



RESOLVED

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL



Turkey

Iraq

Iran

Syria

Tigris River

Euphrates River

Babylon

Mediterranean Sea

Jerusalem

Israel

Jordan

The Babylonian Empire

606-536 BC

Egypt

Persian Gulf



But Daniel **made up his mind**
[resolved] that he would not defile
himself with the king's choice food
or with the wine which he drank;
so he sought permission from the
commander of the officials that he
might not defile himself.

Daniel 1:8

Daniel 1:8

וַיִּשֶׁם דָּנִיֵּאל עַל-לִבּוֹ

way·yā·śem dā·nî·yêl 'al- lib·bōw

Daniel resolved in his heart

Daniel made up his mind

Daniel purposed in his heart

Daniel determined





Daniel 3



Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which was sixty cubits [90 feet] and its width six cubits [9 feet]; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3:1

*The Statue of Liberty in New York harbor is 151 feet tall from its base to the top of the torch.



Drawing of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Chapter 2

“This was the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king. You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.” Daniel 2:36-38



Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent word to assemble the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. Daniel 3:2



- satraps were chief representatives of the king
- prefects were military commanders
- governors were civil administrators
- advisers were counselors to those in governmental authority
- treasurers administered the funds of the kingdom
- judges were administrators of the law
- magistrates passed judgment in keeping with the law
- The other provincial officials were probably subordinates of the satraps.



Then the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces were assembled for the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Daniel 3:3



Then the herald loudly proclaimed: “To you the command is given, O peoples, nations and men of every language, that at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up.

Daniel 3:4-5

*Nebuchadnezzar purposed to establish a unified government and also a unified religion. The king constituted himself as both head of state and head of religion. All who served under him were to recognize both his political and religious authority.

– Bible Knowledge Commentary



Progression of Sin

Notice the verbs:

- Come (Daniel 3:2)
- Stand (3:3)
- Fall down (3:5)
- Worship (3:5)

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! Psalm 1:1



What happened to Nebuchadnezzar?

The king answered Daniel and said,
“Surely your God is a God of gods and a
Lord of kings and a revealer of
mysteries, since you have been able to
reveal this mystery.” Daniel 2:47



Then the herald loudly proclaimed: “But whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.” Daniel 3:6



Therefore at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshiped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. Daniel 3:7



One must not tolerate evil.
For first, evil is tolerated,
then embraced, then hailed
as being good then it
becomes unlawful to do
what is actually good.

-Odin



For this reason at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and brought charges against the Jews. They responded and said to Nebuchadnezzar the king: “O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree that every man who hears the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, and bagpipe and all kinds of music, is to fall down and worship the golden image.” Daniel 3:8-10



“But whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, namely Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. These men, O king, have disregarded you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up.” Daniel 3:11-12

Hebrew Names Babylonian Names

Names were given by God-fearing parents and then changed by Nebuchadnezzar to omit a testimony to Yahweh, to encourage the Jewish teens to forget God and their homeland

Daniel - Hebrew “my judge is God”

Belteshazzar - Akkadian “(god) Bel, protect the king”

Hananiah - Hebrew “Yahweh has favored me”

Shadrach - Akkadian “I am fearful (of a god)”

