

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 4/10-11 *Daniel 3:1-30*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL NOW BE MEETING, WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!! **Beginning 4/10/23, CC Living Word, 17101 Armstrong, Irvine, CA**

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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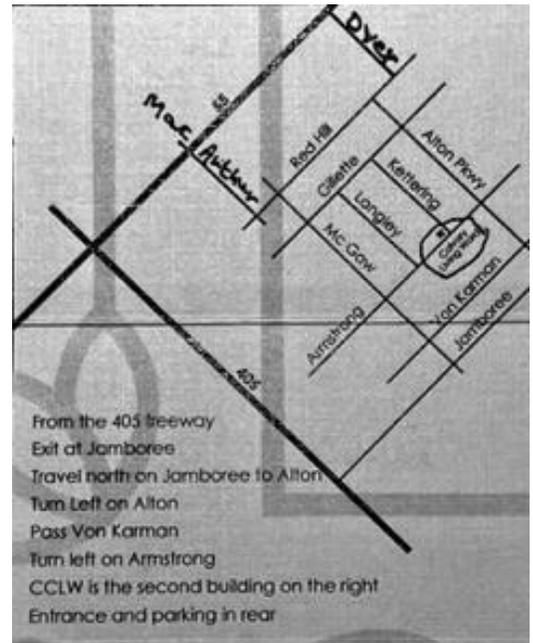
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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY WILL NOW BE MEETING, WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!! **Beginning 4/11/23, CC Living Word, 17101 Armstrong, Irvine, CA**

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - Audio & notes from previous studies

OPENING PRAYER

Daniel - The Sovereignty of God – He Rules Over All; He Overrules All!

Chapter 3 Decree of Nebuchadnezzar to Enforce Universal Idolatry! Three Hebrews Cast into the Furnace for Refusal to Bow to the Image of Gold! – vs. 1-7; Daniel's Friends Disobey the King – vs. 8-18; Saved in Fiery Trial – vs. 19-25; Nebuchadnezzar Praises God – All the officials see the miracle of no hurt to the three men– vs. 26-30!

Between chapters 2 and 3, there is probably an interval of time. Some commentators suggest it is as short as two years. Others suggest a time of maybe about eleven years. About ten years after Nebuchadnezzar came into power there was a revolt against his reign, which he put down personally. Some believe that this event may have followed that revolt in that he was trying to re-establish himself as that power and that authority over the people, and thus this great celebration with this giant image of gold.

Some commentators that suggest there is as much as twenty-one years intervening between chapters 2 and 3. It is quite possible that the eleven-year figure is the right one. You are closer to the truth probably when you are in the middle. You get to the extreme and the truth usually lies somewhere in the middle. It is possible that by the time this happened, he had gone back and conquered Jerusalem, had totally destroyed the city and left it in shambles, and had brought Zedekiah as a captive back to Babylon. They usually attributed their victories to their gods. Thus, the strong god was the one that gave victory in battle. If your god could not defend you in battle, then he was a lesser or weaker god.

After Daniel had interpreted the vision, Nebuchadnezzar made the proclamation concerning the God of Daniel, "There is no other God, like the God of Daniel." However, history shows us that Nebuchadnezzar was a great devotee of Marduk, the Babylonian god. Many believe that this great idol that he had constructed in the plains of Dura was an image of Marduk, the Babylonian god of war, who Nebuchadnezzar had confessed tremendous devotion towards in some of the Babylonian records.

Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Image – vs. 1-7

- **[1] Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits** (90 feet, if you are using an eighteen-inch cubit; 111 feet, if you are using a twenty-two-inch cubit) **and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.**
- **60, 6 - Do the numbers, sixty and the number six, give you any clues** to anything? Six is the number of man. We know that there is a man of sin that is going to come, and he is going to make an image of himself that they will put in the Holy of Holies of the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. All of the world will be commanded to worship this image. If anyone refuses to worship the image he will be put to death. Now, the number of the man, "let him that have wisdom understand, the number is the number of a man; and the number is six hundred and sixty-six." So, in this sixty and six, surely the Spirit is pointing us toward the future. This image that Nebuchadnezzar made and demanded that everyone bow down to it with the threat of death for refusing to do so, is a type of the image that will be made in the tribulation period, the abomination of desolation, that Daniel speaks about, when they set this image of the anti-christ in the Holy of Holies.
- **In Matthew 24, Jesus said, (Mat 24:15) "Therefore when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand).** If you are on the housetop, do not even stop to get your jacket. This is a type. Nebuchadnezzar becomes the type of the anti-christ. The image becomes the type of the image that will be out in the temple in the later days, which when it is established will provoke the judgment of God, the Great Tribulation period upon the earth. It is the abomination which causes the desolation of the earth in the Great Tribulation period.
- **He set this up in the plains of Dura,** which is believed to have been several miles outside of the city of Babylon. It was probably a wooden frame covered by gold. Try to imagine it, ninety feet high and nine feet wide! It must have been a colossus out there, being about nine stories high out there on that flat plain. You would have been able to see it for miles, the shining gold of this great image that was there.
- **It is possible that this image represents a defiance of God** on the part of Nebuchadnezzar, and the dream that was interpreted by Daniel. In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, he saw this great colossus, this great image, which had a head of gold, chest of silver, stomach of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron and clay. The interpretation of that dream was that Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold, but his kingdom was going to be replaced by the Medo-Persian, the chest of silver, which will fall to the Grecian or the governments that will rule over man. This could be a statement by Nebuchadnezzar saying Babylon will never fall. The fact that he made it of all gold, from head to toe, could be a defiance of the interpretation of his dream. Nebuchadnezzar may be saying by this image that the Babylonian kingdom will last forever.

- **In Isaiah we read of the proclamation against Babylon, (Isa 14:3-4,11-12)** *It shall come to pass in the day the LORD gives you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve, [4] that you will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say: "How the oppressor has ceased, The golden city ceased! [11] Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, And the sound of your stringed instruments; The maggot is spread under you, And worms cover you.' [12] "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!*
- **As we move into the next chapter, we will see that God had to deal with the pride of** Nebuchadnezzar. In dealing with the pride of Nebuchadnezzar in allowing him this madness, the purpose was the madness would continue until he knew that it was God who established the kingdoms and set over the kingdoms those whom He would. So, it would appear from the fact that it is of all gold, that this is a defiance of God's declaration that the Babylonian kingdom was going to fall.

[2] And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

- This is a governmental extravaganza, and all the important people within the government were there.

[3] So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

- We can see this great multitude of people around this image that stands tall there in the plain above everyone.

[4] Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, [5] that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up;

- Now, at the sound of all of this music, they were all to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. If the image was of Marduk, his god, then he is demanding that they all worship his god, Marduk.

[6] and whoever does not fall down, and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."

- There is really not much of a choice. You either worship or you are placed in the burning fiery furnace. Nebuchadnezzar was not to be messed with. You remember in the previous chapter, he had the dream, ordering his wise fellows to interpret it. The threat was, you interpret it, or you are going to be killed. Here, either you worship, or you are going to be thrown into the burning fiery furnace. He is just not a fellow to be messed with.

[7] So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

- **What a glorious moment for Nebuchadnezzar.** Here he has made this great golden image and this multitude of people all over, there in the plains of Dura, bowing at the sound, worship accompanied by glorious music. It was probably a very moving experience.
- **You know you can have soulful experiences, in worshipping God,** that people often misinterpret it as spiritual experiences. They touch your psyche. They touch your soul. It is moving. We must be careful about psychic experiences and misinterpreting them as spiritual experiences.
- **Now, the Word of God is alive and powerful, and it is sharper than a two-edged sword.** It is able to divide asunder between the bone and the marrow and the soul and the spirit. There is a close tie between the soul and the spirit, between your emotions and your spirit. Many times, it is difficult to discern between what is soulful and what is truly spiritual. The Word of God has that capacity. The Word of God will feed your spirit. That is why it is so important to have the Word of God, because

that is what ministers to the spirit. It is able to divide asunder between what is soulish and what is spiritual.

- **This was no doubt a very soulish experience.** I mean the beautiful music and all of these people bowing down to this colossal image, there was no doubt, it was moving and touching. Soulishly it was very moving and exciting. But something went wrong to spoil the total effect. Here he is the great leader of the worship of Marduk demanding the world to worship his god, but now these three Hebrew boys have violated his commandment.

The Fiery Furnace

[8] Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews.

- **The Chaldeans approached Nebuchadnezzar and reminded him of the details** of his decree and the penalty for disobedience. With the stage thus set for the accusation, the Chaldeans made three charges against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. First, they showed no regard for the king. Second, they did not serve the king's gods. Third, they refused to worship the golden image Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

[9] They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever!"

[10] You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image;

[11] and whoever does not fall down, and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

[12] There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.

