of Daniel.

1.	Starting with chapter 2 verse 10 — where the Chaldeans charged that no one was able — 'could'nt interpret the dream
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2.	The whole issue of revealing and interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream depends on who is able to both reveal AND interpret. Chapter 2 verses 26-28
3.	Nebuchadnezzar will realize that no god is able to do what the God of these three teenagers is able to do. Chapter 3 verse 29
Question: what do people learn about your God by your faith?	
4.	Nebuchadnezzar comes to believe in God of Daniel due to the fact that God is able... chapter 4 verse 37
5.	God is able to deliver Daniel from the lions chapter 6 verse 20

Wisdom from book of Daniel

God is Able??

This little word is one of the most important words in the Bible and is the most important word to every one of us!

Ask yourself: Is God able to do all we trust Him to do?

We believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior — Is He able to Save?

We believe in our own Resurrection — Is He Able to Raise us from the dead?

We believe in Eternal Security — Is God able to keep us saved forever?

Is God able to raise up Israel again?

Is God able to create a new heaven and a new earth?

Is God able?

Is your God able?

I trust God to

(ask yourself, is your God able to do all that you trust Him to do?)

1.	God is able to save and to do all He promised: Rom. 4:21; 16:25
2.	God is able to secure us to Eternal Life John 10:29; Heb. 7:25 Jude 1:24
3.	God is able to raise us from the dead Heb. 11:19
4.	God is able to use us to His glory beyond what we even think He can or will Eph. 3:20
5.	Here is a God you can trust: 2 Tim. 1:12
6.	Do you believe that your God is able to deliver you through fiery trials and any adversity that may come into your life?

Here is the lesson of these three teenagers cast into fiery furnace.

¹⁷ “If it be so, (according to His Plan) our God (object of their faith) whom we serve (and not false gods) is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; (test & trials in life) and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

and in so doing, that is... if He delivers us from the furnace of blazing fire **He will deliver us out of your hand, O king**

They recognize and respect Nebuchadnezzar as King of Babylon, but not in having authority over them in regard to their relationship with their God. It is out of your (Nebuchadnezzar) power to kill us!

¹⁸ “But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

But even if He does not deliver us from the blazing furnace ...

Let it be known to you that is what they are about to declare

**“That we are not going to serve your gods or
worship your golden image that you have set up”**

1st thing to note:

1. all three stick together on this, all three are like minded — these are the kinds of friends you want to have in life!
(— Job had three friends who added to his tribulations of his journey —)

Wisdom of Daniel

When you are facing the fiery trials of life, you will want to have like-minded friends!
Choose friends who are like minded about God and what God is doing!
All three of these young men were an encouragement to each other.

2. They have no guarantee that God will deliver them, but they trust Him regardless of what He chooses to do.

THEY LEARNED THIS FROM JOB, THE FIRST BOOK GIVEN TO US IS THIS PRINCIPLE OF LIFE

On God’s Plan; not on man; not on Nebuchadnezzar;

They have no guarantee that God will deliver them, but they trust Him regardless of what He chooses to do.

Job 13:15 “Though He slay me, I will trust in Him.

My times are in Your hand;

Psa. 31:15a

¹⁵ “Did not He who made me in the womb make him,

Peter words it this way:

¹⁹ Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Whether they live or die...it is right before God

Paul: for me to live is Christ and to die is gain!

Romans 8:28

A lot of believers know Rom. 8:28 but when it comes to living it, in their lives, in difficult times they leave it and go into SADNESS, STRESS, ANXIETY, ANGER, DEPRESSION.

This is what we need in America today;
people who will stand on their declared Faith in JESUS CHRIST,
in plan of God the Father!

I am not ashamed of the gospel; not ashamed of JESUS CHRIST;
I don't care what others choose, morally, family, friends, finance, church etc.;
but as for me---serve the Lord only!

**There are things we were dying for;
There are things we were living for!**

You have to make up your own mind
Christianity, today, is not heavenly minded (Colossians 3:1) but Earthly minded!
There are certain issues where you do not compromise

Here are 3 young teenagers taking their stand...not afraid to die, not afraid to take their stand
for JESUS CHRIST

Colossians 3:

¹ "Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.