

28 July

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Daniel – week 3



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member why Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not bow to Nebuchadnezzar's statue?
2. What does v.1 tell us about Nebuchadnezzar? **(He made an image of gold, and set it on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.)**
3. What happened if you did not bow down to the image in v.6? **(Whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace.)**
4. Who refused to bow down in v.12? **(There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province; Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego.)**



Let's go deeper

5. How did Nebuchadnezzar respond in v.19b? **(He ordered that the furnace be heated seven times more than it was usually heated.)**
6. What did Nebuchadnezzar see in v.25? **(I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt....)**
7. What does v.27 tell us? **(The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them.)**
8. Who is behind the spirit of Babylon according to Matthew 4:9? **(Satan. He said to Jesus; "all these I will give You, if You will fall down and worship me.")**
9. Did Jesus refer to Daniel 3? **(Yes, see Matthew 13:49 – 50.)**



Let's apply this

10. Daniel 3:25; 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."

Jesus stands with those who stand for Him.

- How has Jesus rescued you from difficult situations?
- Do you believe that Jesus is with you all the time?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you this week to not bow down to the spirit of Babylon.

SUMMARY:

Daniel: Week 3 – Find Jesus in your fiery furnace

Read: Daniel 3:1 – 30

1. The demonic spirit of Babylon (vv.1 – 3).

Nebuchadnezzar wants total control to rule over the lives of everyone. He thinks he is god and wants to rule as a god. Babylon started with Nimrod in Genesis 10:8 – 10, and Genesis 11:4 tells us that the motivation for the tower of Babel was to make a name for themselves. The same spirit provokes Nebuchadnezzar to do the same thing as Nimrod to set up a high statue to worship and glorify a man. Times, places, and people change, but the same demonic spirits are at work behind the scenes. People who do not know God end up worshipping other people.

2. A counterfeit evangelistic outreach (vv.4 – 7).

Revelation 7 connects with Daniel 3; Daniel tells us the future, and then Revelation shows us the future. In vv. 4 – 7; there is a preacher (herald); thousands of people, music instruments, and an alter call for people to respond to fall down and worship the gold statue of Nebuchadnezzar. The herald tells people to either bow to the statue or burn in the fiery furnace. This is the same spirit in extreme Islamists like Isis. This same spirit is still at work today, telling Christians to deny Christ or die. Daniel and his friends did not hate Nebuchadnezzar or Babylon, but they knew their war was not against flesh and blood but powers, principalities, and demonic spirits.

3. The fiery furnace (vv.8 – 15).

v.12; We have a problem with the Jews, let us put them in the furnace. If you could throw someone into a fire and have no consequence, who would that be? If anyone is on your list, you have the heart of Nebuchadnezzar. Jesus tells us to forgive our enemies. The test of leadership is what the followers do when the leader is gone. Daniel is away, but his friends stand firm in faith and courage. Parents we are raising our kids like these boys to live in Babylon, because we will not always be with them. Nebuchadnezzar leads with control and fear, and Jesus leads with love and service.

4. Find Jesus in your fiery furnace (vv.16 – 30).

They turn up the temperature, and the spirit of Babylon will just keep increasing the heat on you to get you to conform and bow down. That is what these men are experiencing and the pressure is to worship someone or something other than their God. Only the ropes of Babylon burn in the fire. Jesus gets off His throne and comes down before Nebuchadnezzar does. Jesus stands with people that stand with Him against the spirit of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar sees Jesus the Savior and Rescuer, but he does not repent and believe in Jesus as God.

Jesus defeated satan, who is behind the spirit of Babylon in Matthew 4:9. Jesus went alone to the cross to endure the wrath and anger of God in our place. He took our place in the "fiery furnace" of God's wrath so that we can worship Him as God.