

Daniel Chapter 3: Part 1 ***The Rebellion - Image of Gold***



**Nebuchadnezzar
the king made
an image of**

Gold

Daniel 3:1

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Past > Present > Future



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Enter The Ark of Hope

The Great Controversy between God and
Satan is primarily over

“WORSHIP”

Who will you Choose?



Get into the Ark **Sanctuary**



**And let them
make me a
sanctuary;
that I may dwell
among them.**

– Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Hydrotherapy: Hot Foot-bath

Definition: A local immersion bath covering the feet & ankles at temperatures of 39° - 43°C / 103-110°F for 10 - 30 minutes.

Physiologic Effects:

1. To provide local and reflex increase in blood flow through the feet and entire surface, producing decongestion in internal organs and brain (derivative effect).

- to relieve congestive headache
- to relieve chest congestion.
- to relieve pelvic congestion including [Prostatitis](#), gall or renal Colic, [Nephritis](#) and [Toxaemia](#).

2. To provide general warming of the body:

- to prepare for general application of heat
- to produce sweating if needed to excrete toxins
- to help prevent or abort a cold

3. To aid relaxation and comfort.

4. To provide relief for local inflammation of the feet.

5. To increase white blood cell activity: frontline defence.

Contraindications and Cautions: (*Always seek Medical Advise*)

Obstructive circulatory disturbances, [Diabetes](#), [Peripheral vascular diseases](#), conditions where circulation in feet & legs is poor or there is a [loss of sensation](#) (feeling) in feet or legs.

DID YOU KNOW?



WHEN YOU DO A HOT FOOT BATH...

A HOT FOOT BATH WITH CAYENNE AND HIMALAYAN SALT WILL DRAW BLOOD TO YOUR FEET AND RELIEVE THE PRESSURE IN YOUR HEAD. IT WILL ALSO HELP YOU RELAX, WHICH CAN ONLY HELP YOU FEEL BETTER. IT CAN HELP IMPROVE HEALING, DIGESTION AND SLEEP QUALITY AS WELL.



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



Yes we Can!

So if I, your Lord and Teacher
have washed your feet
you also ought to wash
one another's feet.

John 13:14



Knowing-Jesus.com



Some Prophecy Update...

Hotel dishwasher awarded \$21 million after boss made her work on Sundays

January 16, 2019

SunSentinel



WOMAN AWARDED LARGE SETTLEMENT
IN RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT

6:03 69°

6



A jury has awarded a Miami hotel dishwasher \$21.5 million, concluding that her employer failed to honor her religious beliefs by repeatedly scheduling her on Sundays and ultimately firing her. Marie Jean Pierre, a dishwasher at the Conrad Miami, sued Virginia-based Park Hotels & Resorts, formerly known as Hilton Worldwide, for violations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in 2017. **Pierre is a member of the Soldiers of Christ Church, a Catholic missionary group that helps the poor, and said she needed Sundays off from work.**



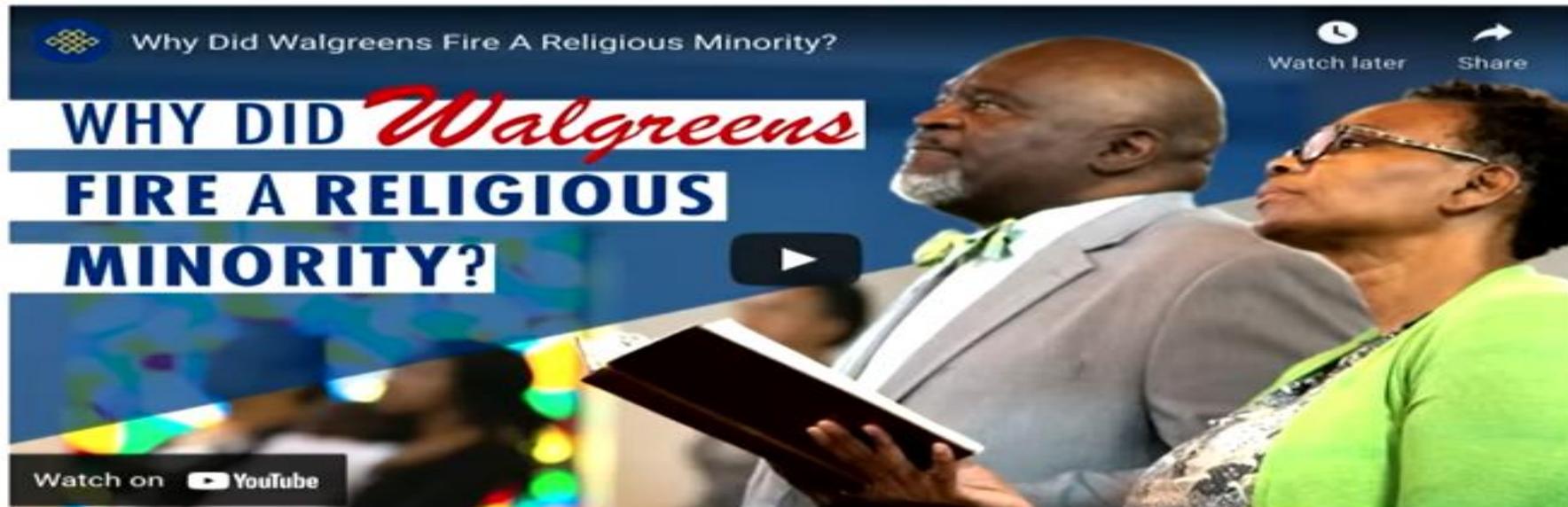
Some Prophecy Update...

U.S. Supreme Court turns away religious bias claim against Walgreens

By Andrew Chung

FEBRUARY 24, 2020 / 9:53 AM / UPDATED 2 YEARS AGO N R  REUTERS

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday handed a victory to Walgreens, turning away an appeal by a fired former Florida employee of the pharmacy chain who asked not to work on Saturdays for religious reasons as a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Some Prophecy Update...

SAVED TO SERVE



GOD'S LAW

IMMUTABLE

DEVOUT CATHOLIC FIRED, WINS \$21 MILLION

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST FIRED FOR SABBATH KEEPING

AN ARTICLE FROM:



MIAMI HOTEL DISHWASHER FORCED TO WORK SUNDAYS AWARDED \$21 MILLION BY JURY



PUBLISHED JAN 16, 2019

A jury has awarded a Miami hotel dishwasher \$21.5 million, concluding that her employer failed to honor her religious beliefs by repeatedly scheduling her on Sundays and ultimately firing her. Marie Jean Pierre, a dishwasher at the Conrad Miami, sued Virginia-based Park Hotels & Resorts, formerly known as Hilton Worldwide, for violations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in 2017. Pierre is a member of the Soldiers of Christ Church, a Catholic missionary group that helps the poor, and said she needed Sundays off from work. "You can't discriminate when someone has a religious belief," her attorney Marc Brumer said, citing the federal law. "You have to accommodate them."

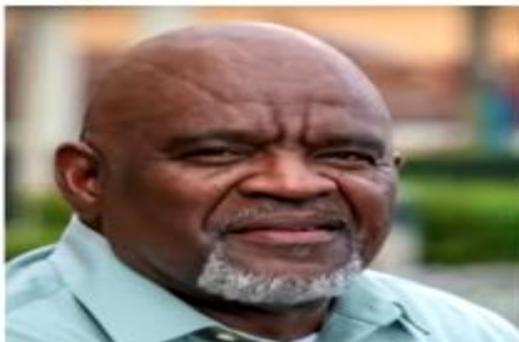


ADVENTIST REVIEW

FIRED FOR MISSING WORK TO OBSERVE HIS RELIGION, ORLANDO MAN ASKS U.S. SUPREME COURT FOR HELP



BY TODD MCFARLAND | AUGUST 29, 2018



Darrell Patterson started working for Walgreens in 2007 at the company's call center in Orlando, Florida. His job as a trainer... In 2011, however, it became clear Walgreens wanted to make a change. Weeks before he was fired, the same supervisor who said Walgreens didn't accommodate told Patterson that he needed to be "more flexible" with his schedule. This was troubling since the only time Patterson was not available was during the Sabbath... On Friday afternoon, August 9, Patterson, while in the middle of teaching, was handed "emergency" training materials to facilitate the transfer [see article for background info], plus an assignment to work Saturday and Sunday morning.

