The Book Of Daniel BIBLE STUDY

Chapter 3:

5/5/2022 NKJV

The events of Dan 3 probably took place shortly after Daniel explained the king's dream in (chapter 2) , Although some estimate that it could have been 1—20 years later.

Daniel 3:1

1. ' Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold,

Meanings:

The image was not likely solid gold but was instead overlaid with it. Nebuchadnezzar probably decked the entire thing in gold to negate the message conveyed by the statue of his dream, wherein only the head was gold which signaled that the Babylonian Empire would only be temporary.

whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits

Meanings:

Cubit
(2 spans, sometimes translated "yard," "half a yard," or "foot")
Approximately 18 in.
So the image was approximately 90 Ft Height X 9ft Width

He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

Note:

The location of the plain of Dura has not been identified

Daniel was not Involved in the events here since he remained in the capital city "in the gate" (2:49)
While other officials including his three friends were called to Dura to show their loyalty.

Had Daniel been there, he too would have refused to bow to the image.

Daniel 3:2-3

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. '

Meanings:

The satraps were the chief representatives of the king, and they most likely had charge of the various provinces of the kingdom. Other officials in Babylon were the prefects (military commanders), governors (civil administrators), advisers (counselors to those in governmental authority), treasurers (administrators of the funds of the kingdom), judges (administrators of the law), and magistrates (those who passed judgment in keeping with the law).

Daniel 3:4

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

Meanings:

a royal or official messenger, a person that proclaims or announces

Daniel 3:5-6

"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.



Reference verse: Jeremiah 29:22
'And because of them a curse shall be taken up by all the captivity of Judah who are in Babylon, saying, "The Lord make you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire"; '

Daniel 3:7

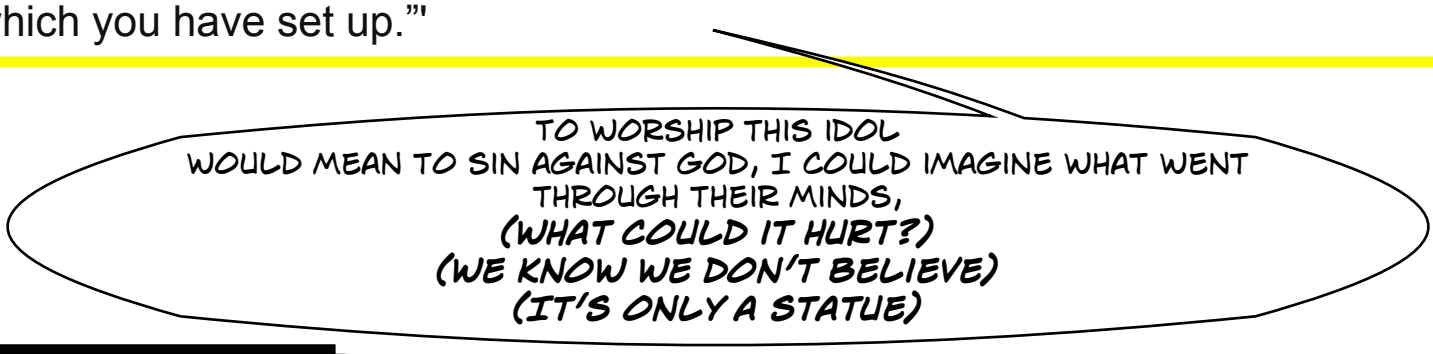
” 7 So at that time, when (**all the people)** heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.'

Daniel 3:8-11

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. '

Daniel 3:12

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 your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.”'



Note:

No their minds were already made up, they would not in anyway, shape or form worship this statue with any kind of **idolatry**

Meanings:

1. The religious worship of idols.
2. Excessive or blind adoration, reverence, devotion …

Knowing what idolatry is what are some forms of it we have in our lives to day?

1. Money
2. Famous stars
3. Cars, possessions, things…
4. Sports

So these three boys decided that they were NOT going to do this which the King decreed. So their **detractors**

Meanings:

A person who tries to take away from the quality, value or reputation of someone or something **(Critic)**

Being jealous of their positions accused them of being **insubordinate**

Meanings:

Not submitting to authority; disobedient

of the king and his order.

Note:

It's funny how human nature is the same now as it was then.
Seeing they were jealous of their positions they saw a chance to take them down and tried doing just that. The same scenario plays out over and over in our lives today. Most humans don't like other people to get ahead of them

Examples being:
1. Traffic
2. Promotions
3. Cutting in lines

What are some that you can think of?

Daniel 3:13-15

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 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 god who will deliver you from my hands?"'

V15 Reference
Matt 10:19

Note:

With Nebuchadnezzar's anger and fury, he still gave them a chance to explain and possibly a second chance to bow down to the image that he created, Seeing that these men were more important to him than all of the others and as they have served him well.

Knowing what their God has done for them in the past it seems like Nebuchadnezzar might have forgotten or been to overcome with his self pride that he asked them the question at the end of V15 "And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?"

The answer the king got from the three men wasn't probably the answer he expected.

Daniel 3:16-18

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

Reference verse: Matthew 10:19 'But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; '

17 If that is the case, 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 your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."'

"He will deliver us" This context indicates possibility and not certainty. They were saying that God might rescue them or he might choose not to do so. Their faith in God did not rest on the belief that He would perform a miracle, but that their sovereign God could be trusted.

Meanings:

sovereign: a person who has supreme power or authority

They asserted that if God chose not to deliver them from this punishment but instead allowed them to become martyrs for Him, they would still refuse to serve the king's gods or the image.
This is one of the strongest examples of steadfast faith in the Bible.

Daniel 3:19-23

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. '

Seven times more is an idiom for “as much as possible”
This to me shows that Nebuchadnezzar was so mad that he wanted them to be incinerated immediately.

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. '

This tells us that they had every piece of clothing on that they could have on, and this stuff wasn’t non-flammable material of course. So in all reality they should have went up like a dead pine tree.

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.

(the flame of the fire killed those men) That how crazy is that, the fire didn’t harm Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego that shows us that God had His protective hands on them before they were even in the furnace.

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

Daniel 3:24-25

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 God.”

Reference verse

Isaiah 43:2 'When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.'

Reference verse

Psalms 34:7-8 'The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!'

Just think was going through Nebuchadnezzar's mind at this time, he has already experienced Gods miracles in the past, not willing to really accept them as miracles, but now to see his men burn up and the three that they cast in to the furnace not only survive the fire but to walking in the mist of the fire and to top it all off the three are now four. Plus the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. Some say this may have been an angel or even a preincarnate appearance of Jesus Christ.

Meanings:

preincarnate:
Relating to, or having existence before incarnation.

So now to clarify the meaning of incarnation

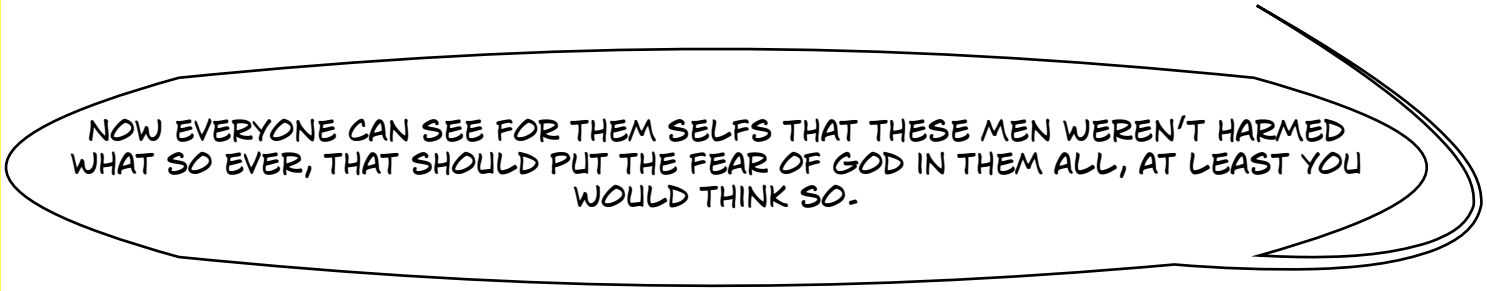
Meanings:

incarnation:
A living being embodying a deity or spirit.

Wow this shows me our God is a mighty God! And I think that the king will soon come to understand that fact as well.

Daniel 3:26-27

26 'Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of 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.'



Daniel 3:28-30

28 ’Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, “Blessed be 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 god except their own God! 29 Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against 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 God who can deliver like this.” 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.'

Note:

After there release from the furnace (Being unharmed) The king makes a decree to protect their religion and even promotes them to a higher level of service in the province of Babylon.

The plans the others made to sabotage the actions of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego backfire and lifted them to a higher status **(All Glory to God)**. **God saw their faithful ness and they were rewarded.**

What I see that I think is sad here Nebuchadnezzar saw everything their God has given and done for all four men in the past, Knowing that they only worship one God, but he still chooses to follow the other gods that he has been following. How hard is it to see that there is only one Might God, and that is the God that can make anything possible?

We can’t really fault the king because in our world how many people have seen the Miracles, the Grace, Kindness, Love and patience of The Lord our God but still refuse to let go of all the other false hopes, idols, gods of this world and to pick up our Cross and follow Jesus Christ as the Lord has asked and commanded us to do?

I know myself speaking I always seem to be my worst enemy and often block my own path to following the Lord by some of the choices **I Make.** Rather than trust in the God of Miracles, **I often think I got this, I can do this…**

This is when we should invite the Lord to be there with us and guild us in the way he chooses, Then we would see that our God is an awesome God and He can overcome all and get us though even our toughest battles. Glory to God, Thank you Lord Jesus Christ in who everything is possible.

Lessons

Lessons I see from this chapter of Daniel:

1. No matter the circumstances God is always with us and he always deserves our trust and faith in him.

2. We will all get the chance to witness for Jesus Christ sooner or later, Everyone gets this opportunity to accept or deny Christ.

3. God is always with us, even it those time that it seems he has abandon us or let us down, we need to realize he is there working in his time not ours, and he knows what is best for us and will always provide.

How we can help others with this Faith

When other people witness the peace that the children of God have when we are in the mist of any of our fires, trials, tribulations, temptations, and situations, That to me will be a strong testimony to our Lord and Savoir Jesus Christ.

Thank you Jesus.

Unfortunately:

Nebuchadnezzar saw that the God of Israel was greater than all other gods. Even so, he remained a worshiper of many gods, falling short of full devotion to the one and only true God.