



THE BOOK OF

# DANIEL

COURAGE IN BABYLON



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# DANIEL

CHAPTER 3

FAITH IN THE FIRE

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. 14 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?

15 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?”

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 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. 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.”

19 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. 20 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.

21 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. 22 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. 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

24 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.” 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.”

26 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. 27 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.

28 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. 29 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.”

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

Daniel 3

# Deliverance from the Dictator



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◇ Daniel stayed calm.

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- ◇ Daniel stayed calm.
- ◇ Daniel didn't handle it alone.

# Deliverance from the Dictator

- ◇ Daniel stayed calm.
- ◇ Daniel didn't handle it alone.
- ◇ Daniel prayed.

“The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”

Daniel 2:11

“For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,  
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell  
in the high and holy place, and also with him who is  
of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of  
the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

Isaiah 57:15

How do we respond to God's deliverance?

How do we respond to God's deliverance?

We worship!

20 Daniel answered and said:

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,  
to whom belong wisdom and might.

21 He changes times and seasons;  
he removes kings and sets up kings;  
he gives wisdom to the wise  
and knowledge to those who have understanding;  
22 he reveals deep and hidden things;  
he knows what is in the darkness,  
and the light dwells with him.

23 To you, O God of my fathers,  
I give thanks and praise,  
for you have given me wisdom and might,  
and have now made known to me what we asked  
of you,  
for you have made known to us the king's matter.”

31 “You saw, O king, and behold, a great image.  
This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness,  
stood before you, and its appearance was  
frightening. 32 The head of this image was of fine  
gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and  
thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of  
iron and partly of clay. 34 As you looked, a stone  
was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the  
image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in  
pieces.

35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

36 “This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. 37 You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory,

38 and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold. 39 Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. 40 And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these.

41 And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay.

42 And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay

# The Statue of Four Kingdoms



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◆ Gold Head: Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon, 605-539

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- ◆ Silver Chest/Arms: Cyrus the Great, Medo-Persians, 539-331

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- ◆ Gold Head: Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon, 605-539
- ◆ Silver Chest/Arms: Cyrus the Great, Medo-Persians, 539-331
- ◆ Bronze Middle and Thighs: Alexander the Great, Greeks, 331-63

# The Statue of Four Kingdoms

- ◆ Gold Head: Babylonians, Nebuchadnezzar, 605-539
- ◆ Silver Chest/Arms: Medo-Persians, Cyrus the Great, 539-331
- ◆ Bronze Middle and Thighs: Greeks, Alexander the Great, 331-63
- ◆ Iron Legs/Feet (with clay): Romans, Caesar, 63 BC-476 AD

44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,

45 just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”

THE CORNERSTONE CRUSHES  
EARTHLY POWER STONES

“But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? 18 Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

-Jesus, Luke 20:17-18

THE CORNERSTONE, JESUS CHRIST  
CRUSHES EARTHLY POWER STONES

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. 47 The king answered and said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.”

48 Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court.

# What Daniel Did Not Do

# What Daniel and Friends Did Not Do

- ◆ They did not run away.

# What Daniel and Friends Did Not Do

- ◊ They did not run away.
- ◊ They did not physically fight.

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# What does Courage in Babylon look like?

- ◆ We courageously trust God's sovereignty over Babylon.
- ◆ We courageously walk in holiness.
- ◆ We courageously trust God for results.

The background of the image is a golden, hazy landscape. On the left, a large, golden statue of a man with a beard and a crown stands on a hill. In the background, a city with many buildings and spires is visible, all in a golden, hazy light. The overall tone is warm and dramatic.

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CHAPTER I

NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE