

# Daniel 3

## Bow Down or Burn



**OBEY GOVERNMENT OR GOD**

# Daniel 3 - Highlights

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- God shows His power to deliver from the Fiery Furnace
- **Idolatry** – Giving ultimate significance and allegiance in “created” things and not God – Whatever we put our hope and enjoyment in (**i.e. Money, fame, sex, education, science, eating, car, house, sports, power, angels, etc.**). The 1<sup>st</sup> two of the 10 Commandments relates to idolatry.
- Faith & Courage to take up your Cross and count the Cost of Following Jesus
- This passage shows the tension a believer faces when loyalty to Gov’t is demanded that **violates God’s commands** or **the believer’s conscience**.
  - Romans 13:7 – says we are to obey government, however it’s clear that a believer cannot obey government if it violates the Bible or our conscience (Rom. 2:14-15) , even if it the penalty is death.
- In light of the teachings of this chapter, you may want to reevaluate your opinion on current issues that violate God’s laws (i.e. Genesis 1:27; Romans 1:24-32-sexual; abortion, corrupting the temple of God/abomination, etc.)

# Daniel 3 – Video Overview

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- <https://youtu.be/FYDvYkbnabk?t=1431>  
23:51 – 27:14 minute mark

# Daniel 3: 1-3

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- <sup>1</sup> King Nebuchadnezzar made an **image of gold**, **sixty** cubits high and **six** cubits wide, and set it up on the **plain of Dura** in the province of Babylon.
- <sup>2</sup> He then summoned the **satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates** and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up.
- <sup>3</sup> So the **satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates** and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.

Repetition emphasizes EVERYONE in high positions agreed in mindless obedience, in stark contrast to 3 courageous Jews

Foreshadow of Rev. 13:15, 18 – Final Empire also has an image...”here is wisdom...the number of a man...666”.

This image was 60-90 feet high, made of Gold. The purpose was **WORSHIP of one-world religion**, to a man.



## Worship means

(Greek translated):

- **To lie prostrate** in humility before the one worshipped
- **To serve** the one worshipped
- **Devotion** shown through lifestyle

# Daniel 3: 4-7

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- <sup>4</sup> Then the herald loudly proclaimed, “Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: <sup>5</sup> As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, **you must fall down and worship the image of gold** that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. <sup>6</sup> **Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.**”
- <sup>7</sup> Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of **the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music**, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

**One World-  
State Run  
Religion is  
always the Goal.**

**Worship of  
Satan will  
not be an  
Option**

**We may all  
face the  
same  
decision as  
Daniel**

# Daniel 3: 8-12

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- <sup>8</sup> At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. <sup>9</sup> They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “May the king live forever! <sup>10</sup> Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, <sup>11</sup> and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace.
- <sup>12</sup> But there are **some Jews** whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They **neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold** you have set up.”

Hundreds of Israelites made a choice to bow to the king's idol. They knew the 10<sup>th</sup> Command **“thou shalt not have any gods before me”** (Ex. 20:3). But **they fell to pressure and fear** instead of trusting in God.

# Daniel 3: 13-15

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- <sup>13</sup> Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king,
- <sup>14</sup> and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up?”
- <sup>15</sup> Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. **But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”**



# Daniel 3: 16-18

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- <sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, **we do not need to defend ourselves** before you in this matter.
- <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, **the God we serve is able to deliver us from it,** and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand.
- <sup>18</sup> **But even if he does not,** we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

Jesus did not need to defend Himself at trial either

Are you willing to Trust & Happily accept the outcome if God lets you suffer & die?

