

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

TEACHING SERIES ON THE PROPHET DANIEL

RLJ-1059

JOHN S. TORELL

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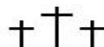
PART 3: THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE

THE IDOL

- ❑ Even though the Bible shows us that King Nebuchadnezzar was very impressed with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, he still wanted a “god” of his choice to be worshiped. It is obvious that this was a political ploy designed to consolidate his grip on the city and the empire he was building by unifying the people in the worship an image he created and not the old Sumerian gods. The idol was 90 feet tall and 9 feet wide. **Daniel 3:1-6**
- ❑ The Roman Catholic Church has created its own deity in order to consolidate its grip of the people by proclaiming Mary, the mother of Jesus is divine, her statutes are to be worshiped and “hail Mary’s” are to be spoken in her name. This is clearly in opposition to the First Commandment. **Exodus 20:1-5**
- ❑ This faulty logic is also very common to people living today in that they have made “gods” for themselves. A god could be a job, car, boat, animal, or anything that demands so much time and effort that there is no place for God any more. Included in this would be alcohol, nicotine, caffeine, other drugs, sexual perversion, lust for women, lust for men, etc. **Romans 1:18-25; 2 Peter 2:9-22**
- ❑ The scheme worked for Nebuchadnezzar as all the people were unified in their worship except for three Jewish men. It is obvious that Daniel had been given an exemption and was not part of this decree. **Daniel 3:8-12**
- ❑ The reason Nebuchadnezzar got so angry was that if anyone bucked him and refused to worship his image, it would erode respect for him, and cause political disintegration of his grip on Babylon. This is also why communist regimes in the past, and even now in China and North Korea cannot tolerate people worshiping the living God, it is a deadly threat against their grip on the people. **Daniel 3:13-15**
- ❑ We should really appreciate the courage that these three young men displayed, a courage that came from their deep faith in God, which made them immune to threats and corruption. They stood defenseless in the flesh before Nebuchadnezzar and told him that they did not care what the king thought, neither did they care if they lived or died, but they were not going to bow down to this statue in order to be *politically correct!* **verses 16-18**

THE FURNACE

- ❑ Let me now explain how the furnace was built. In the old days of extracting iron from ore, a furnace was built that was approximately 40 feet tall and 10



8341 Fair Oaks Blvd, Suite B, Carmichael, CA 95608

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feet in diameter. There was an opening at the bottom that was level with the ground, and some 8 feet above inside the furnace, a temporary floor supported by pillars was built. The furnace was loaded from an opening at the top, where ore and wood were stacked together and then set on fire. When the ore melted, the iron would sink to the bottom of the temporary floor and the slag would float to the top. A spigot was placed just above the temporary floor where the now liquid iron would pour out into containers, which were then transported and poured into forms. Once all the iron had been extracted, ropes connected to the pillars would be pulled, and the floor would collapse and the residue would fall to the bottom where it could be cleaned out and discarded.

- ❑ Most likely Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace was built like this and in this case it functioned as an execution chamber. Since it was not used to for melting the ore, it did not have a temporary floor, thus, the burning material lay at the bottom and anybody standing at the bottom opening could clearly see into the furnace.
- ❑ The king was so angry that he demanded extra fuel be put into the furnace so that it became seven times hotter than normal, which explains why the soldiers casting the three men into the fire succumbed to the heat. **verses 19-23**
- ❑ It was now time for the Living God, The Creator of all things to display His awesome power that is greater than anything else in all of creation. Jesus appeared in the furnace and protected the three Hebrew men from any harm. **verses 24-25**
- ❑ Nebuchadnezzar walked to the opening of the furnace and realized that something supernatural had taken place; he had been shamed by God and proven that he was just a man and not a god. **verses 26-27**
- ❑ In front of the entire leadership of his empire, Nebuchadnezzar confessed that he and his political system was inferior to the God these three young men served. Why did the king surrender? Because he knew that he was up against a superior force he could not match, and in order to keep his kingdom, he had to align himself with this God and hope that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would look upon him with favor. **verses 28-30**

WHAT CAN CHRISTIANS LEARN FROM THIS EVENT?

God is supreme and there is nothing that can come against Him victoriously. It doesn't matter what people think, believe or do, God's will shall be done!
Romans 8:28-39

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?

ARE YOU PRAISING GOD

OR

ARE YOU PRAISING THE DEVIL WITH YOUR COMPLAINTS?