

DANIEL
CHAPTER

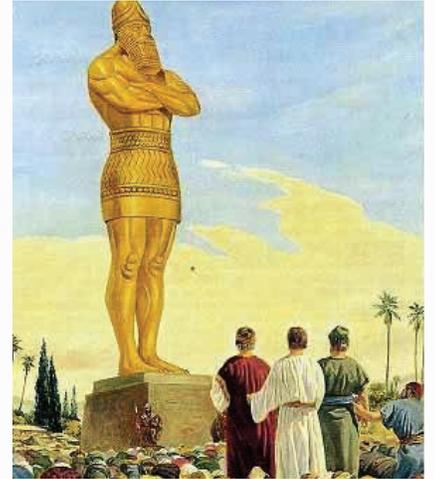
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DAY 1 ONE

1. Read Daniel 3 at least twice to become familiar with the text. Do not forget we have all the extra verses at the end of each study guide.
2. We do not know how much time passed between Nebuchadnezzar's dream and his arrogant act of setting up his golden image. In Daniel 2:47, King Nebuchadnezzar had declared that Daniel's God was the God of all gods, the Lord of Kings and a revealer of mysteries. Now, we read he is setting up a statue to be worshipped. Do you believe King Nebuchadnezzar had a true conversion or was it something else?

We cannot see into another person's heart, but we can watch their actions and be discerning.

3. A cubit is about 18 inches, the approximate length of a man's forearm. Using this measurement, how large does that make the image in feet?
4. Can you imagine seeing this golden image standing in the desert plain of Babylon?



Everyone within miles would have seen this glowing self-imposed tribute.

What would prompt someone to build something like this?

5. In Daniel 2, we saw King Nebuchadnezzar had anger issues. What does the statue reveal about the character of this king?
6. Music is often used as a call to worship. What was the signal given the people instructing them when to bow?
7. How serious was the king?

The penalty for non-compliance was _____.

8. Try to do a bit of research on this Babylonian furnace. Jot down anything you find. Why might they have a furnace this large and hot?
9. The prideful arrogance of this King seems to have spread to those who served him, as well. This is no surprise; birds of a feather often flock together. Daniel 3:8 says there were some who "...came forward and denounced the Jews." This is the Aramaic word 'akal.' It means to slander them or maliciously accuse them.

Look at verse 9

How did they start their speech to the King?

Do you believe this was heart-felt or simply a ploy?

10. Verse 12 reminds me of little children tattling on someone they do not like, hoping to get them in trouble. Why do you suppose they disliked Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?

11. What were the astrologer's (wise men of Babylon) accusations against these men?

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12. In typical Nebuchadnezzar style, how did he take the news about these three Jewish men and their refusal to bow?
13. Let's take a minute to consider our leadership.
How do you respond when you have made yourself clear and yet your orders have been ignored and disobeyed?

Do you try to get to the heart of the problem by calling the offender in to discuss the problem?

Or are you a bit like King Nebuchadnezzar and fly off the handle in a rage?

Read Galatians 5:22 (NIV)

When we give into rage and anger, what does it say about our walk of faith?

14. The two words used to describe the King, in Daniel 3:13, are the Aramaic words 'Chema' and 'Ragaz.' Translated, they mean 'burning hot anger' and 'provoked wrath.'

What are we seeing, once again, concerning this King's character?
(Or should I say...the lack of character.)

15. The King had the three young Jewish men brought before him and he questioned 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?"

The King, obviously, saw them as valuable in his service.
What did he offer them?

16. The King made it very clear what would happen, if they did not bow in worship to the statue.
"You will be thrown immediately into the burning furnace."
Then with great arrogance he asked the question, "What god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

Do you believe he really wanted an answer to this question?

Do you believe he even thought there was an answer to this question?

Read Proverbs 21:24 (ESV)

Would you say this describes King Nebuchadnezzar?

17. The description given in Proverbs 21:24 (ESV) is not to be desired.
Define the words listed and then using your definitions rewrite Proverbs 21:24, in your own words.
- Scoffer,
 - Arrogant,
 - Haughty
 - Prideful.

18. There are still people who lord over others like this, today. They reflect this same cruel mentality. They honestly believe they can say or do whatever they wish and get away with it, simply because of their stature, their position, their wealth, etc.

Have you ever been the recipient of their haughty, cruel, and unfair dealings?

How did you respond?

DAY | THREE

19. These Jewish men shine as an example of great faith.
What was their amazing reply to the King's offer to give them a second chance and save their lives?
What did their answer reveal?
20. When the King heard the reply, what was his reaction?
21. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had received a second chance. However, the King's attitude toward them changed. He may have thought them valuable as advisors and wise men before this incident, but not now. Now they are expendable.
What orders did he give the soldiers?