# Daniel 3: 29-23

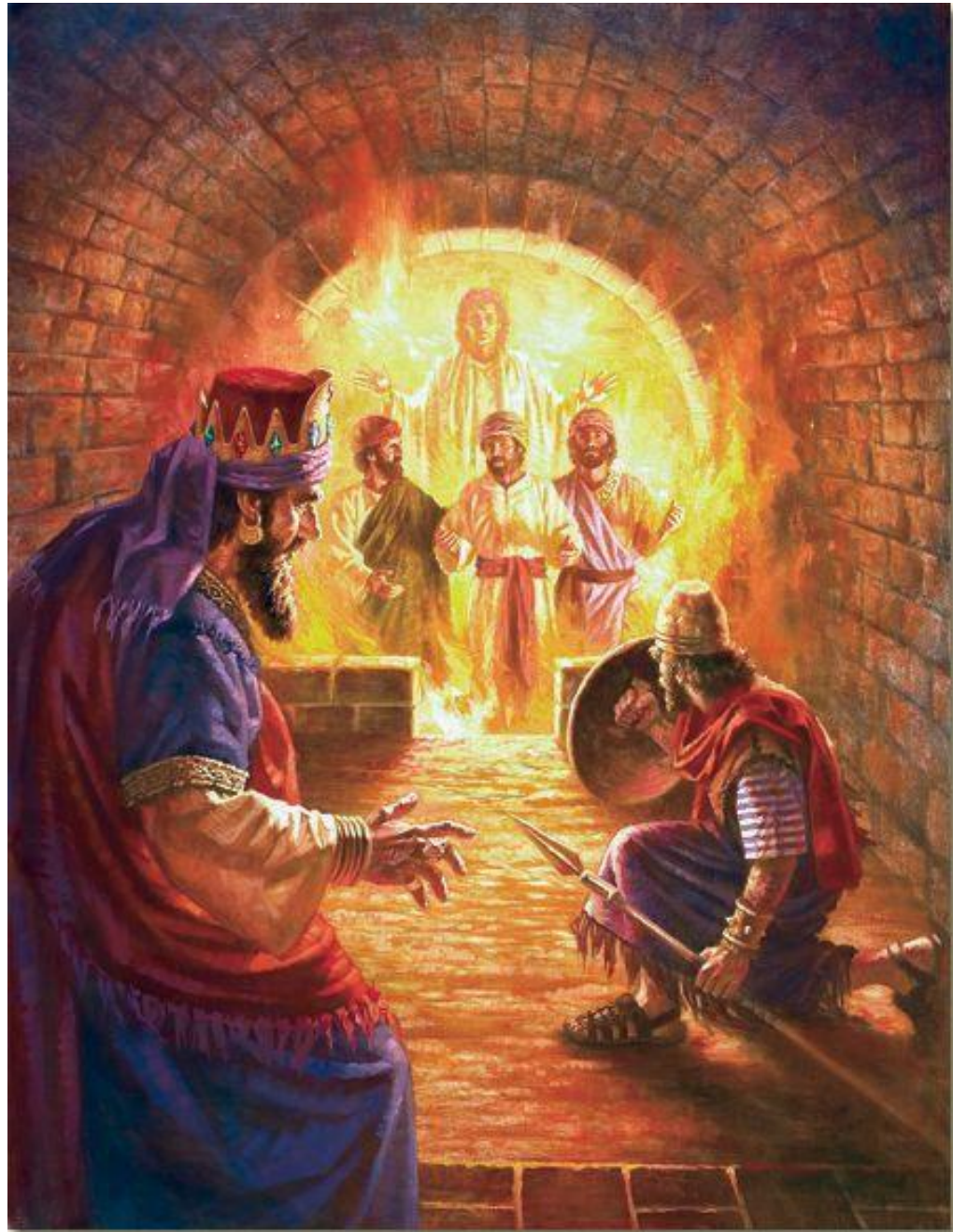
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- <sup>19</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual
- <sup>20</sup> and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to **tie up** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.
- <sup>21</sup> So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace.
- <sup>22</sup> The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the **flames of the fire killed the soldiers** who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, <sup>23</sup> and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

# Daniel 3: 24-25

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- <sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”
- They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”
- <sup>25</sup> He said, “**Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.**”



# Daniel 3: 26-27

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- <sup>26</sup> **Nebuchadnezzar** then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the **Most High God**, come out! Come here!”
- So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire,
- <sup>27</sup> and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

