



STAND STRONG

A STUDY OF DANIEL



Where does the book of Daniel fit in the scheme of the Old Testament?

- After Abraham, Isaac, Jacob..... Mesopotamia to Canaan
- After Joseph.....Canaan to Egypt
- After Moses.....Egypt to Canaan
- After Saul, David, Solomon.....Kingdom of Israel
- After the Divided Kingdom..... Israel and Judah
- Captivity (exile) in Babylon ← **Daniel** (605 BC – 539 BC)



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What is the book of Daniel all about?

**...God is sovereign over history and empires.....
setting up and removing kings as He pleases.**

All of the kingdoms of this world will come to an end
and will be replaced by the Lord's kingdom,
which will never pass away.



What do chapters 1-6 of Daniel focus on?

...Daniel and his three friends in the Babylonian Court...

as they live faithfully to the Lord while living in a culture and a value system that is diametrically opposed to their own, and by as a result they bring blessings to the Gentiles.



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This theme will serve us well in our radically changing culture and the upside down value system of our contemporary world.



What do chapters 7-12 of Daniel focus on?

...Visions of Daniel...

...his apocalyptic visions, which reassure God's people that, in spite of exile and persecution, God is still in control of history and will see His purposes through.



Chapter 1: Foundation of Faithfulness

Your identity is the core issue of life.

“who you *‘be’* will determine what you *‘do’*”

Your convictions stand strong as a testimony

“what you *‘do’* proclaims what you *‘believe’*”

Your testimony will excel in the marketplace

“what you *‘believe’* will speak clearly to our world”



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Chapter 2: Faithfulness Demonstrated

- v. 1-13 Nebuchadnezzar's Dream and Threat
Authority exercised out of fear is pathetic
- v. 14-24 Daniel's response and prayer
Faith is grounded in the ability of God
- v. 25-45 Daniel's interpretation of the dream
The ability of God is grounded in Himself
- v. 46-49 Nebuchadnezzar rewards Daniel
God Himself is the one worthy of honor



Chapter 3

The Confrontation

*6 stages of
Spiritual Battle*



5 Repetitive phrases for emphasis



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-King Nebuchadnezzar:



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-King Nebuchadnezzar:..... **Big Nebo**



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- King Nebuchadnezzar**:.....**Big Nebo**
- ...the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces...:



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-**King Nebuchadnezzar**:.....**Big Nebo**

-...the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the
counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates,
and all the officials of the provinces...: **the officials**



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- ...the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces...:**the officials**
- ...the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music:....:



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-burning fiery furnace:



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- burning fiery furnace:.....**burning fiery furnace**
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego:



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- burning fiery furnace:.....**burning fiery furnace**
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego:.....**the '3' amigos**



Chapter 3:1-7

The Conformation



Chapter 3:1-7 *The Conformation*

- 1 King Nebuchadnezzar** made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.
- 2 Then **King Nebuchadnezzar** sent to gather **the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the province** to come to the dedication of the image that **King Nebuchadnezzar** had set up.



Chapter 3:1-7 *The Conformation*

- 3 Then **the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials** of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that **King Nebuchadnezzar** had set up. And they stood before the image that **Nebuchadnezzar** had set up.
- 4 And the herald proclaimed aloud,
“You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,



Chapter 3:1-7 *The Conformation*

- 5 *That when you hear the sound of the **horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music**, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that **King Nebuchadnezzar** has set up.*
- 6 *And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a **burning fiery furnace.**"*
- 7 *Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the **horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music**, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that the King had set up!*



Chapter 3:8-12

The Accusation



Chapter 3:8-12 *The Accusation*

- 8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews.
- 9 They declared to **King Nebuchadnezzar**,
 “O king, live forever!
- 10 *You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the **horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music**, shall fall down and worship the golden image.*
- 11 *And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a **burning fiery furnace**.*



Chapter 3:8-12 *The Accusation*

12 *There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon; **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”*



Chapter 3:13-18

The Confirmation



Chapter 3:13-18

The Confirmation

13 Then **Nebuchadnezzar** in furious rage commanded that **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego** be brought. So they brought these men before the king.

14 **Nebuchadnezzar** answered and said to them,

*“Is it true, O **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?”*



Chapter 3:13-18

The Confirmation

15 *Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the **horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music**, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good.*

*But if you do not worship,
you shall immediately be cast into a **burning fiery furnace**.*

And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"



Chapter 3:13-18 *The Confirmation*

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king,

*“O **Nebuchadnezzar**, we have no need to answer you in this matter.*

17 *If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the **burning fiery furnace**, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.*

18 *But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”*



Psalm 118: 1-7

- 1 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for
His steadfast love endures forever.
- 2 Let Israel say,
His steadfast love endures forever.
- 3 Let the house of Aaron say,
His steadfast love endures forever.
- 4 Let those who fear the Lord say,
His steadfast love endures forever.



Psalm 118: 1-7

- 5 Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me free.
- 6 The Lord is on my side;
I will not fear.
What can man do to me?
- 7 The Lord is on my side as my helper;
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.



Chapter 3:19-23

The Contemption



Chapter 3:19-23

The Contempt(ion)



Chapter 3:19-23

The Contempt(ion)

- 19 Then **Nebuchadnezzar** was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated.
- 20 And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**, and to cast them into the **burning fiery furnace**.
- 21 Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the **burning fiery furnace**.



Chapter 3:19-23

The Contempt(ion)

- 22 Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**.
- 23 And these three men, **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**, fell bound into the **burning fiery furnace**.



Chapter 3:24-28

The Transformation



Chapter 3:24-28

The Transformation

24 Then **King Nebuchadnezzar** was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors,

“Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?”

They answered and said to the king,

“True, O king.”

25 He answered and said,

“But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”



Chapter 3:24-28 *The Transformation*

26 Then **Nebuchadnezzar** came near to the door of the **burning fiery furnace**; he declared,

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!”

Then **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego** came out from the fire.

27 And **the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors** gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not



Chapter 3:24-28

The Transformation

harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them.

28 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, “Blessed be the God of **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants, who trusted in Him, and *(who)* set aside the king’s command, and *(who)* yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.



Chapter 3:29-30

The Promotion



Chapter 3:29-30

The Promotion

- 29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of **Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego** shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.
- 30 Then the king promoted **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego** in the province of Babylon.



STAND STRONG

Summary Statement



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Summary Statement

In this world we will be asked to conform to the norms of the culture around us, and if we don't we will be accused of violating something, and if we confirm our stance we will face contempt, but if we **stand strong** there will be some who will be transformed by the truth and the grace of God who will be promoted and glorified by some the very ones who at one point were antagonistic.



STAND STRONG

So.....therefore.....now what?



STAND STRONG

So.....therefore.....now what?

In what ways are we tempted to *conform*
to the norms of the culture around us?



STAND STRONG

So.....therefore.....now what?

Are we ready to be *accused*
of violating something?



STAND STRONG

So.....therefore.....now what?

Are we committed to *confirming*
our stance?



STAND STRONG

So.....therefore.....now what?

Are we prepared to face the *contempt*
that will surely come our way?



STAND STRONG

So.....therefore.....now what?

Do we trust that by standing strong
there will be some who will be *transformed*
by the truth and the grace of God?



STAND STRONG

So.....therefore.....now what?

Can we envision that there will be some,
who at one point were antagonistic,
that will come to be the very ones who will
promote the beauty of who God wants to be
in and through us all?



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