

DANIEL THE PROPHET

Summary & Quiz Book

Name:

Date:

Chapter 3: "THE FIERY FURNACE"

Nebuchadnezzar was so impressed by the image in his dream that he decided to build on like it for himself. But instead of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay as in the dream, every centimeter of the idol was to be of gold! You see, despite Daniel's interpretation of the image, Nebuchadnezzar had ideas of his own about the future. He evidently decided that his kingdom was going to stand forever! No silver, bronze, iron, or clay kingdoms, such as in his dream, would replace his Babylon! Babylon was the "eternal city" and he was the king. In one of his inscriptions he wrote: "I erected [there] a stela (showing) me (as) everlasting king." (Ancient Near Eastern Texts, Page 307)

When the image was finished, the king arranged an elaborate religious ceremony. He sent word out to all his officials throughout the empire to attend. As they assembled on the Plain of Dura, the image towering above them must have presented a spectacular sight.

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 3:1)

What were the two outstanding features of this image?

"Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of _____, whose _____ was threescore (60) cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits." (90-100 feet high). (Notice $60 \times 6 = 360$ which is a prophetic year.)

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 3:2-5)

As the ceremony opened, what was everyone present ordered to do? (for answer circle a, b, or c)

- (a) dance for joy
- (b) start singing the national anthem
- (c) fall down and worship the image when the music sounded

QUESTION 3 (Daniel 3:6)

What was the penalty for disobeying Nebuchadnezzar's command to worship the image? "And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the _____ of a burning fiery _____."

QUESTION 4 Daniel 3:7-12)

When the band struck up, thousands fell to the ground before the idol. No wonder! To refuse meant death by burning. But not everyone obeyed. Informers were quick to report to the king that three prominent people had not bowed down. Who were they? "There are certain _____ whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: _____, _____, and _____ ... They serve not your gods, nor worship the golden image, which thou hast set up."

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 3:13-15) What statement by Nebuchadnezzar makes it clear that he was challenging the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in all this?

"And who is that _____ that shall deliver you out of _____ hands?" (Verse 15)

QUESTION 6 ((Daniel 3:19-21)

Infuriated by their reply, what did Nebuchadnezzar order his guards to do?

ANSWER: "Bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to _____ them into the burning _____ furnace."

QUESTION 7 (Daniel 3:22-25)

As the king looked into the furnace, expecting to see the captives incinerated, he could not believe his eyes. What did he see?

"Lo, I see _____ men loose, walking in the midst of the _____, and they have no _____;"

The soldiers who threw the three men into the furnace were themselves killed by the searing heat. Yet their victims, who were right in the fire, survived unharmed. What had saved them so miraculously? Was it the presence of the fourth man?

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 3:25)

Who did Nebuchadnezzar say the fourth was like?

ANSWER: "and the form of the fourth is like the _____ of God."

Nebuchadnezzar had just been boasting that the Hebrews' God could not save the three out of his hand. So he did know about the one God of the Hebrews. That is why, when he saw them alive with the fourth man in the flames, he declared in amazement:

"Blessed be the _____ of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his _____."

QUESTION 9 (Daniel 3:26)

As Nebuchadnezzar called to the men in the furnace to come out, by what title did he refer to their God? "The _____ God."

QUESTION 10 (Daniel 3:27)

Did the Babylonian officials find any effects of fire on the three Hebrews?

"Nor was an _____ of their head singed, neither were their _____ changed, nor the _____ of fire had passed on them."

QUESTION 11 (Daniel 3:28, 29)

What sudden change came over Nebuchadnezzar because of this amazing experience? What decree did he make?

"Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be _____ in pieces, and their houses shall be made a _____: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort."

The king decreed that, henceforth, any remark made against the God of the Jews would bring sudden death to the offender. In his ignorance the king thought he was doing God a favour by making this decree. But was he? Has God given rulers the task of enforcing worship or religious belief upon their subjects? Yes: ____ No: ____

How wonderful that the divine "fourth man" should go into the flames to be with these three courageous men! He did not stop the guards from throwing them in, but went in with them. Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego lose out by being loyal to God?

Yes: ____ No: ____

Letter Tiles with a Message

Rearrange the tiles to learn why the Hebrew Boys would not worship the Image.

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REVIEW QUIZ (T/F)

- T / F Daniel was one of the men thrown into the furnace.
- T / F Nebuchadnezzar had only the head of his image made of gold, same as his dream
- T / F The king saw three figures walking in the flames
- T / F The three men who refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar's image tried to bargain for their lives.
- T / F The rescue of the three men from the fire caused the king to believe that everyone should worship the true God.
- T / F Nebuchadnezzar acted right when he decreed the death penalty upon anyone who spoke against God