Did you notice how the text describes the soldiers chosen?

Since you have already read the end of this story, do you believe this was an important detail?
22. These men were about to be thrown into, what was said to be, a "...blazing furnace."
That's not enough for this angry King.
What are his orders now?
23. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were bound and thrown into this raging inferno. Firefighters often call a fire like this a flashover. This is when a fire is raging and rapidly consuming everything in its path.
Was there any doubt that this was a dire situation?

What has been the cost thus far, in this terrible event?
24. These faithful and brave young men may have been securely bound when they were thrown in the furnace.
What happened while they were in the furnace?
25. In verse 24, we are told King Nebuchadnezzar sprang to his feet as he stared into the fire, "*Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?*"
The people replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."
What did the king see that caused him such confusion? Be specific.
26. Who do you believe was in the fire with these men?
27. Read Psalm 34:7 (NIV)
Do you think this could have been the same Angel of the LORD who appeared to Moses in a flame of fire from the midst of the burning bush?
Read Exodus 3:2-5 (NIV)
Who was this speaking to Moses?

(If you are not sure, read Exodus 3:14) (NIV)
28. The name Jehovah means, "I AM," "The One who is the Self-Existent One." He is God who never changes. His promises never fail. When we are faithless, He is faithful.
Does knowing this give you confidence to weather the storms that come your way?
29. Did you find it comforting to see God was present in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and protecting these men who love and serve him?

DAY | FOUR

30. We can never know for sure how we will respond.
How might you handle a particularly difficult and dangerous persecution after studying this chapter?

31. What does King Nebuchadnezzar do next?

32. If we take our stand for God, does that mean we will never go through difficulties?

33. Besides the extraordinary fact that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego walked out of the fire, what was unusual about them? Be specific.

34. Even though the King's wording is still very authoritative and harsh, what good came out of this scary situation?

Read verses 29-30

Can anyone really command true heart allegiance?

35. What truth was emphasized, at the end of the King's speech?

36. Have you ever been trapped in a terrifying situation and God miraculously delivered you?

Why not ask God for an opportunity to share your testimony of His amazing love and care this week.

37. According to Daniel 3:30, what became of these three Hebrew young men?

38. Wicked men often fear retaliation. They assume they will be treated as they have treated others.
Do you believe the men who had brought these accusations against Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego might have been concerned?

Did they have any reason to fear these god-fearing men?

39. Read Proverbs 20:22 (NIV); Proverbs 24:29 (NIV); Romans 12:17-19 (NIV).
Is retaliation ever a God-honoring practice?

40. When God delivers us from a dangerous situation, how should we respond to our persecutors?

Read Matthew 5:43-48 (NIV)

Jesus addressed this very issue in his sermon on the mount.

41. Some might say, that won't be easy. Everything in me wants to avenge the wrong.
Go back and read Romans 12:19, who is the only rightful judge?

If we are being honest, when we act with vengeance, whose divine roll are we taking on?

42. Look at the verses below. Our God has not changed, and his word stands firm.
Read these verses and highlight any "I will..." promises of God.
Write a brief comment below beside the reference.
Exodus 23:22 (ESV)

Jeremiah 7:23 (ESV)

Leviticus 26:3-13 (ESV)

John 8:31-32 (ESV)

43. What have you learned about the character of our God, in Daniel 3?
44. We will have trials throughout our life. If we focus on the size of the problem or trial, we will quickly get discouraged. The better we know our God, His love, His compassion, His ever-present help in our time of need, His power to save, and His mercy toward His creation, then we will be able to take our stand like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
Why not take a few minutes to talk to God and thank him for His Word, which builds our faith.
45. You've probably never known someone who erected a 90-foot statue of gold, in their own likeness, and then demanded worship. We know there are some today who build a business or rule a country and are just this self-absorbed and arrogant, they demand total allegiance.
How are we to respond to men and women like these?
46. One day, there will come one who will erect his own image. This person will not merely place it in the desert to be worshipped, but will place his idol in the temple of God and demand people's worship.
Jesus spoke of this event in Matthew 24:15-16 (NIV)
What did he call it?
47. Read the verses listed and give a brief description of what is to come.
2 Thessalonians 2:4 (NIV)

Revelation 13:11-14 (NIV)
48. Read Matthew 24:32-35 (NIV)
What are the lessons from the fig tree?

What do you believe is God's purpose for giving us information and signs concerning end times?

NOTES