

Furnace of Adversity

[Daniel 3:11, 12](#)

In our last study we found Nebuchadnezzar, who was normally a great and wise king, constructing a golden monument in the Plain of Dura, now, because he could not handle the prosperity and prominence which had driven him power mad. This golden image was nine feet wide and ninety feet high, made of pure gold. It has been estimated that it could have been at least 4 plus million pounds and valued into the billions. Please note here, that the King, Nebuchadnezzar, was not content with ruling the greatest empire of his day. He desired more to perpetuate his personal greatness. Nebuchadnezzar is attempting to force religious internationalism upon the people of his time. [Genesis 11:1-9](#) records God's first condemnation of internationalism.

The Tower of Babel was constructed and God destroyed it. Internationalism, being Satanic in Nature, continues to appear in the Age of Grace, and will certainly be prevalent during the Tribulation, as presented in [Rev. 17:1-14](#). The first verses of [Daniel 3](#) reveal that a great dedication was being planned, including princes, governors, captains, judges, treasurers, counselors, sheriffs and many other leading dignitaries. These were the VIP's from each Province. BUT NOTICE: Daniel was not present; so that left Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to, *alone*, face this crisis. (This reveals that their confidence was *in God*, not in Daniel).

Just imagine thousands of people assembled on a great plain with eyes turned toward the golden image gleaming in the sun. Since the Chaldean Empire was composed of "*people*" (racial division), "*nations*" (geographical entities) and "*languages*" (linguistic separation), instructions had to be given for everyone to hear and understand. The band played and the commands were given to "*fall down and worship the golden image that the king had set up.*" (Read [Dan. 3:5-10](#)) "*Certain Chaldeans*" resented the 4 Jews who had become some of the

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highest office holders in the land, and now 3 of these refuse to “*fall down and worship the golden image*” ([Dan.3:10](#)). These “*Certain Chaldeans*” were jealous of the 4 Jews, and jealousy always is self-destructive.

JEALOUSY

A malicious mental attitude always motivates people to accuse and malign others. If you are on the receiving line of jealousy, don't spend time worrying about what others think. Live your life as unto the Lord. ([Col.3:16, 17](#)) The Word of God, mastered and properly applied, makes all the difference. There's no time for worry, fear or antagonism.

Now, we study in some detail the subject of [jealousy](#).

Back now to [Daniel 3:13](#) and we see ol' *Neb's* old sin nature working overtime. He judged these three fellows guilty without considering any facts. No one can evaluate a situation while being influenced by rage. A person must have a cool head and tight reins on a hot temper, otherwise there will be no objectivity.

Read again [Daniel 3:13](#): “*Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego*”; [Daniel 3:14](#) doesn't actually say “*Is it true?*” but rather “*Is it on purpose?*” In other words, “*Did you do this by ignorance, malice or willful disobedience?*” Even in rage, he still gave them an opportunity to save themselves. The Devil always seeks to make it easy for the believer to compromise. These men did not resort to human concepts – they chose the *divine* pathway – they chose to take the strong way – *God's Way* – knowing that the Lord was more real to them than the king or any crisis. “*Life or death – we go God's way!*” Remember: Our life belongs to Him, and so do our pressures!