

Introduction

1. Despite multiple warnings and rebukes from God's prophets, the southern kingdom of Judah went into Babylonian captivity ([Dan. 1:1-2](#))
2. Certain Israelites were selected to serve in the Babylonian king's palace ([Dan. 1:3-5](#))
 - a. Among them were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah ([Dan. 1:6](#))
 - b. Their names were changed to reflect Babylonian deities ([Dan. 1:7](#))
 - c. When brought before the king, these four Israelites were found to be exceptional ([Dan. 1:18-20](#))
 - d. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah's reverence toward God was put to the test by the king of Babylon ([Dan. 3](#))

I. The Command

1. Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon at this time and made a massive image [statue] or idol ([Dan. 3:1](#))
 - a. Height: sixty cubits or approximately ninety-five feet
 - b. Width: six cubits or approximately nine and a half feet
2. Nebuchadnezzar dedicated the image with a great number of leaders present ([Dan. 3:2-3](#))
 - a. Satrap: a viceroy or governor with considerable power (DBL Aramaic)
 - b. Administrator: prefect; governor or senior officer over an area, similar to a satrap (DBL Aramaic)
 - c. Governor: political ruler and administrator appointed by a king (DBL Aramaic)
 - d. Counselor: minister of information; an adviser or counselor whose job was to keep the king informed on the affairs of the kingdom i.e. the eyes and ears for the king; possibly a general (DBL Aramaic)
 - e. Treasurer: one in charge of finances (DBL Aramaic)
 - f. Judge: an official of prominence (DBL Aramaic)
 - g. Magistrate: legal official; police officer (DBL Aramaic)
 - h. Official: a high government administrator over a province of a kingdom, in service to the king (DBL Aramaic)
3. The command was to worship this image whenever music was played ([Dan. 3:4-5](#))
 - a. The penalty for disobedience was to be cast immediately into a fiery furnace ([Dan. 3:6](#))
 - b. Most people complied with the command ([Dan. 3:7](#))

II. The Chaldeans

1. Certain Chaldeans accused the Jews of non-compliance to the king's commandment ([Dan. 3:8-12](#))
 - a. There will always be those that oppose the righteous ([Ezr. 4:1-5](#); cf. [1 Th. 2:18](#))
 - b. Nevertheless, we must submit to God and resist the devil ([Jm. 4:7](#); [1 Pt. 5:8-9](#))

III. The Courage

1. Nebuchadnezzar was very upset upon hearing this news ([Dan. 3:13](#))
2. Nebuchadnezzar questioned them regarding their disobedience to his command ([Dan. 3:14](#))
 - a. We will be challenged by questions from time to time
 - b. Let us be ready always to give a defense ([1 Pt. 3:15](#))
3. Nebuchadnezzar gave these Jews another chance to comply to his command ([Dan. 3:15](#))
 - a. He reminded them of the consequence of disobedience
 - b. He also defied the one, living, and true God which is never wise
4. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah replied to the king ([Dan. 3:16-18](#))
 - a. They had their minds made up already
 - b. Whether God would deliver them from the fiery furnace or not, they were not going to worship the false god
 - c. These men knew what was right and were not going to violate God's Law to follow man's law no matter what the consequence was

IV. The Consequence

1. Nebuchadnezzar was enraged and gave the command to super heat the furnace ([Dan. 3:19](#))
2. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were bound by the king's most mighty men and cast into the furnace ([Dan. 3:20-21](#))
 - a. The fire was so hot that it killed those mighty men ([Dan. 3:22](#))
3. The Jews were now in the fiery furnace ([Dan. 3:23](#))
4. Nebuchadnezzar is alarmed and amazed as he sees four men in the furnace ([Dan. 3:24-25](#))
5. Nebuchadnezzar summons the three Israelites out of the furnace ([Dan. 3:26](#))
6. All the king's officials and rulers are present (plenty of witnesses) and discover that not even the smell of fire was upon Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah ([Dan. 3:27](#))
7. The result of this event was a decree from the king that no one should speak against the God of Heaven and these men were promoted in Babylon ([Dan. 3:28-30](#))
 - a. Nebuchadnezzar saw the faith of these men ([Dan. 3:28](#))
 - b. By not bowing to the king's idol, they revered and glorified the living and true God in the land

Conclusion

1. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were in a foreign country which changed nothing regarding their reverence to God
 - a. Their faith was put through the fire
 - b. To bow down to anything above God is to not fear Him
 - c. May we learn from their great example of faith and courage and fear the LORD God!