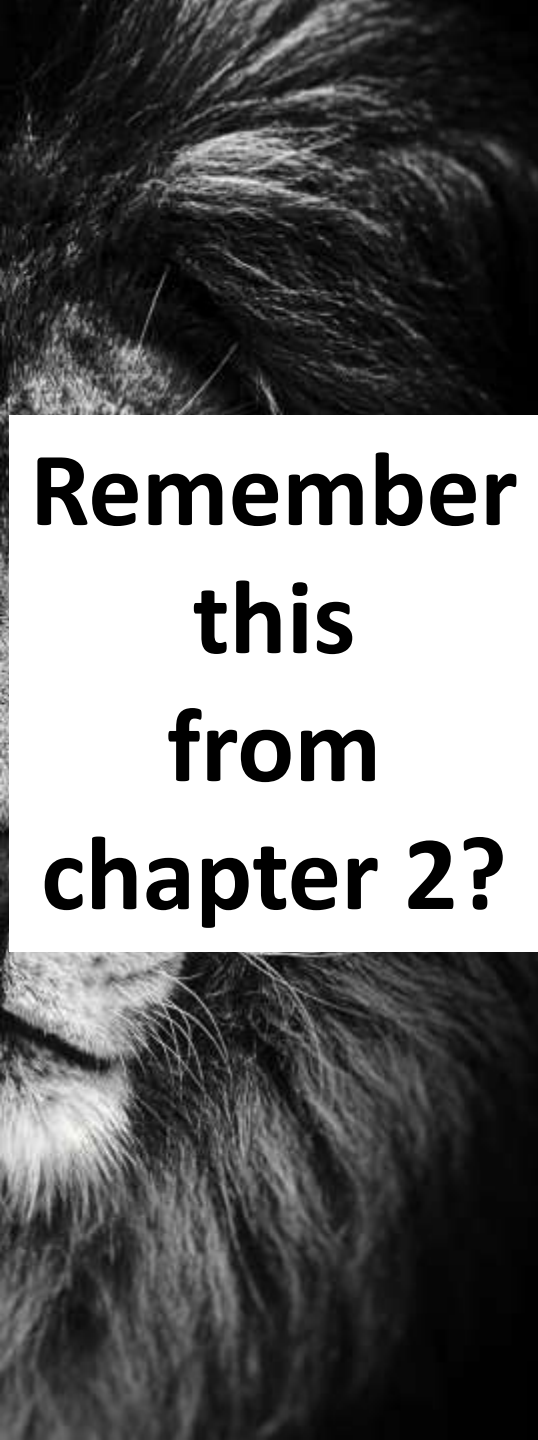
Mishael - Hebrew “who is what El is?”

Meshach - Akkadian “I am humbled (before my god)”

Azariah - Hebrew “Yahweh has helped”

Abed-nego – Akkadian “servant of Nego”

(Nego/Nebo was a Babylonian god of wisdom)

A close-up, black and white photograph of a man's face, focusing on his eyes and a full, dark beard. The image is partially obscured by a white text box on the left and a large text block on the right.

**Remember
this
from
chapter 2?**

Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. And Daniel made request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego over the administration of the province of Babylon, while Daniel was at the king's court. Daniel 2:48-49



Where was Daniel?

Since Daniel was appointed to a higher office (Daniel 2:48) he may not have been required to attend or perhaps he may have been elsewhere in the empire carrying out his duties. Or maybe the astrologers did not dare accuse Daniel, who was present but like the other three did not bow. Whatever the reason for his not being mentioned, Daniel's dedication to his God and submission to the Law certainly precluded his bowing before the image. – Bible Knowledge Commentary



Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego; then these men were brought before the king. Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?”

Daniel 3:13-14

*The forces of evil cannot stand being rejected.

*When confronted, will we admit to resisting evil?



Why not bow down?

“You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments,” Exodus 20:3-6



Nebuchadnezzar said, “Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, very well. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?” Daniel 3:13-16

*Evil will always give you another chance to join in.



Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.”

Daniel 3:17

*Obeying God was more important than life to these three, so if God chose not to deliver them, they would still obey Him. – Bible Knowledge Commentary



Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied, "But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." Daniel 3:18

Job said, "Though He slay me, I will hope in Him." Job 13:15



“But even if He does not”

- Even if I don't get this job
- Even if I don't receive good news from the doctor
- Even if my spouse leaves
- Even if I can't pay my bills
- Even if they won't accept me
- Even if the pain never stops

Do we have this much faith?



Their determination

1. Faith in God's delivering power

They state, "Our God is able to deliver us." Yahweh is the all-powerful God. Nothing is beyond His power or intervention. Nothing!

