

## Daniel 3:1-30 **Golden Image – Fiery Furnace – Fourth Man in the Fire**

### The Image of Gold – Command to Worship Image

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an **image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits**. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

2 And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

3 So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4 Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,

5 that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up;

6 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."

7 So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

### Daniel's Friends Disobey the King

8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews.

9 They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever!

10 You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image;

11 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

12 There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve Le'Elaahaak (your gods) or worship the gold image which you have set up."

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king.

14 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve Le'Elaahay (my gods) or worship the gold image which I have set up?

15 Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! **But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the Elah (god) who will deliver you from my hands?"**

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

17 If that is the case, Elahanaa (our God) whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning

fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.

18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve lee'laahaayk (your gods), nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

#### Fourth Man In The Fire

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.

20 And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22 Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

25 "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and **the form of the fourth is like the Son of Elaahiyn (God).**"

#### Nebuchadnezzar Praises God

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of 'Ilaahaa' Elaahaa (the Most High God), come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.

27 And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.

28 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "**Blessed be Elaahahown (the God of) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any Elaah (god) except Lee'Elaahahown (their own God)!**

29 Therefore **I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against Elaahahown (the God of) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other Elaah (God) who can deliver like this.**"

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.  
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Nebuchadnezzar the king made an **image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits**. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. [Daniel 3:1-7]

- ✧ The arrogant king had seen a prophetic dream of an image which depicted the world rulers from his time in Babylon to the Kingdom age of Messiah, himself represented as the first by the head of gold. [Daniel 2:1-49]
- ✧ Nebuchadnezzar decided to erect an image entirely of gold making himself the only ruler being considered and demanding worship for himself whenever his music was played.
- ✧ It was an impressive image that stood ninety feet tall and nine feet wide.
- ✧ Anyone found not bowing to his image would be thrown into a fiery furnace.
- ✧ The people from all the pagan nations complied with the demand.
- ✧ Daniel and his friends had distinguished themselves and were placed over all the officials in the province of Babylon when Daniel told the dream and interpretation to the king. [Daniel 2:46-49]

#### Daniel's Friends accused before the King [Daniel 3:8-15]

- ✧ Certain Chaldeans out of envy, accused Daniel's friends the Jews specifically Shadrach (Hananiah), Meshach (Mishael) and Abed-Nego (Azariah) because they refused to worship the image.
- ✧ Nebuchadnezzar's response revealed his disdain toward all so called gods when he said, **And who is the Elah (god) who will deliver you from my hands?** He had acknowledged that Daniel's God was able to reveal secrets, but did not expect Him to have power over his own actions as king.
- ✧ This was a challenge to God Himself.
- ✧ **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego** answered and said to the king, **"O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, Elahanaa (our God) whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve lee'laahaayk (your gods), nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."** [Daniel 3:16-18]
- ✧ Daniel's friends stood firmly resolute in the face of such a challenge, expressed their faith in the ability of their God, but willing to be cast into the fire whether God delivered them or not.
- ✧ Then in the face of the king, they declared publicly their refusal to bow to pagan gods or idols even to save their lives.
- ✧ This is the character of the overcoming people of God when they face the Antichrist, his image, and the Mark of the Beast. [Revelation 12:11, 17]

#### Fourth Man In The Fire

- ✧ **Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.**  
And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Therefore, **because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.**

And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his

counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?"  
They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

**"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of Elaahiyn (God)." [Daniel 3:19-25]**

- ✧ Nebuchadnezzar's rage was exceeding calling for the maximum punishment in his mind, setting the stage for God to do an undeniable miracle.
- ✧ The Son of God stepped into the fire with His Saints and overcame the wrath of the king.
- ✧ The fire was so hot it killed the men who cast them into the fire, but had no effect on the men except to free them from their bonds. They walked freely in the fire and their bodies and clothing were untouched.
- ✧ Nebuchadnezzar was astonished when he saw the miracle and the fourth man in the fire Who looked like the Son of God.

### Nebuchadnezzar Praises God

- ✧ Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of 'Ilaahaa' Elaahaa (the Most High God), come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.

And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and **they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.**

Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, **"Blessed be Elaahahown (the God of) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any Elaah (god) except Lee'Elaahahown (their own God)! Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against Elaahahown (the God of) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other Elaah (God) who can deliver like this."**

Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.  
[Daniel 3:26-30]

- ✧ The miracle was undeniably confirmed by the top officials of the kingdom when they saw the men after they came out of the fire.
- ✧ Nebuchadnezzar was moved to acknowledge the power of God to deliver His faithful.
- ✧ His blessing and praise expressed his changed view of the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, now he knew of a certainty that God is both able and does act to prove His power and reveal Himself in the affairs of men and frustrate the word of the king.
- ✧ His decree indicates that he acknowledged that there is no other God who can deliver like this.
- ✧ Shadrach, Meshech, and Abed-Nego were promoted in the province of Babylon.