

FACING THE FURNACE OF AFFLICTION
(Daniel 3)

1 Peter

- The context of Daniel 3

I. The Image & Nebuchadnezzar's Demand (3:1-7)

A. The Image of Gold (3:1-3)

1. What this image looked like we are not told, but perhaps it reflected some aspect of his _____ in chapter two.
2. It's dimension is 90 feet x 9 feet & it may have looked like a man, but it no doubt *represented* the _____ & the _____ of King Nebuchadnezzar.

B. The Demand for Worship (3:4-7)

1. At the precise moment, a decree is made turning this political dedication into a _____ service of King Nebuchadnezzar.
2. Music was the universal language Nebuchadnezzar used to _____ move the people & to _____ them to fall down & worship the image that had been set up.
3. Those who would not comply were to be _____ immediately in a burning fiery furnace.

II. Those That Refused To Bow Down (3:8-18)

A. The Accusation by the Chaldeans (3:8-12)

1. Motivated by _____ certain Chaldeans reminded the king that certain _____ that he had set in positions of authority in his kingdom were not _____ to the king's decree.
2. Three charges were leveled against Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego by these Chaldeans:
 - a. these men do not pay you your _____
 - b. they do not serve your _____, but their _____, nor...
 - c. do they _____ the golden image which you have set up.

B. The Confrontation by Nebuchadnezzar (3:13-15)

1. Nebuchadnezzar _____ these men, yet gives them a chance to _____ of their actions.
2. The confrontation between Nebuchadnezzar & Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego is really a confrontation between Nebuchadnezzar & the _____ of Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego. This is indicated by Nebuchadnezzar's words, "*who is the god who will _____ you from my hands?*"
3. His ultimatum to them is _____ to the image or _____ in the furnace!

C. The Response of Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego (3:16-18)

- Why would they not bow down & worship?
- They realized that Nebuchadnezzar would never be able to understand why they did what they did, so they simply _____ their lives to God's _____. (Hebrews 11:36-40; 1 Peter 4:19)

III. Facing The Wrath Of Tribulation (3:19-23)

1. He commands the furnace to be heated ____ hotter than normal!
2. He orders his mighty men of valor to _____ & _____ the Jews into the burning fiery furnace.
3. Because his command was urgent & the furnace exceedingly hot, the king's own mighty men were _____ who cast the Jews into the furnace.
4. But Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego, bound by their captors, also _____ the burning fire!

IV. God's Miraculous Deliverance (3:24-25)

- * Certain things Nebuchadnezzar saw at the execution _____ him:
 - a. he noted _____ men in the furnace not just three
 - b. they were all _____ & walking around in the fire
 - c. none of them were _____ by the fire
 - d. the form of the 4th was _____ or _____ in appearance

V. Nebuchadnezzar's Response (3:26-30)

A. His Recognition of the Most High God's _____ (3:26-27)

B. His Decree (3:28-30) “_____ be their God!”

- Why did he say this?
 - a. The Most High God's Angel had _____ those who _____ in Him
 - b. They had _____ the Kings decree
 - c. They had yielded their _____ in service to their God—Romans 12:1-2
- Instead of suffering death in the furnace, these men were _____ & _____ in Babylon!

VI. Seeing the Parallels of Daniel 3 In Prophecy—(Overhead)

What does all this mean to you?