

### **Daniel 3: 1-18 Through The Fire; Not around It T.B.C. 10.20/19**

So far in the book, danger has been averted by the godly wisdom of Daniel, and all is well. Surely Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah will be safe now. They were following the Lord closely, so that means their way should be easier? Right?

That is how we think it works. We think all blessings from God have to include health, wealth and safety. Do we really believe the depth of passages like 1 Peter 3:9/ James 1:3-4/ Romans 5: 1-5?

**Chapter 3 and chapter 6** show us something we desperately need to grasp onto. The highest rewards come from the greatest test.

Did you know that you can predict how well you might do when a big test of your allegiance to the Lord comes your way. How? Look at how you handle the, "little things."

People who have a history of small compromises with sin tell themselves they will stand firm for the Lord when "something big" comes along. That is a lie.

These four men were faithful in small things. They just lived to be faithful to the Lord. They loved God just for who He is, and their devotion and prayer- life were very consistent. They rose to the occasion when the big things came along.

**Ex. Royal Gorge Bridge** – 1,260 ft. long/ 18 ft. wide/ 1,292 Wooden Planks / 150' high towers/ 955 ft. to the bottom of the gorge. 2,000,000 lbs. load limit. 350,000 to build in 1929.

**2,100 little wires** make up each cable. The 2,100 wires are bundled together with bands every so often along the way. They do not look impressive or strong, but one huge bar of metal would have buckled long ago. The key to the strength of any suspension bridge are in those tiny wires.

**Point:** It takes "many faithful little experiences" with God to prepare you for the "one big experience."

**Contrast Nebuchadnezzar to these 4 young men: \*\*\*\*\***

**1 Corinthians 2: 14** "But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised."

**Lewis:** Transposition quote. A picture of Neb.

**Review of Chapter 2:** All that Neb. heard was that he was the, "head of gold." He was just a fan of the power of Daniel's god, but never allowed anyone to be god except himself.

**TEXT:** Daniel 3:1-18 Setting the mind.

**3:1** 90' tall and 9' ft. wide. Compare the Colossus of Rome at 108' tall. Colossus is one of the seven ancient wonders of the world. Babylonian art was known for its gigantic sizes. Herodotus and Diodorus and Isaiah 40:19 inform us that these statues were plated with gold and not solid gold.

**Plain of Dura** – “walled city” This prefix was found relating to several cities. We could say Dura Teague. The walled city of Teague.

Neb. had 3 walls built. Herodotus said one wall was 56 miles long, 80 feet thick, 320 ft. high.

Julius Oppert – 1825- 1905- Said he found this base of Nebs statute. 20’ high and 46’ square. Found 36 miles south of Babylon.

**3:2-7** The repetitiveness of the verse is there to testify to the satire of the moment.

Noise and fury signifying nothing!

**Ex.** Mood music and fancy camera work can take in the foolish. PBS, Discovery Channel, Science (theory) Channel ,Alien shows, and Big Foot. All used to win you over.

Then they get upset if you don’t buy into their theories.

**3:7** **Horn-** Ram’s horn and a tuba-type instrument. **Flute-** Pan-reed flute. **Psaltery-** 4 strings with a sounding board. **Bag pipe-** 2 pipes placed in a bag. **Triagon-** triangle shaped sound board with strings.

**Ex.** Ghana, Africa 1960

**3: 8-14** Office jealousy in action. Gas- lighting each other.

V. 8 and 12 . “Certain Chaldeans” and “Certain Jews.”

**3: 15** A word play here that is answered as a word play by the three in verses 16-18.

“Now if you are ready; then do this!”

“But if you do not worship; then this happens!”

**3: 16-18** One of the greatest passages ever!

**3:16** It was not an oversight king, we know exactly what we are doing!

**3: 17** “If it be so” distinctively answers to the “Is it true” of v.14.

**3:18** “But even if he does not” answers to “Now if you are ready” of v.15.

**Question for the day?** Do you have a “conditional” with God? (Spurgeon quote)