



SAVED TO SERVE

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DANIEL THE PROPHET - DANIEL 3 THE GOLDEN IMAGE, PART 1

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will begin studying Daniel 3. As we saw in Daniel 2:28, the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream has end time applications: therefore, we will study the golden image, which Nebuchadnezzar built in Daniel 3, through the lenses of end-time Bible prophecy.

2. For context, read Daniel 2:46-48. What did Nebuchadnezzar say after hearing the interpretation of his dream? What did he do for Daniel and his three companions?

3. What did Nebuchadnezzar build in Daniel 3:1?

4. By making the entire statue of gold, what message was Nebuchadnezzar trying to convey about his kingdom, Babylon? Daniel 2:44 (emphasis on last phrase)

5. Who did he call to the dedication of the image? Daniel 3:2, 4

6. **Note:** Babylon at this time was the ruling power of the world. This means that the people who came to the dedication were representatives from the whole earth.
7. What were they commanded to do when they stood before the image? What was the penalty for disobedience? Daniel 3:4-6

8. Who spoke to the people commanding them to fall down and worship the image? Daniel 3:4

9. **Note:** A herald is a messenger; one who conveys news or makes an announcement. Let us now connect all of the points above to these last days. As we have discovered in previous lessons, modern-day Babylon primarily points to the Papacy, those who unite with her, and all false religions and ideologies that go against God (Revelation 17:1-6; Genesis 11:1-9).
10. Just as Nebuchadnezzar built an image of gold signifying his kingdom would never end, what will modern-day Babylon declare about its earthly power and reign? Revelation 18:2, 7 (answer is in verse 7)

11. Who is modern-day Babylon calling to unite with her in false worship to her image? Revelation 18:3; 13:14

12. What are the people of the earth commanded to worship, and what is the penalty for disobedience? Revelation 13:15

13. **Note:** What is the image of the beast spoken of in Revelation 13:11-17? To understand the image of the beast, we must first identify who the first "beast" of Revelation 13 is. A beast in prophecy represents a kingdom or a nation (Daniel 7:17, 23). The "first beast" mentioned in Revelation 13:1-3, is a symbol of the Papacy, Roman Catholicism. It is a nation that is a union of church and state. When the Papacy ruled the world from 538 A.D. to 1798 A.D., it persecuted those who didn't obey the church's teachings or worship on Sunday.
The second beast or nation mentioned in Revelation 13:11-17 is none other than the United States of America, which rose to power with lamb-like innocence, offering all people civil and religious freedom. However, it will soon speak as a dragon when through its laws, it establishes a union of church and state and forces people to worship as the Papacy worships - on Sunday. So, when the United States of America unites church and state and enforces mandatory Sunday worship with persecution, it will have formed the image or replica of the beast, the Papacy. This same decree will be enacted around the world (Revelation 13:14).

For further study, see our previous lesson, entitled "*The Third Angel's Message, Part 3 - The Image Of The Beast.*" <https://www.prophesyagain.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Notes/The-3rd-Angel's-Message-Part-3-The-Image-of-the-Beast.pdf>

14. Read Daniel 3:4 again. The herald told the people what and how to worship. Similarly, God also has heralds. What end-time messages give the herald call to people on the earth, explaining to them who and how they should worship? Revelation 14:6-12
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15. What medium was used to influence the people to worship falsely? Daniel 3:5
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16. **Note:** Music can be used for good or evil. In this account, Satan influenced the Babylonians to use it for evil. Satan, formerly Lucifer, was made with pipes in him (Ezekiel 28:13), he spoke to Eve with a musical voice (Patriarchs and Prophets, page 53.5), and he will surely use music in the last days to deceive the masses. Even now, many churches emphasize the musical or "worship" portion of the service above the preaching of the Word. In many cases, the music is not acceptable in the eyes of God but resembles the scene with the Israelites at the base of Mt. Sinai in Exodus 32.

17. How does the Bible describe the group of Jews that chose not to bow to the image? Who do they represent in these last days? Daniel 3:8-9, 12; Revelation 12:17
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18. Read Jeremiah 29:1-3 and write down the groups of individuals that were carried away into Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar. Pay close attention to the groups mentioned in verse one.
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19. **Note:** Why did the majority of the Jews, including priests and prophets, not stand the test of worship in Daniel 3? They had already been bowing and compromising on the point of appetite (Daniel 1) and music, which made it easier to bow again. Here is another potent perspective: as you read Daniel 3:1-4, you will notice that the command to come to the dedication of the image went to all nations, languages, and people under Babylonian rule. Since Babylon was the ruler of the world and had vast territories, it would have taken days, weeks, or maybe months for everyone to assemble. This shows us that the Jews who bowed to the image, had ample time to decide if they would bow or remain faithful to God, but the majority chose to dishonor God.

Why did the Jews bow even though they intellectually knew that God is the true God? Because their HABITS trumped their reason. Why did Nebuchadnezzar build a statue to worship in Daniel 3, even though in Daniel 2 he acknowledged the one true God? Because his HABITS trumped his intellectual reasoning. In these last days, many of God's professed people will dishonor God and worship the image of the beast on Sunday when it becomes law because their HABITS of compromising will supersede their knowledge of the truth - that the seventh-day is the true Sabbath of God. By God's grace, we must form correct habits so that in a crisis, God can empower us to make the right choice.

20. Who was it that accused Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to the king? Daniel 3:8 _____

21. Besides worldlings, who else will accuse God's remnant people in these last days? Matthew 10:36; John 19:15-16; Matthew 24:9
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22. As we close, let us meditate on the hope and instruction found in Luke 21:12-19.

23. Just like the three Hebrews, when we are delivered up for our faith, what will it turn into? Luke 21:12-13
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24. What should we not do before we are to give an answer for our faith? Why? Luke 21:14-15
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25. What are we instructed to do in Luke 21:19?
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26. How will God know and identify His saints in the last days? Revelation 14:12
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27. **Note:** God sends us trials now so that we can exercise patience and build proper habits of making right decisions. When we exercise patience in trials, God can work through us and use our lives as a testimony to others. Then, He will exalt us on high and make a clear distinction between those who are righteous and those who are wicked.