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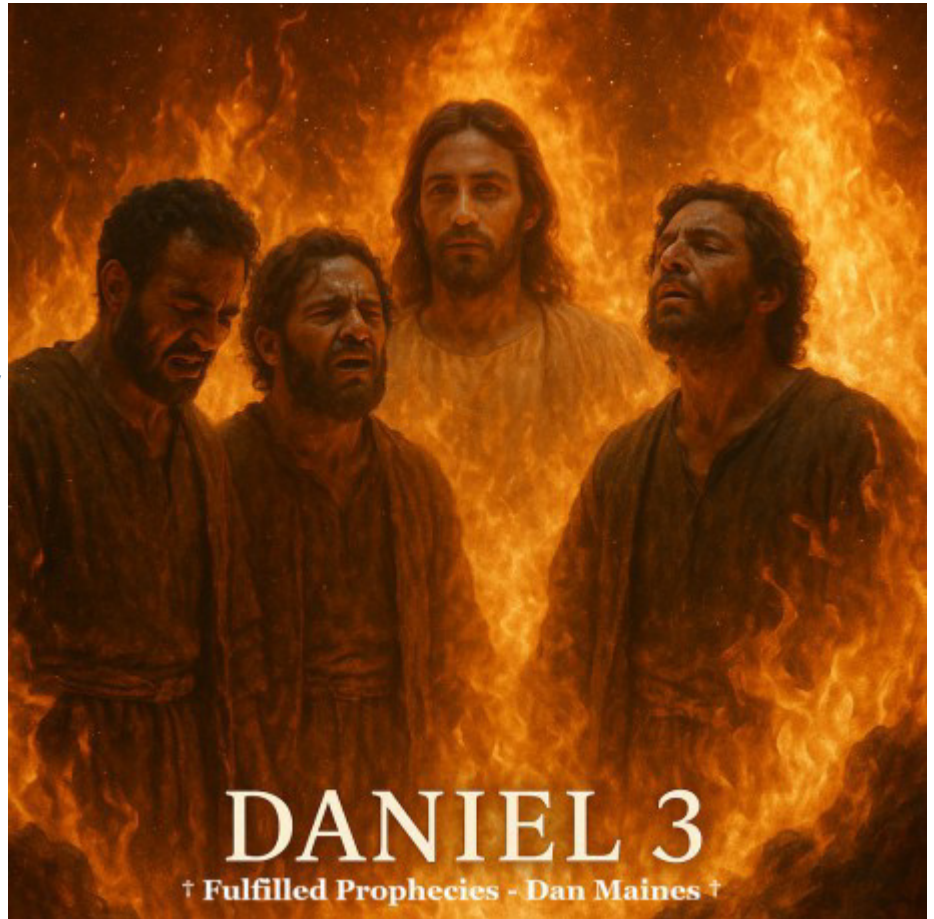
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By Dan Maines

Daniel 3

Daniel 3:1

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

† The golden image symbolized Nebuchadnezzar's pride and rebellion against the God who revealed his dream.

† Historically, ancient kings often built colossal statues to assert divine authority, representing their kingdoms as everlasting.

† Prophetically, this act reflected the arrogance of worldly powers that oppose God's kingdom.

† Josephus recorded that Nebuchadnezzar's image was likely dedicated to Bel, his national deity.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, this image represents man's attempt to replace God's rule with human dominion, which Christ destroyed.

Daniel 3:2–3

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. Then the satraps, the prefects, 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 had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

† The repetition of titles emphasizes the vastness of Babylon's empire and its demand for total allegiance.

† Historically, Nebuchadnezzar gathered every class of official to ensure political and religious unity under his rule.

† Prophetically, this mirrors the first-century persecution against those who would not bow to Rome's imperial cult.

† Jerome saw in this passage a warning against earthly governments demanding worship due only to God.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the saints bow only to Christ, the true King, not to any earthly power.

Daniel 3:4–6

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. But whoever does not fall down and worship shall

immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire."

† The decree demanded universal worship, uniting politics and religion under one idol.

† Historically, such decrees served to prove loyalty to the king rather than sincere faith.

† Prophetically, this anticipates the Beast of Revelation, enforcing worship through threat of death under Rome.

† Eusebius compared this command to the persecution of Christians who refused to burn incense to Caesar.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the fire of persecution purifies faith rather than destroys it.