2. Faith in God's ultimate plan

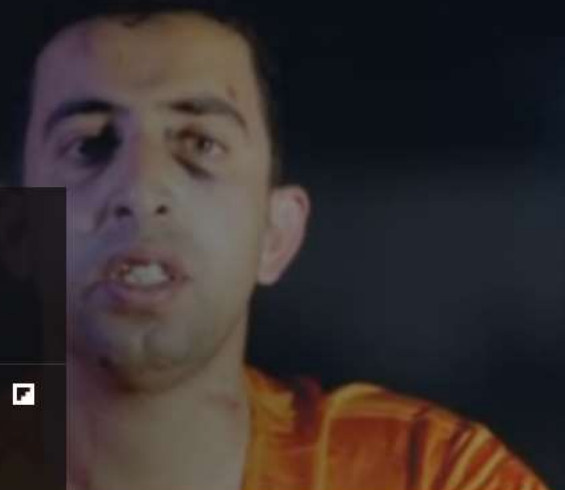
"Even if He doesn't deliver us, we still won't bow before your image." If God doesn't deliver, he hasn't forgotten. Things don't have to end up the way we think they should. God knows better.



Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and his facial expression was altered toward Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. He answered by giving orders to heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. He commanded certain valiant warriors who were in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego in order to cast them into the furnace of blazing fire. Daniel 3:19-20

Jordanian pilot's "obscene" burning death by ISIS sparks outrage in Mideast

FEBRUARY 4, 2015 / 9:40 AM / CBS/AP



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WORLD

ISIS Invites Children to Public Viewing of Jordanian Pilot Execution Video

BY POLLY MOSENDZ ON 2/12/15 AT 4:14 PM EST



In February of 2015, in Aleppo, Syria, Muadh al-Kasasbeh, a Jordanian pilot, was a hostage of the Islamic State (ISIS) and the group burned him alive. The killing was recorded on video and distributed by ISIS on social media, primarily through Twitter.



Then these men were tied up in their trousers, their coats, their caps and their other clothes, and were cast into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire. For this reason, because the king's command was urgent and the furnace had been made extremely hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire still tied up. Daniel 3:21-23



Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up in haste; he said to his high officials, “Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?” They replied to the king, “Certainly, O king.” He said, “Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods!” Daniel 3:24-25







Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire. Daniel 3:26

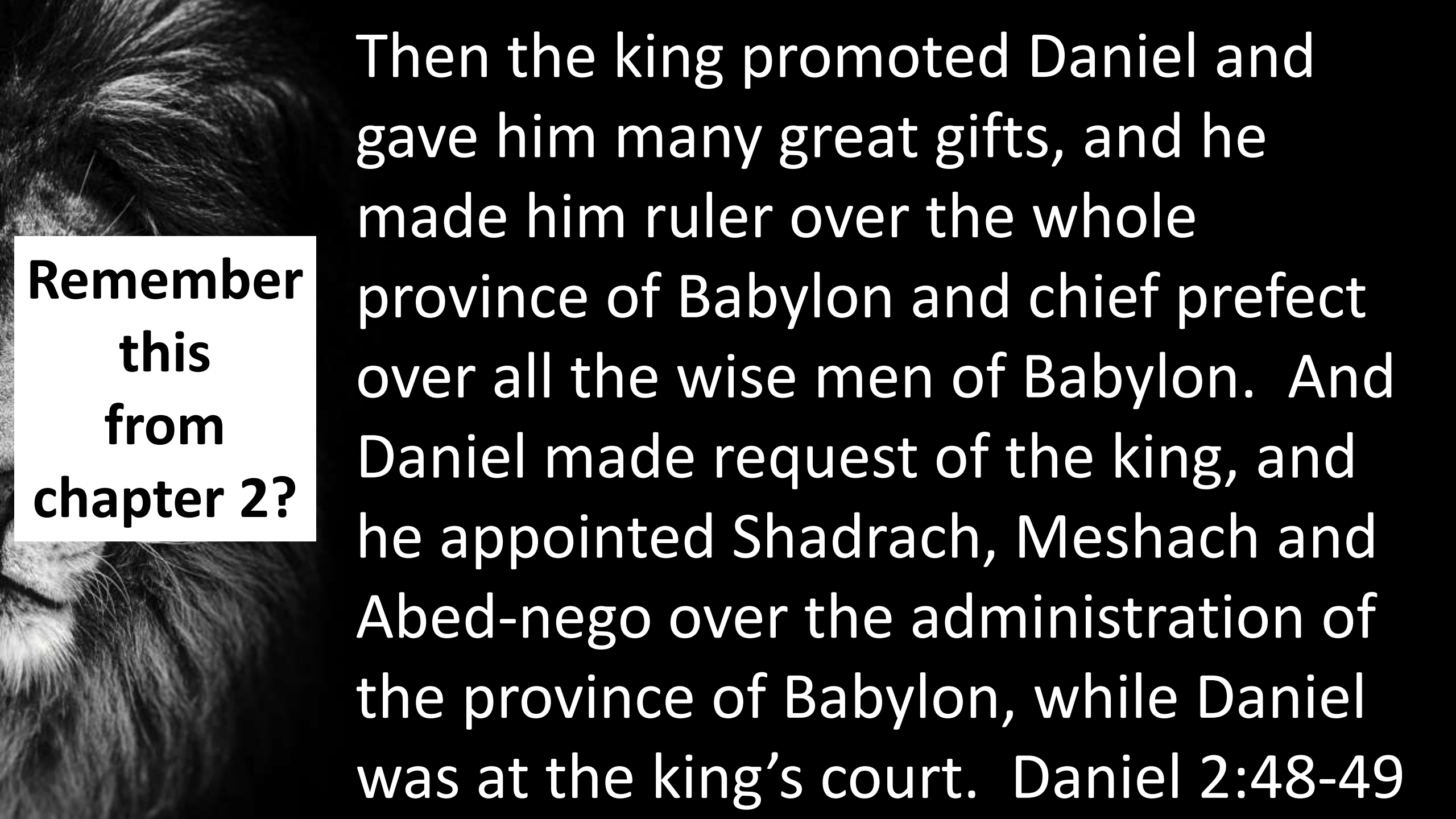


The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king's high officials gathered around and saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire even come upon them. Daniel 3:27

Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God.” Daniel 3:28

*The world will notice when believers are different

Nebuchadnezzar said, "Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation or tongue that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way." Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon. Daniel 3:29-30



**Remember
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Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. And Daniel made request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego over the administration of the province of Babylon, while Daniel was at the king's court. Daniel 2:48-49

- This historical incident seems to have prophetic significance as well. In the Tribulation a Gentile ruler (7:8) will demand for himself the worship that belongs to God (2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:8). Any who refuse to acknowledge his right to receive worship will be killed (Rev. 13:15). Assuming political and religious power, he will oppress Israel (Rev. 13:7). Most people in the world will submit to and worship him. But a small remnant, like the three in Daniel's day, will refuse. Many who will not worship the Antichrist will be severely punished; some will be martyred for their faithfulness to Jesus. But a few will be delivered from those persecutions by Jesus at His second coming.
- In the Tribulation period God will do for this believing remnant what He did for Daniel's three companions. They withstood the decree of the king, and though they were not exempted from suffering and oppression they were delivered out of it by the God they trusted. No doubt the remnant of believers in that coming day will find great comfort, consolation, and instruction from this incident in the lives of Daniel's three companions. -Bible Knowledge Commentary



Lessons from the Fiery Furnace

- 1. Disciples can't avoid persecution.** If God bless us, others may be jealous. If we stand for what is right, some will resent it. We can't change how others feel about us. If we try to avoid persecution by compromise and flattery, we may be displeasing to God.
- 2. When faced with an ultimatum, we need to answer clearly and boldly.** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered forthrightly. So did Jesus before the high priest (Matthew 26:63-64) and before Pilate (John 18:33-38; 19:11). So did Stephen before he was martyred (Acts 7:51-56).
- 3. Our faith should be in both God's power and God's will.** We don't serve Him just because He will deliver us. He is able to deliver, but His purposes are often beyond our understanding. We just trust Him.
- 4. God's angels are constantly around us.** Only occasionally are they seen.
- 5. We need to be willing to lay down our lives rather than betray our God.** That's what Jesus meant when He said, "Take up your cross and follow me."

-Dr. Ralph F. Wilson



Lessons from Daniel 3

1. Standing up for righteousness when most others don't is very hard.
2. Standing up for righteousness when most others don't requires a deep and solid faith.
3. Standing up for righteousness when a friend joins you will strengthen your faith and resolve.
4. God is even sovereign over the smallest details... their clothes did not smell like smoke.
5. When you obey God despite pressure to disobey, you will help non-believers see the truth of the faith.



But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place.” Isaiah 43:1-3

(written 100+ years before the life of Daniel)