**King Neb is the first to ever use this title for God**

# Daniel 3: 28

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- <sup>28</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “**Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego**, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants!
- **They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives** rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

Trusting in  
Jesus is the  
only way  
to defeat  
the Fiery  
Furnace

# Daniel 3: 29-30

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- <sup>29</sup> Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”
- <sup>30</sup> Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

# Romans 14: 11-12

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<sup>11</sup> For it is written:

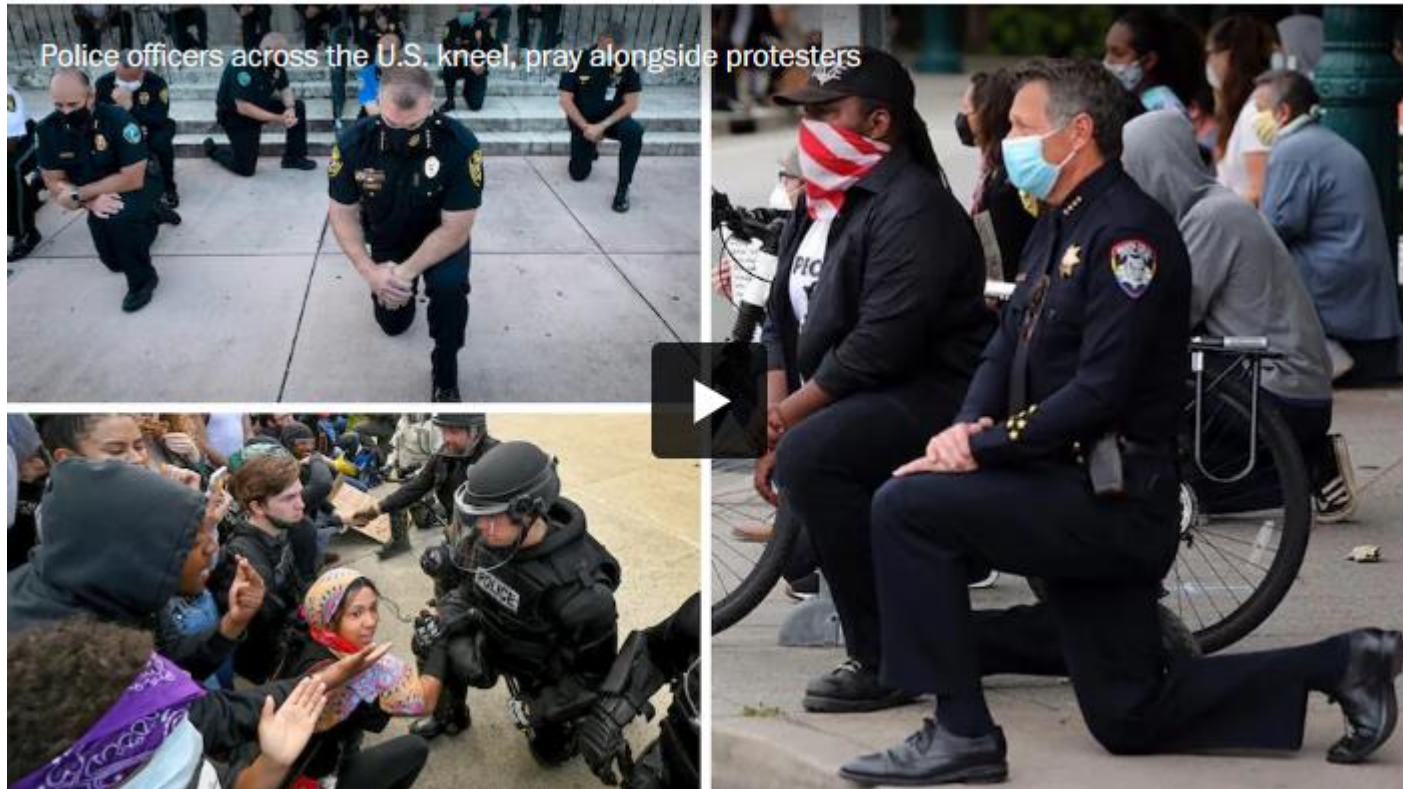
“As I live, says the LORD,

**Every knee shall bow to Me,  
And every tongue shall confess to God.”**

<sup>12</sup> So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.



