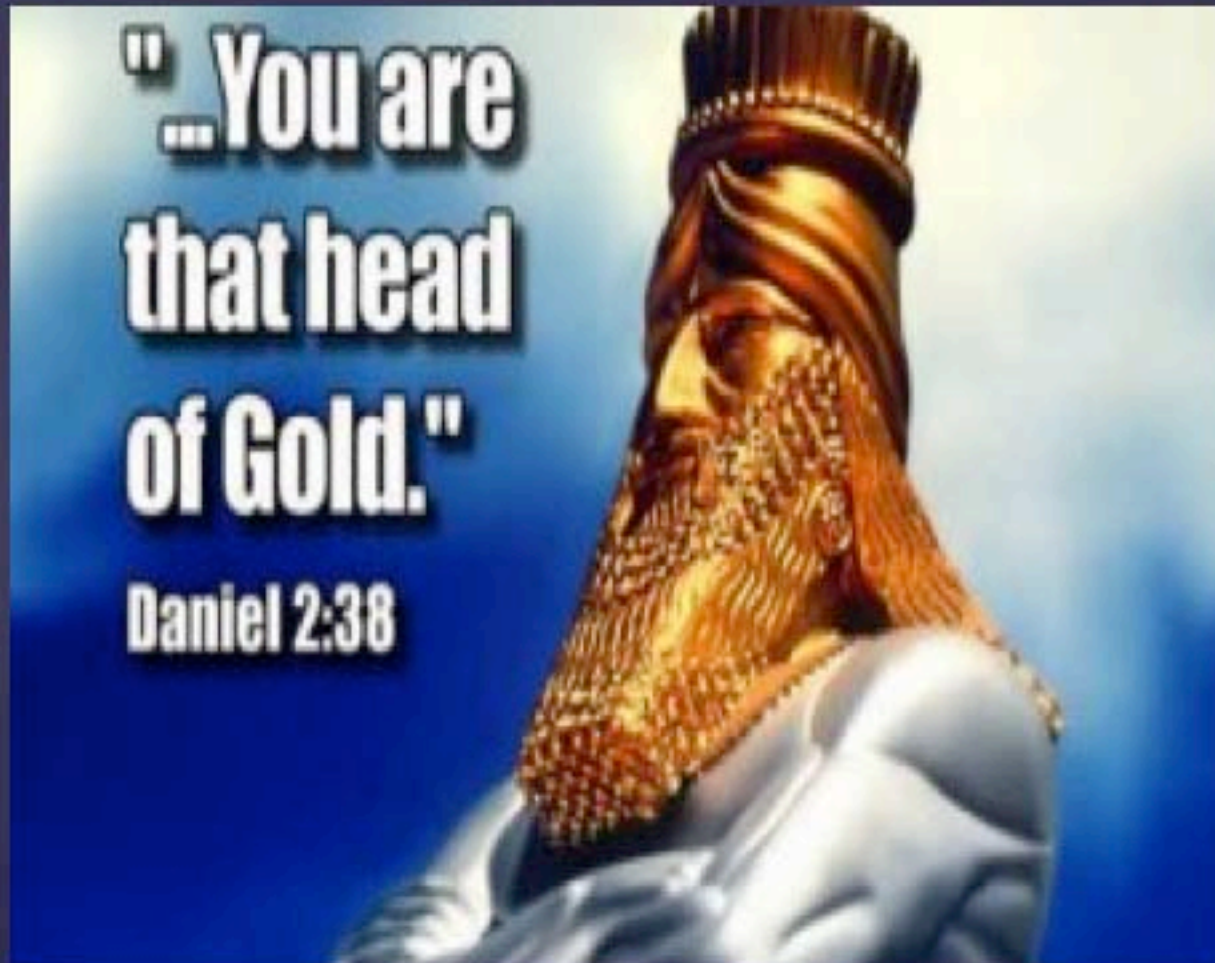


# "THE BOOK OF DANIEL"

## Chapter Three

**Review:**

With head of gold



**BABYLONIANS**

With chest and arms of silver



**MEDIO - PERSIANS**

With belly and thighs of bronze



**GRECIANS**

**With legs of iron, and feet mixed with  
iron and clay**



**ROMANS**

**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
INDESTRUCTIBLE KINGDOM**

**DURING JESUS' EARTHLY  
MINISTRY, IT WAS "AT HAND"...**

**Matthew 3:1-2; Mark 1:14-15;**

**BUT FOLLOWING THE ASCENSION  
OF JESUS...**

**He is far above all principality, power, might, and dominion –**

**Ephesians 1:20-21 “that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.” **Position not location!!****

**Revelation 1:5 “and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.”**

**He truly has all authority in heaven and on earth! -**

**Matthew 28:18 “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”**



**"without hands" (no human hands)  
suggests it is not your ordinary kingdom.**

**Also, it would start small and then grow  
larger.**

**Compare this with what Jesus taught  
about the nature of His kingdom.**

**His kingdom is not of this world - John  
18:36; cf. Romans 14:17;**

**John 18:36 “Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”**

**Romans 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”**

**It would start small, and grow to encompass the earth - Thus this "indestructible kingdom" would start small, and be spiritual in nature.**

**THIS KINGDOM THEREFORE INVOLVES THOSE IN THE CHURCH...**

**The Christians at Colosse were in the kingdom - Colossians 1:12-13;**

**Those at Thessalonica likewise - 1 Thessalonians 2:12;**

**Along with the seven churches in Asia Revelation 1:6, 9;**

**THE FUTURE OF THIS  
INDESTRUCTIBLE KINGDOM**

**IT WILL LAST FOREVER...**

**As Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar - Daniel  
2:44;**

**AT CHRIST'S COMING, IT WILL BE  
DELIVERED TO THE FATHER... 1  
Corinthians 15:23-26;**

# Faith In The Face OF Fire

## INTRODUCTION:

**1. In Daniel 1, we were introduced to three companions of Daniel: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego...**

**a. Like Daniel, they were young men taken from Judah into captivity and trained to serve before the king – Daniel 1:6-7:**

**b. Like Daniel, they were blessed by God and impressed the king after their period of training – Daniel 1:17-20;**

**2. Daniel 3 reveals more about the character of these three young men...**

**I. THEIR TRIAL**

**A. THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO IT...**

# **1. Nebuchadnezzar's image, and his command to worship it -**

**Daniel 3:1-7 “King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.**



**Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the**

golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.” Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.” (ESV)

