

DANIEL 3 vs 1

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The title of this chapter could be: **THE MARRIAGE OF RELIGION AND STATE...** so, it is the Pergamos of the OT; any state established by the Lord God our Creator, has no idolatrous devices – idolatry always attempts to replace God's word with our images (made in our imagination); any state established by the whim and pleasure of man, is always a bad marriage – quickly leading to inquisitors and their cruel devices to control the masses.

The people of God will always be a thorn in the eyes of the heartless, self-indulged world too often inspired by the angry, very ugly enemy of our soul. This is the source of all seemingly benign roman idolatry which we see even today. In the 2nd commandment God gave at Sinai, He addresses idolatry; that is always repulsive.

¹ 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 / about 90 feet tall by 9 feet wide.

² Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the officials, the captains, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the rulers of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar set up.

³ Then the officials, the captains, and governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the rulers of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar set up.

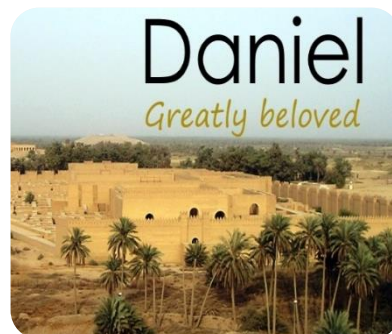
⁴ Then the herald proclaimed aloud,

You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,

⁵ that when you hear the sound of the cornet, the flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar set up: / now that didn't really bother most of the people at that time or now days; since they had their own manmade idols they worshiped in their homes.

⁶ And whoever does **not fall down and worship will immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace / so, it was only the Jewish people who had this prohibition written by God Himself, who would be affected.**

⁷ Therefore, as soon as all the people heard the sound of the cornet, the flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar set up.



⁸ Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and cruelly accused the Jews / you know, for those who know history, the Chaldeans are still coming forward now days to accuse not only the Jewish people; but also, the followers of the Lord Jesus, too.

⁹ They spoke and said to king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live forever! / Quite honestly, they'd rather see him dead, and they'd gladly take over...

¹⁰ You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone / man and woman... who hears the sound of the cornet, the flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and every kind of music / this was a big event; even bigger than the Academy Awards; they brought all the musicians out to celebrate,

everyone who hears every kind of music... will fall down and worship the golden image:

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everyone who hears every kind of music... will fall down and worship the golden image:

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king,

O Nebuchadnezzar,

we have no need to answer you in this matter / this is not a disrespectful response similar to the imbecilic moderns who will sass anyone they disagree with in a minute; rather it is a proper, measured response agreeing with King Neb's declaration -- including its consequence.

In essence they said to the king, you are rightly determined on your side, and as our mind is made up not to worship the idol; therefore, there is no reason to argue with the king, as if we will be shaken from our principles.

And in answer to the king's question... they continue...

¹⁷ If it 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 / notice, they made no conditions with God; unflinching they knew deliverance or martyrdom were equal options within God's ability to enter time and do His work.

18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, we will **not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.**

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury / he was enraged all the more,

and the expression on his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego / maybe at first, he calmly spoke with the 3 guys – because after all, he liked those guys, moreover, they were friends of Daniel; did he look around for Daniel to resolve the conflict? But perhaps, Daniel was on assignment of the king; and once they revealed their inflexible position; he exploded in typical fashion.

He ordered the furnace to be heated seven times more than it was usually heated / the typical wasteful policy of an over-rated govt bureaucrat.

20 And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21 These men were bound in their coats, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the burning fiery furnace.

22 Because the king's order was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flames of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,

fell bound into the burning fiery furnace / it is interesting, included in the LXX – the Septuagint bible are: “The Prayer of **Azarias**” who was renamed: Abednego... and “The Song of the Three Holy Children”. Rufinus and Athanasius tell us the hymn was sung throughout the Church world from its earliest times; dated by some 164bc. Here is a portion of The Song, inserted between these verses in the Septuagint:

And they walked about in the midst of the fire, singing hymns to God and blessing the Lord. And Azariah stood still and uttered this prayer; in the midst of the fire he opened his mouth and said,

“Blessed are You, Lord God of our forefathers, and worthy of praise! Your name is glorified forever! For You are upright in all that You have done: All Your works are true, and Your ways straight, And all Your judgments are true.

The sentences that You passed were just, in all that You have brought upon us; and upon Jerusalem, the Holy City of our forefathers. For we have sinned and done wrong in forsaking You. We have sinned grievously in everything, and have disobeyed Your commands; we have not observed them or done as You commanded us to do, for our own good. All that You have brought upon us, and all that You have done to us, You have done in justice.

For in truth and justice, You have brought all these things upon us because of our sins.

DANIEL 3 vs 1

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For we sinned and did wrong, forsaking You. Your commands; we have not observed them or done as You commanded us to do, for our own good. All You have brought upon us, and all You have done to us, You have done in justice.

You have handed us over to enemies without law, to hateful rebels, and to a ruthless king, the most wicked ruler in all the world, yet we cannot open our mouths.

For the sake of Abraham whom You loved, and for the sake of Isaac, Your servant; and for the sake of Israel, Your holy one, to whom You spoke and promised that You would make their descendants as many as the stars of heaven, or the sand that is on the seashore.

And now there is no prince, or prophet, or leader, no burnt offering, or incense; no place to offer before You, to find mercy. But may we be accepted through a contrite heart and a humble spirit, as though it were through whole burnt offerings of rams and bulls, and through tens of thousands of fat lambs.

So let our sacrifice rise before You today, and fully follow after You, for those who trust in You will not be disappointed. We follow You with all our hearts; we revere You. Do not disappoint us, but deal with us in Your abundant mercy. Deliver us in Your wonderful way, and glorify Your name, O Lord; may all who do Your servants harm be shamed, and may their strength be broken.

Let them know that You are the Lord God alone; glorious over the whole world.”

And in the fearful moment 2500 years ago, this song they sung is only 2/5^{ths} over. For more information... check out: [The Prayer of Azariah and The Song of the Three Holy Children](#)

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished, and rose up in haste / as he observed this scene and perhaps heard the song they were singing.

He spoke and said to his counselors,

Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?

They answered and said to the king, True, O king.

²⁵ He answered and said, Lo / **mark this**, highlight this, Daniel tells the readers: pay attention to the king,

I see four men loose / so do that math, can we count to 4? **1... 2... 3... 4...** Good! Now, do that same uncomplicated tally... for the **4 beasts** mentioned in all the other chapters that Daniel wrote; **4** animal-like govt's... no more, and no less; which is what history tells us.

But back to king Nebuchadnezzar... he said,

DANIEL 3 vs 1

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I see four men loose... walking in the midst of the fire, and they are **not** hurt; and the appearance of the **fourth** is like the Son of God.

²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the opening of the burning fiery furnace, and spoke, and said, 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.

²⁷ And the officials, captains, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, saw that the fire had no power over the bodies of those men.

The hair of their head was **not** singed, their clothes were **not** harmed, and the smell of fire had **not** come upon them.

²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said,

Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who sent his angel, and delivered his servants who trusted in Him, and have set aside the king's command, and yielded their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.

²⁹ Therefore I make a decree:

Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything

against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
will be cut in pieces, and their houses will be made a dunghill:

for there is **no** other God who can deliver in this way.

/ just imagine in the West if this same decree was enforced... glad it isn't; there would be one huge pile of stinking manure to deal with.

³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.



[This is My Father's World](#)

Check out: Our Brothers and Sisters Around The World Singing GOD'S Praise:  [The Songlist](#)