- **You remember that when Daniel was promoted** to this position of honor that he requested that Nebuchadnezzar also set these fellows over the provinces, and Nebuchadnezzar acceded to Daniel's request.

[13] Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king.

[14] Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?

[15] Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?

- **Is it true?** Nebuchadnezzar, likely based on his recent promotion of the three men, **did not accept the accusation of the Chaldeans**, but made certain of it with an interview, giving them a second chance and let the musicians play again, and if they would bow down and worship then fine. It is okay. It is *good!*
- **Pressure to compromise!** *But if you do not worship* you shall be cast immediately into the burning fiery furnace! Think of the huge pressure on the three men to compromise, coming from the king, the fiery furnace, the music, their competitors, all working together for them to compromise! But we see their adherence to God being more real and important to them than any of these things! How likely am I, are we, to compromise under great pressure?
- **The challenge from Nebuchadnezzar.** *Who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?* In the end of the last chapter, Nebuchadnezzar had acknowledged the God of Daniel, that He is a God of gods, a Lord of kings and a revealer of secrets, but now he is challenging and saying, "*who is the God who will deliver you from my hands?*" We see a pattern beginning to emerge, that of Nebuchadnezzar vacillating back and forth between Marduk and the one true and living God.

[16] Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

[17] If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.

- *Our God is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace.*

[18] But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

- **To help understand the faith that is required in not compromising or moving into unbelief,** consider Paul, writing in Romans chapter four, giving us the four keys to Abraham's faith.
- **First, he considers not his own body.** He was about one hundred years old, nor the deadness of Sarah's womb. In other words, the first step to faith is not looking at the human difficulties. (**Rom 4:19**) *And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.*
- **Secondly, (Rom 4:20a)** *He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief.* Often, we find ourselves wavering at the promises of God. Because we waver at the promises of God, we decide to take things into our own hands. "I better defend myself because I do not know if God is able to defend me." If I defend myself the Lord lets me do it and that is not good! It is much better that He defends me
- **The third step, being strong in the faith, he gave glory to God.** In other words, he started thanking the Lord for the son, by faith, though there was no evidence yet that he was going to have a son. *[20b] but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,*
- **The fourth step, being fully convinced.** *[21] and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. [22] And therefore "IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS."*
- **Here is the key now, being fully persuaded that what God had promised, He was able to perform.** (**Heb 11:1**) *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. and being strong in the faith, he gave glory to God.* That is what these young fellows are saying, **"Our God is able to deliver us from your burning fiery furnace."** That is the key to faith! We know that our God is able. Secondly, He will deliver us from you. It may be by the fire, but we will be free from you. Even if He does not deliver us, we are still not going to bow to Your image! Now that is commitment! That is what we need. That total complete commitment to what is right, to the path of the Lord. I am going to walk this path, no matter what the cost. I am not going to compromise. I am not going to bow to the gods of the world! I am not going to bow to the fashions of the world. I am going to keep my heart steadfast towards God! How do you stop men like that? You do not! How about our willingness to compromise?
- **In Acts chapter four, the disciples have been threatened by the rulers, (Act 4:21)** *So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done.* They were threatened not to preach any more in the name of Jesus! They are released. They came back to their company, gathered together, and prayed. What did they pray for? For God give to give them the boldness to just continue to preach in the name of Jesus! Give us the boldness to do the thing that got us into trouble. When they commanded them not to speak anymore in the name of Jesus, they said, (**Act 4:19-20**) *But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.*
- **When Paul was in Lystra, (Act 14:19-20)** *Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. [20] However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.* His companions thought he was dead! They were weeping! This great warrior for Jesus Christ, this fellow that had such a capacity to persuade people concerning the truth, here he is lying there, limp. Pretty soon Paul shakes himself and says, let us go back into town! I did not finish my sermon fellows!
- **That is the kind of commitment that these fellows had. We are not going to bow.** It does not matter. You can throw us in your furnace. Do what you want. We are not going to bow. Our God is able to deliver us out of your burning fiery furnace, and we know that He is going to deliver us from you, but if He does not deliver us, we are still not going to bow. Commitment! Oh, how we need it! How committed am I?

