

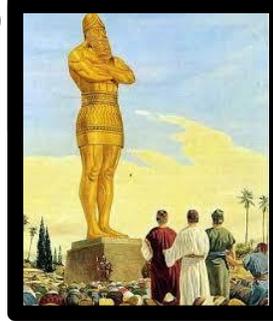
# HEROES OF THE FAITH

## DANIEL: The Statue & The Furnace

18 November 2020

### Chapter 3

Isaiah 55:8-9



### ➤ Discussion

#### ❖ God's sovereignty and divine plan.

- God sent Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah to Babylon in captivity. (1:3-4)
- God endowed these youth with special gifts. (1:17)
- These four guys walked by faith in God, & openly followed Him. (1:8-16)
- God revealed to Daniel the king's mysterious dream. (2:17-45)
- After God interpreted the king's dream, Nebuchadnezzar believed Daniel's God was the "God of gods" and "Lord of lords." (2:47)
- NOTE: Belief in God does not constitute faith in God, or a relationship with God.

#### ❖ God's divine mercy and grace.

- God will go to great lengths to save anyone from an eternity without Him.*
- God will go to great lengths to be in relationship with anyone.*
- Ezekiel 18:23 { ...no pleasure... } / 2 Peter 3:9 { ...any should perish... }
- God truly loves all men & women, no matter what they have done, where they come from, or where they have been.

#### ❖ God will glorify Himself, or His name...even when man will not.

### ➤ The golden image. (vv. 1-7)

- ❖ Dimensions: 60 cubits (90' high) X 6 cubits (9' wide) \*\*{1 cubit = 18"}\*\* (v. 1)
- ❖ Plain of Dura - A central location in Babylon for all to easily see. A unifying center for all peoples of the earth.
- ❖ This image was made of pure gold.
- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar brought the kingdom leadership to the dedication of the statue. (vv. 2-3)
- ❖ The king delivered his expectation via his herald. (vv. 4-6)
- ❖ Regardless of the nationality, or language spoken, every nation in his kingdom was expected to comply – stop, drop, and worship the golden idol, when the music played. (v. 7)
- ❖ NOTE: Scholars believe this image probably bore the king's likeness.
- ❖ NOTE: Scholar's believe this statue reflected the image in the king's dream.
- ❖ NOTE: Remember, 2:47 - belief in God. The king was still not broken before God.
- ❖ NOTE: Proverbs 8:13, 16:18
- ❖ NOTE: Matthew 4:17: Repentance + Brokenness leads to \_\_\_\_\_ . (John 6:44)



➤ The fiery furnace. (vv. 8-30)

❖ When you closely follow God, you will have enemies. (vv. 8-12)

- Remember, a short time before, Daniel had saved the Chaldeans from death. (v. 8)
- This is a “gotcha” moment. The Chaldeans want these foreigners gone. (vv. 10-12)



Spiritual warfare 101 (vv. 10-12)



**Matthew 16:18**

❖ Nebuchadnezzar responds. (vv. 13-30)

- Remember, 2:46-47.** (Ezekiel 18:23 & 2 Peter 3:9)
- The king had Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego brought to him. (v. 13)
- Nebuchadnezzar questioned, and tested, them. (vv. 14-15)
  - Spiritual warfare – Rules of engagement. {1. Intellectual challenge; 2. Coercion; 3. Physical harm.}
- Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego worshiped God well. (vv.16-18)
  - Their concern was vertical, not horizontal.
  - They knew they weren’t accountable to the king. Rather, their allegiance was to God.
  - Were they right? If so, why? (Exodus 1:15-21)
  - Notice their resolve to honor, & worship, God, and His name. (vv. 17-18)
- Nebuchadnezzar believed in God. However, he still needed to be first. Life was still about him. (v. 19)
- Furious, he ordered the furnace heated “**SEVEN**” times hotter than normal.
- He ordered the men bound and cast into the furnace fully clothed. (vv. 20-21)
- With the furnace overheated, the guards perished in the flames. (v. 22)
- Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego fell bound into the flames. (v. 23)
- Sitting upon his throne, the king witnessed God’s power a second time. (v. 24)
- There were now four unbound men in the fire. (v. 25)
- One looked like “a son of the gods.” (v. 25)
  - Views:
    - I. An angel was with the men.
    - II. Christophany – A physical appearance of Christ before His incarnation.
    - III. Isaiah 43:2; 49:15-16
- Nebuchadnezzar humbled himself and left his throne. (v. 26)
- NOTE: Nebuchadnezzar’s view of God to this point.
  - (2:47) = “...God of gods, Lord of kings, & a revealer of mysteries...”
  - “servants of the Most High God...” (v. 26)
  - Babylon’s leadership gather around the three Jewish men. (v. 27)
  - The king acknowledged their faith in their God. (v. 28)
  - The king praised God. (v. 29)
  - The king promoted these Jewish leaders in his realm. (v. 30)
- With all of this, Nebuchadnezzar is not ready for a relationship with God...yet!

