

# Daniel 3

## **EXAMINE**

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

*Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.*

The Lord wants to speak to you personally from His Scriptures!! Before you begin the remainder of the homework, read this chapter of Daniel slowly and carefully. Prayerfully ask the Lord to be your Teacher, and make a note of the things He shows you. You may want to ask Him to instruct you specifically in some of the following areas:

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin for me to avoid?
- Is there a command for me to obey?
- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- What do You want me to learn about You as God the Father, God the Son and/or God the Holy Spirit?
- Is there something for which to praise or thank You?
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- How do You want the lessons I have learned to affect my life today?

## **EXPLORE**

1. Please read verse 1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar make? How is it described? Using today's measurements, the image would have been about ninety feet tall (the height of an eight story building) and nine feet wide. Try to picture in your mind how it would have looked.
  
2. As you read verses 2-7, answer the following questions:
  - Who were invited to the dedication ceremony?
  
  - What were they commanded to do?

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- What were the consequences for those who disobeyed?
  - Look back at Daniel 2:47. What did the king say about the Lord? What do you think could have happened in the interim to cause him to require his people to worship a gold image?
  - List two or three words to describe how you might have felt at such a ceremony
3. Consider King Nebuchadnezzar's command. He demanded that all the people *fall down and worship* the gold image. What do the following sections of Scripture say about worship?
- Exodus 20:2-5a
  - 2 Kings 17:36
  - Psalm 95:6-7
  - Matthew 4:10
4. Worship involves respect, reverence, admiration and/or devotion to the object of worship. It speaks of the worthiness of that object. Very few people in our country would worship a ninety-foot gold image. There are, however, many other "idols" to which people can devote their lives. Can you name a few?
5. It has been said that we become like what we worship, we become bound by it. How is this true of worshipping the Lord? How is it true of worshipping anything else? Can you give an example of each?
6. Summarize verses 8-12. (Note: There is no mention of Daniel in these

verses. Most commentators believe he was out of the country during this time. Only Daniel's three friends are mentioned as having refused to worship the image. Based on Daniel's character, it would have been very unlikely that he would have worshipped the image if he had been in Babylon.) It appears that the Chaldeans were motivated by jealousy or envy. Look back at Daniel 2:49.

- What might have caused them to be jealous or envious?
  - Define jealousy
  - Define envy
  - How do you guard against these in your own life?
7. Although the Chaldeans brought accusations against Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego, there is no record of them "attacking back". Paul gave instruction for those who encounter opposition in 2 Timothy 2:24-26. Write out these verses.
8. King Nebuchadnezzar is described as being *in rage and fury* in verse 13 (see also verse 19). Define these words and explain why these are such dangerous character traits for a leader. How do you avoid these?
9. What did Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego say to the king in Verse 16? What do the following verses say about this?
- Matthew 10:19-20
  - Acts 4:19-20
10. Daniel's friends had determined beforehand that they would worship *only* the Lord. They had counted the cost and understood the consequences of

refusing to obey the king's command, but this was a "non-negotiable" in their lives. Write out Galatians 2:20. Now make a list of at least five "non-negotiables" in your own life, things you will or will not do regardless of any amount of pressure put upon you.

11. The second part of the young men's response is found in verse 17. Summarize their words.
  
12. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego knew that the Lord had the power to deliver them out of the king's hand. They knew He would either take them safely *through* the fire or take them *out of it* and home to be with Him. Either way they would be delivered from King Nebuchadnezzar. Define the word *deliver*. Look up the following verses and make a note of everything you learn about your Divine Deliverer.
  - 2 Samuel 22:2-4
  
  - Isaiah 46:4
  
  - Jeremiah 1:8
  
13. The first words of verse 18 are, "But if not..." These words do not convey doubt in the Lord's ability but rather submission to His sovereign will. The young men realized that taking them out of the fiery furnace might not be part of God's perfect plan. How do the verses listed below add to your understanding of this?
  - Isaiah 55:8-9
  
  - Matthew 26:39, 42, 44
  
  - John 5:30

14. There *will* be fiery trials in the life of any woman who whole-heartedly follows Jesus Christ. What do you learn from the following verses about trials, and how can you apply this to a trial that you are currently facing?
- James 1:2-4
  - 1 Peter 1:6-9
  - 1 Peter 4:12-14
15. Summarize verses 19-25. Many believe that the fourth person in the furnace was a pre-incarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ. Often times of difficult trials are also times of great intimacy with the Lord. Can you share an example from your own life when a fiery trial drew you closer to the Lord or allowed you to experience Him in a new way?
16. Although Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego were in the center of the Lord's will, and completely obedient to Him, He allowed this fiery trial in their lives. The Lord can use the trials in our lives to purify us and to make us look more like Him.

When refining silver, a silversmith heats the silver to just the right temperature and then skims off the dross which rises to the surface during this process. Read and comment on the following story:

*Some time ago, a few ladies met in a certain city to read the Scriptures and make them the subject of conversation. While reading the third chapter of Malachi they came upon a remarkable expression in the third verse. "And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."*

*One lady's opinion was that it was intended to convey the view of the sanctifying influence of the grace of Christ. Then she proposed to visit a silversmith and report to them what he said on the subject. She went accordingly and without telling the object of her errand begged to know the process of refining silver, which he fully described to her.*

*"But Sir," she said, "do you sit while the work of refining is going on?"*

*"Oh, yes, Madam," replied the silversmith, "I must sit with my eye steadily fixed on the furnace, for if the time necessary for refining be exceeded in the slightest degree, the silver will be injured." The lady at once saw the beauty, and comfort too, of the expression, "He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of*

*silver."*

*(When the Lord's children are in the furnace), His eye is steadily intent on the work of purifying. And His wisdom and love are both engaged in the best manner for them. Their trials do not come at random; "the very hairs on your head are all numbered."*

*As the lady was leaving the shop, the silversmith called her back, and said he had still further to mention, that he can tell when the process of purifying is complete only by seeing his own image reflected in the silver.*

*Beautiful example! When Christ shall see His own image in His people, His work of purifying will be accomplished.*

17. Look at verse 27 and describe how the young men looked when they came out of the furnace. Notice that the only thing burned in the fire were the ties that had bound them. It has been said that those who go through fiery trials with the Lord leave the experience freer, purer and stronger than they were before. How has this been true in your life?
  
18. How did King Nebuchadnezzar describe the Lord in verses 26, 28-29? Describe a time when your experience in a fiery trial served as a testimony to the Lord in the life of a skeptical unbeliever.
  
19. What happened to the young men in verse 30? Was there a time in your life when a difficult trial led to prosperity? If so, share your story.

## **ENJOY**

Take time today to sit with the Lord and enjoy Him. Delight yourself in the God of your salvation!! Bask in His love, rest in His protection, and take pleasure in a time of intimate fellowship with Him.

What have you learned from Him and about Him this week? How has this knowledge drawn you closer to Him? Make a note below. Now praise Him for

who He is and thank Him for all He has done for you.