

The Danger of Forgetting the Source

Daniel 3:1

In this chapter we find God's power in delivering Daniel's three companions from the fiery furnace. These men stood up alone, against a nation, with the calm assurance that God would deliver them, yet adding, *"but if not, be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image."* This event takes place after they had been in Babylon about twenty years and God was demonstrating, in His most dramatic way, His power over all of the gods of this country.

Before we get to the furnace of blazing fire in [Dan. 3:11](#), let us note the pride of King Nebuchadnezzar, who was normally a great and wise king, but one who could not handle the prosperity of prominence, resulting in becoming power mad. Not content with ruling the greatest empire of the day, he attempted to force religious internationalism on the people.

God's first condemnation of internationalism is found in [Genesis 11:1-9](#). Men constructed the Tower of Babel and God destroyed it. In [Rev. 17:1-14](#) we find another great push of international religion and its destruction which will occur during the Tribulation.

When we look at [Daniel 3:1](#), we see the king in the province of Babylon, in the plain of Dura setting up a golden monument, an image nine feet wide and ninety feet high. It was made of gold and it has been said that the amount of gold involved could have been as much as 4, 400, 000 pounds, perhaps at that time around 2 Billion plus dollars. There had to be fantastic wealth in Nebuchadnezzar's empire, but also extreme egotism. Read [Dan. 3: 2, 3](#). The lust of this king is insatiable and he demanded admirers to come and view his display of wealth and power. It is not money that is the problem but the love of money which is the root of all kinds of evil. ([1 Timothy 6:10](#)) We must realize that sin always results when there is false motivation of acquisition or pride of possessions.

You will notice that representatives of every category of leadership had been brought to the festivities. But Daniel was not present. (Re-read [Dan. 3:2, 3](#))

The Danger of Forgetting the Source (Continued)

[Dan. 3:4](#) reveals that thousands of people (from all walks of life) assembled on a great plain and eyes were turned toward the brilliant, golden image, sparkling in the sun. The Babylonian band was on hand with its many categories of instruments. ([Dan. 3:5](#)) But, notice [Dan.3:6](#)! Emotion and compromise!

We are beginning to see now physical prostration without mental assent. Religion always stresses the outer superficialities of ritual and conformity, while Christianity emphasizes the inner mental attitude. Nebuchadnezzar is demanding here that people obey HIS choice (his volition) and God does not tamper with our personal freedom of choice in spiritual matters.

[Dan. 3:8-12](#) reveals that there were those who resented the fact that four of the highest officers in the land had been given to the Jews who had been hostages of the captivity. (Remember that in 606 B.C. at the first invasion of Jerusalem; about 50 teenagers of the royal line of Judah were taken as hostages in order to assure the Southern Kingdom's loyalty to the Chaldean Empire. Four of these included: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah).

[Dan. 3:13](#) – Nebuchadnezzar's Rage

[Dan. 3:14-16](#) – These believers recognized that their deliverances rested with the sovereignty of God.

[Dan. 3:17, 18](#) – Recognition of divine authority – either alive or dead. It's OK!

[Dan. 3:20-23](#) – Those throwing the 3 believers into the flames were wiped out.

[Dan. 3:24](#) – As the King watched the execution, the band was silent, and to their astonishment – NO – it had to be SHOCK!

[Dan. 3:25](#) – *“Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”*