- **The response of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is the focal point** of the story. When tested, they chose to remain faithful to God in spite of the consequences. Though they had confidence in God's ability to rescue them from persecution, they did not demand that God perform a miracle for them. Like Job, they could declare, (*Job 13:15*) *Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.*

[19] *Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.*

[20] *And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

[21] *Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.*

[22] *Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.*

[23] *And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.*

[24] *Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."*

[25] *"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."*

- **Isaiah, in predicting the future difficulties that they were going to be facing as a nation,** tells them, (*Isa 43:2*) *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.* Here, we find the fulfillment of that promise.
- **In Hebrews, it talks about those men of faith who (*Heb 11:34*) quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.** No doubt a reference to these three Hebrew children.
- **The important lesson here is that the Lord was with them in the fire and the Lord will be with you in the fire!** As Christians we are not promised that we will not have persecution. In fact, we are promised that we will! (*2Ti 3:12*) *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.* I do not like that promise! But you will never suffer anything, but what the Lord will be with you to share, and to shield, and to protect. He will be with you in the fire. It is important that we become cognizant of that. So often we feel that we are alone. Satan likes to throw that trip on us that you are fighting this alone. Everybody is against you. It makes you feel like you are just all alone. Not true! Never! The Lord is with you. He will not forsake you, and when you go through the fire! He will be there!
- **They were bound, bound, bound (vs.20,21,23,24), now loose! I see four men loose! Walking! Not hurt!** Notice that they are loose walking unhurt in the midst of the fire! And the fourth man is like the Son of God, a Christophany or Theophany, an Old Testament appearance of Jesus prior to His incarnation.
- **Notice the promise to us Christians. The promise is not that we will be spared fiery trials but that he will never leave us nor forsake us in those fiery trials!** That He will be with us in in those trials.
- **There is an intimacy of relationship that is developed with God** that I think is only developed in and having a number of these kind of trials in the course of our lives. Sometimes you hear people talking about these horrible trials that they are or have been in, talking afterwards. Yet as hard as that was and as much as I would never want to do that again, **I would not trade that experience for anything because of what happened between God and me** in that environment! It is the truth that when God meets with us in a special way, there is a kind of a special revelation of Him that happens so often in the fire that makes all of it worth it!
- **Notice here as they are now found loose in that in the fire,** and as they came out, there was no evidence of any hurt! Even the hair and their garments were not affected! There was not even the

smell of fire on them all! The only thing that got burnt by the fire were the ropes that bound them. They were found loose. They were free!

- **We may hate these kind of fiery trials that God allows** within our lives but always when He does, we come out of those trials freer than we have ever been before! Free from addiction, from your concern about what people think of us. More freedom from the love of comfort. Free from our self-will, our pride, our self-reliance! Free from our fear, and unbelief!
- **It is well known that fire has the capacity to do great good or to do great damage** depending entirely upon the material that it comes into contact with. When it comes into contact with wood hay and stubble, the things that are worthless in in our lives, burning all of that completely away. But when it comes into contact with steel, it always purifies that, making it stronger. For the believer, these fires that God allows in our life, always without exception, strengthen what is of value in our lives, burning away what is of no value! It is important to understand that fiery trials ultimately never ever work against us! God works through them to make us freer, cleaner, and stronger! He never lets them do any ultimate harm to us at all!
- **The form of the fourth is like the Son of God.** One of the theophanies of the Old Testament, the angel of the Lord there with them in the fire. We will find it again when Daniel is in the Lion's den, the Lord is with him in that experience.

[26] Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.

- **He will never leave us or forsake us.** God may not always spare us every fiery trial in life as a Christian, but He never promised that! But, He has promised is to be with us in the midst of those fiery trials, just as He was here with the three men.
- **No compromise!** We are to never compromise God's commands in order to avoid a trial, no matter how difficult! Compromise in any Christian that is spirit filled, cares the most about our relationship with God and views their Christian witness as the most valuable thing that they possess. The one thing that we cannot live with, in ourselves is to compromise the commandments of God, marring our Christian witness as a result of it, even to escape the greatest of trials!
- **Christianity and our walk with God require real courage and real bravery!** It is courage and bravery that the Holy Spirit will give us in the face of any compromise that comes against us! We need to pray, Lord fill me with your Holy Spirit until I meet and overcome every temptation to compromise, with the courage and with the bravery that I see in Your word and in these three men. When we ask God for that, He will be faithful to provide it to us! You watch and see!
- **Servants of the Most High God! Nebuchadnezzar is learning. What God is it that is able?** There is one, *the Most High God!*

[27] And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.

- **The Lord does a thorough job when He watches over us and keeps us.** Oh, how I love it. I love this story. I have loved it since I was a little kid.

[28] Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated (changed, defied) the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!

