

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 anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (3:26-30).

Looking at this chapter what can we see?

I THE PRIDE OF BRAZENNESS

- A. **Pride is Poison**
- B. **Pride is Painful**
- C. **Pride is Perspective**

II THE PUSH TO BOW

- A. **Pressure of Peers**
- B. **Persuasion of the Palace**
- C. **Putting the fear of the fire into Place**

III THE PROTECTION FROM BURNING

- A. **Presence of God**
- B. **Prevention of God**
- C. **Preservation of God**

LESSONS TO LEARN:

- A. **THE POWER OF TRUST**
- B. **THE PREEMINENCE OF GOD**
- C. **THE PROMOTION OF THE FAITHFUL**