

CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH

“Lessons from the Book of Daniel - #5”

Date: May10, 2009

Text: Daniel 3:1-18

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POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

INTRODUCTION: Although chapter two had a happy ending, life for the believer is always filled with unending challenges and calls to compromise one's faith. It wasn't long, perhaps a few years at best, when King Nebuchadnezzar's so-called faith in Daniel's God had waned, and thoughts turned to his own greatness. Let's look at this crisis report Daniel gives us of what happened as a result...

I. THE ERECTION OF THE GOLDEN IMAGE - (3:1-3)

- A) Deification**
- B) Glorification**
- C) Unification**

II. THE EXHIBITION'S COMMAND- (3:4-7)

- A) Dedication**
- B) Penalization**

III. THE EXECRATION OF THE CROWD - (3: 8-12)

- A) Situation**
- B) Condemnation**

IV. THE EXASPERATION OF THE KING (3:13-18)

- A) Indignation**
- B) Confrontation**
- C) Repudiation**

CONCLUSION: Satan and his world of rebels, always tries to get God's children to compromise their faith. In most cases, it will come through national and societal calls to create an ecumenical world of godlessness about them. Believers of all ages will never fit in, and worse, will always be a thorn in their side preventing them from their goal to get rid of God's control and purposes. Daniel's three friends face the ultimate demand – either compromise your faith or die! Martyrdom has always been a part of Satan's choice, and every saint by Gods grace and power can overcome it. How will you face the call to compromise?

BIBLE TEXT FOR MESSAGE

The New International Version

Dan 3:1-18 (NIV) King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. 2 He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. 3 So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.

4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "This is what you are commanded to do, O peoples, nations and men of every language: 5 As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace." 7 Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshipped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

8 At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. 9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! 10 You have issued a decree, O king, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, 11 and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. 12 But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon--Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego--who pay no attention to you, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."

13 Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, 14 and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? 15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."