

**FIRST BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**9171 Central Ave., Suite 300 - Capitol Heights, MD 20743**  
**Dr. Lehman D. Bates, Pastor**

**THE CHURCH AT STUDY**  
**Wednesday, November 3, 2010**  
**7 PM - 8:30 PM**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOK OF DANIEL**  
**Chapter 3**

## **INTRODUCTION**

**If you recall, Daniel had identified Nebuchadnezzar as the head of the Golden Statue Dream in chapter 2. In Chapter 3, Nebuchadnezzar constructs a Golden Statue 90 ft high and 9 ft wide in the Plain of Dura near Babylon. It was his desire to elevate himself and unite his empire through a common religion. The first attempt by man to institute one world religion was at the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11). This is a second attempt under Nebuchadnezzar. There will be a final effort by man for one world religion that will take place in Jerusalem during the Tribulation (Rev. 13).**

**In the vanity of egocentrism, Nebuchadnezzar wanted all to know he was the sovereign of the world and worthy of all worship. Failure to bow and worship the Golden statue Image would result in death, in a burning fiery furnace (3:4-7). There would be no exception: bow, or burn.**

**However, the three Hebrew teenagers: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not bow before the Statue Image. They refused to break God=s Commandment (Ex.20:3-5). They choose to burn, rather than bow to the Golden Statue Image (3:8-18). The fiery furnace was heated seven times hotter and they were cast in the flaming fire. Jehovah/God, through His Son delivered them from the destruction of the king's punishment (3:19-25). The king acknowledges this deliverance must be of Jehovah and decreed that no one within his realm could speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (3:26-30).**