# Current Events that will force You to Decide whether to Bow Down or not



[Glenn Beck - Will you Bow to Digital Currency – zoom  
https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/aHGfydRyj3PVDcXG-CUtfjGP9JMvmNC-8I5StGF1NsZgO-\\_MQ\\_pJGVaHDOejts4hsg4Reil4Q-\\_zqaUM.IRFWPsJDN1RolmKS?autoplay=true&startTime=1649697684000](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/aHGfydRyj3PVDcXG-CUtfjGP9JMvmNC-8I5StGF1NsZgO-_MQ_pJGVaHDOejts4hsg4Reil4Q-_zqaUM.IRFWPsJDN1RolmKS?autoplay=true&startTime=1649697684000)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/06/01/some-officers-march-kneel-with-protesters-creating-dissonant-images-fraught-weekend-uprisings/>

[Will You Bow Down to the COVID God?  
https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2022/04/video-chinese-kneeling-street-vaccine-passports-scanned-chinese-authorities-goes-viral/](https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2022/04/video-chinese-kneeling-street-vaccine-passports-scanned-chinese-authorities-goes-viral/)

# Examples of Others Not Obeying Government

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- **Apostle Peter** – Acts 5:28-29, 40-41 – government gave strict orders not to continue teaching in the name of Jesus...But Peter and the apostles answered and said, "**We must obey God rather than men.**"
- **Moses** – he defied Pharaoh and trusted God to part the Red Sea to save him from certain death.
- **Tyndale** – the first translator and printer of the Bible was burned at the stake, only 2 years later the King James made his Bible legal and changed the world.
- **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** – German Pastor and author who was killed for opposing Hitler.
- **Corrie Ten Boom** – lied to Nazi's in order to get false food rations and hide over 800 Jews who survived due to her family's decision to disobey and lie to the government. Her family were executed and Corrie became an

# Who Do You Fear?

## God or Man - Matthew 10

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- Jesus taught extensively about the high cost of serving God.
- He promised that those who are persecuted for His name will be “blessed” and “save their life” for eternity.
- Why do Christians today then criticize other believers who oppose Government for righteousness sake and are persecuted for it? i.e. Art Pawlowski, John MacArthur?
- Why do Christians today think obeying a corrupt anti-God government is a way of loving others when the Bible does not teach this?
- Protests, opening churches against government orders, enforcing rules that are oppressive and thought to be devised by Satan?
- <https://www.gracechurch.org/news/posts/1988> “Christ, not Caesar”
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05Zt74kljq0> - Corrie Ten Boom Interview – 7:00 -

# Martin Luther Quote

Before the Emperor of the Roman Empire in 1521  
after being Ordered to Recant His Teachings

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- "Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason - I do not accept the authority of the popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other - my **conscience** is captive to the Word of God.
- I cannot and I will not recant anything for to go against **conscience** is neither right nor safe.
- God help me. Amen.“ (see Romans 2:14-15)

Martin Luther led a massive protest against the Catholic Church resulting in over 100,000 deaths. The Protestant Church movement was born and billions of souls have been saved as a result. (is the Christian led Trucker Convoy in God's will?)

# Questions

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- What is a situation in which you showed courage under fire the way Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego did?
- How does our culture pressure believers to conform to doing things against God & our conscience?
- What are some idols of our day that we worship?
- How are you tempted to react when critics come against you for positions you take? Compare to Daniel
- Why is often too late to develop our convictions in the moment of truth? What is the hill you will die on?
- What did these 3 men care more about than their life? Do you?
- How do you react when God doesn't deliver you from trials?
- Are you prepared to die for Jesus Christ & your Convictions?