- **What a witness to the entire world! God had intended that the nation of Israel** be His witnesses to the gentiles, to the world. They were to be a light unto the Gentiles. The nation has now fallen. Israel has been conquered by the Gentile world, but God will not leave Himself without a witness. Even though the nation now is not a witness, God will bear witness of Himself to all of these people. Remember that they had all the chief people from around the world there to see this witness of God, to see how God will stand for those who will stand for Him, to see how God is able to deliver them from the most adverse circumstances. They all came up to look. ***Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego***

were an amazement to everybody! They did not even have the smell of smoke, not even a hair of their head singed. What a witness God gave of Himself, even Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges Him!

- **He is acknowledging that this is right. Notice these three things!**
 - **God delivered His servants who trusted in Him,**
 - **They have frustrated the king's word,** changed the **king's** (little king) **order,** and stood on the **King's** (our big King, our Lord and Savior's) order of a greater truth!
 - **Yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!** (*Rom 12:1-2*) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

[29] Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this. "

- **That is not really God's purpose to destroy everyone that does not believe in Him.** God is more gracious than the king, but this is just the character of Nebuchadnezzar. You have to know the guy. This is just his character. He is going to try to force them.

[30] Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

- **Where was Daniel when all of this took place?** Do you believe that Daniel bowed to the image? Not the Daniel I know. Not Daniel who had purposed in his heart that he was not going to defile his body with the king's delicacies. Now, the Bible does not tell us where Daniel was. He was probably in a far-off province taking care of the king's matters, but you can be certain that he was not there when this event took place.
- **Daniel becomes a beautiful type of the church that will have been removed** when the Great Tribulation takes place upon the earth. It will not have to go through the fire of the Great Tribulation but will actually be with the Lord in Heaven. The Lord is going to catch us up to be with Him there in Heaven and so shall we ever be with the Lord. When He comes back to the earth, behold, we will be coming back with Him! He comes with ten thousands of His saints!
- **Daniel becomes a type of the church who escapes the great burning fiery furnace** by being removed from the area at the time. So, it becomes a type of the Great Tribulation period.
- **The image, which the world is ordered to worship, is the image that is established** by the anti-christ. God seals the one hundred and forty-four thousands Jews and takes them through the fire of the Great Tribulation. Daniel is a type of the church who is taken out to escape this fiery judgement of God. Then, he appears back in the scene again later on, as we will come back to reign with the Lord over the earth!

SUMMARY:

- **Have faith in God! Key to faith! Our God is able! Like Abraham, being fully persuaded that what God had promised, He was able to perform!** That is what Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego are saying, "*Our God is able to deliver us from your burning fiery furnace.*" **Our God is able! That is the key to faith!** We know that our God is able.
- **Secondly, He will deliver us!** It may be by the fire, but we will be free from you, Nebuchadnezzar. Even if He does not deliver us, we are still not going to bow to Your image!
- **Full commitment! That is what we need.** That total complete commitment to do what is right, to the path of the Lord. I am going to walk this path, no matter what the cost!
- **No compromise! They were fully committed to Him! No compromise,** even under intense pressure! I am not going to compromise. I am not going to bow to the gods of the world! I am going to keep my heart steadfast towards God! How do you stop men like that? You do not! How about our willingness to compromise?
- **What was the resulting witness to their stand?** All the officials of all the provinces, who had been gathered together to worship the false god, ended up seeing the miracle of our Most High God in protecting the three men from the fire! (*Dan 3:25-29*) *"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose,*

walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." [26b] Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. [27] And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them. [28] Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! [29] Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this." (Num 21:33) And they turned and went up by the way to Bashan. So **Og king of Bashan went out against them, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei.**

- How well are we handling our fiery trials?
- Do you really believe that HE IS ABLE? More than able?

CLOSING SONG:

HE IS ABLE – Ferguson, Noland; Sung - Maranatha Singers - (3:12/3:16)

He is able, more than able to accomplish what concerns me today. He is able more than able To handle anything that comes my way. He is able more than able to do much more than I could ever dream. He is able more than able to make me what He wants me to be. (2X)

He is able, more than able to do much more than I could ever dream. He is able more than able to make me what He wants me to be

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and meditate on *Daniel Chapter 4!*

Remember the upcoming change in the location of the classroom for both Monday night and Tuesday morning studies, **beginning the week after Resurrection Day!**

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!! Beginning 4/10/23, will meet CC Living Word, 17101 Armstrong, Irvine, CA

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Beginning 4/11/23, will meet CC Living Word, 17101 Armstrong, Irvine.