## **2. The accusation against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego -**

**Daniel 3:8-12 “Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. And whoever does not fall down and**

worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” (ESV)

**3. The king's threat of the fiery furnace -**

**Daniel 3:13-15** “Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have

made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?" (ESV)

## B. THE NATURE OF THEIR TRIAL...

### 1. To save their situation

a. They had been promoted over the affairs of Babylon – Daniel 3:12;

**b.** They would lose their position as well as their lives.

**2.** To sacrifice their conscience...

**a.** All they needed to do was to conform outwardly???

**b.** Of course, that would have meant disobedience to God –

**Exodus 20:4-5** “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,” (**ESV**)



## II. THEIR TESTIMONY

### A. THEY DEMONSTRATED FAITH...

#### 1. In the power of God -

Daniel 3:16-17 “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.” (ESV)

## **2. In the will of God -**

**Daniel 3:18 “But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” (ESV)**

**B. THEY DETERMINED TO SERVE GOD NO MATTER WHAT...Like the Apostles who rejoiced to suffer in His Name -**

**Acts 5:27-29** “And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.” **(ESV)**

# III. THEIR TRIUMPH

## A. THE REST OF THE CHAPTER REVEALS...

### 1. How they were saved in the fiery furnace.

**Daniel 3:19-25** “Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated.

**And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning**

fiery furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.” (ESV)

## **2. How Nebuchadnezzar was led to bless the true God -**

**Daniel 3:26-29** “Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The

hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach,



**Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.” (ESV)**

**B. CONSIDER WHAT THEIR TRIALS BROUGHT THEM...**

**1. A new sense of freedom!**

**a. They entered bound, but were soon seen "loose, walking" – Daniel 3:23-25;**

**b. So our own trials can be used to set us truly free! -**

**James 1:2-4 “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (ESV)**

**2. A new source of fellowship!**

**a. There was a fourth person in the fire!**

**Daniel 3:25 “He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.” (ESV)**

**b. So our faithfulness in trials will lead to greater things!**

**Matthew 25:21 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’” (ESV)**

## **CONCLUSION**

**What kind of faith do we have?**

**Is it like a....**

- a. Spare tire, used only in the case of an emergency?**
- b. Wheelbarrow, easily upset and must be pushed?**
- c. Bus, ridden only when it goes your way?**

# Prayer Time