Daniel 3:7

Therefore at that time, when all the people 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.

† The mass obedience revealed the fear and conformity of men without conviction.

† Historically, Babylon's empire was vast, stretching across many languages and cultures.

† Prophetically, this represents worldly submission to corrupt power when truth is absent.

† Theodotion noted that the language of "every nation" anticipates the contrast of Pentecost, when every tongue glorified God instead.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, believers from every nation now bow to Christ, not to earthly idols.

Daniel 3:8–12

For this reason at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and brought charges against the Jews... They said, "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."

† Envy drove the Chaldeans to accuse the faithful, revealing the conflict between obedience to God and allegiance to man.

† Historically, Jews often faced jealousy when God's favor elevated them within pagan nations.

† Prophetically, this parallels the accusations against the apostles who refused to obey men rather than God.

† Clement wrote that the righteous are always accused by those who fear their integrity.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, persecution still arises when truth exposes false authority.

Daniel 3:13–15

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? 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?"

† The king's arrogance challenged God directly, testing His power to save.

† Historically, Nebuchadnezzar's words reveal the pride that blinded rulers to God's sovereignty.

† Prophetically, his threat symbolizes the persecution believers endured from Rome, which also questioned who could deliver them.

† Jerome said Nebuchadnezzar's boast was crushed by the miracle that followed.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the faithful fear no threat, knowing Christ has already conquered death.

Daniel 3:16–18

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. 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."

† Their unwavering faith stands as one of the greatest testimonies of loyalty to God in scripture.

† Historically, this bold declaration was a public rejection of Babylon's authority over conscience.

† Prophetically, this represents the faith of early martyrs who faced death rather than deny Christ.

† Tertullian praised this courage as the same spirit that sustained Christians under Roman persecution.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, true faith stands firm even when deliverance is unseen, trusting in eternal victory.

Daniel 3:19–23

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... 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.

† The fire represents both judgment and purification, showing that faith is tested by tribulation.

† Historically, Babylonian furnaces were used for smelting and punishment, reaching extreme temperatures.

† Prophetically, the sevenfold fire symbolizes complete testing, which only strengthens true faith.

† Jerome observed that their garments were preserved to prove divine intervention beyond natural cause.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, believers pass through spiritual fire, refined and unharmed by the world's wrath.

Daniel 3:24–25

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?"... "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!"

† The fourth man in the fire reveals the presence of Christ protecting His faithful servants.

† Historically, the king's astonishment showed that divine power triumphed over earthly judgment.

† Prophetically, this scene prefigures Christ's deliverance of His people through His presence in suffering.

† Hippolytus identified the fourth man as the Word of God appearing in visible form.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, Christ remains present with His people in every trial, ensuring victory through faith.

Daniel 3:26–27

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!"... 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 their bodies, nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire even come upon them.

† The miracle proved that God's power transcends physical law and human judgment.

† Historically, the preservation of their bodies and clothing emphasized total divine protection.

† Prophetically, this symbolizes resurrection and deliverance from destruction through faith.

† Eusebius compared this miracle to the indestructibility of Christ's body, which overcame death itself.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the faithful emerge from trials untouched, clothed in righteousness.

Daniel 3:28–30

Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him...

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." Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon.

† The king's confession glorified the true God before all nations, just as Daniel's revelation had done earlier.

† Historically, Nebuchadnezzar's decree acknowledged divine supremacy though his heart remained proud.

† Prophetically, this anticipates the nations confessing Christ's name after His victory over death.

† Jerome noted that though Nebuchadnezzar confessed truth, full faith came only later through humility.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the name of Christ is confessed among every nation, and His servants reign with Him.

How it applies to us today

† Daniel 3 teaches that faithfulness to God overcomes every trial of persecution and conformity.

† The fire represents trials that reveal the genuineness of faith, not its destruction.

† Christ walks with His people through every furnace of life, ensuring complete victory.

† The kingdoms of men still demand allegiance, but the believer's loyalty belongs to Christ alone.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the saints reign with the Son of God who delivers from every fire of affliction.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† The Holy Bible, NASB

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 10

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† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement

† Jerome, Commentary on Daniel

† Theodotion, Greek Version of Daniel

† Hippolytus, Commentary on Daniel

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