On Sunday when he reported to work, he was told by his fellow trainer that she was now assigned the Sunday training. On Monday Patterson trained the people who were missed on Saturday. After completing this training, his employment was suspended pending an investigation of his Saturday absence. On Thursday he was fired for violating Walgreens' attendance policy. Patterson should have prevailed in his discrimination case for a number of reasons. First, Walgreens violated its own attendance policy. The progressive discipline process did not call for termination until after "three strikes." Even assuming his absence for one Saturday was a strike, it should have resulted in only a verbal warning.

MORE ON THIS EVENT:
CLICK:



Orlando Sentinel



Some Prophecy Update...

Amazon delivery provider pays \$50K for firing Christian employee who refused to work Sundays

CP U.S. | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 01, 2022

THE CHRISTIAN POST

By Michael Gryboski, Mainline Church Editor 



An employee for a delivery service in Florida who was fired when he refused to work a Sunday shift to attend worship service has won an anti-discrimination case against his former employer. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission brought the complaint on behalf of an unnamed worker who had been fired when he attended church instead of his shift. **The delivery service had scheduled the employee for a shift on a Sunday even though he had made it clear earlier that he could not work Sundays.**



Some Prophecy Update...

Biden meets senators, Kamala Harris to talk Supreme Court pick, 'evolving' Constitution

February 1, 2022

NEW YORK POST



President Biden on Tuesday said there is "always a renewed national debate" surrounding presidential nominations to the Supreme Court, saying it is due to the fact that the U.S. Constitution is "always evolving slightly" on rights. "You know, there's always a renewed national debate, every time we nominate, any president, nominates a justice, because the Constitution is always evolving slightly in terms of additional rights, or curtailing rights," Biden said.



Some Prophecy Update...

Biden meets senators, Kamala Harris to talk Supreme Court pick, 'evolving' Constitution

February 1, 2022

NEW YORK POST



The president said he is looking for a candidate "with character" and a judicial philosophy that "suggests that there are unenumerated rights to the Constitution and all the amendments mean something, including the Ninth Amendment." **The Ninth Amendment states that the "enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."**



Some Prophecy Update...

Biden meets senators, Kamala Harris to talk Supreme Court pick, 'evolving' Constitution

February 1, 2022

NEW YORK POST



According to the Annenberg Classroom, the Ninth Amendment is a "constitutional safety net intended to make clear that individuals have other fundamental rights, in addition to those listed in the First through Eighth Amendments."



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Introduction

In **Daniel 2**, Nebuchadnezzar learned that his kingdom was the head of Gold. His empire would be overthrown by the silver empire of the Medo-Persians, and they in turn would be overthrown by another kingdom. In **Daniel 3**, Nebuchadnezzar flatly rejected Daniel's interpretation of the dream, and by doing so, he rejected the historical view of prophecy. Many Christians have also rejected the historical view of prophecy.

Some time elapsed between the dream and the construction of the image.

Nonetheless, it seems that the king can no longer forget the dream and the fact that Babylon is doomed to be replaced by other powers.

Not satisfied with being only the head of gold, the king wants to be represented by an entire image of gold in order to communicate to his subjects that his kingdom will endure throughout history.



Introduction (cont'd)

This attitude of pride calls to mind the builders of the Tower of Babel, who, in their arrogance, attempt to challenge God Himself. No less arrogant is Nebuchadnezzar here. He has accomplished much as ruler of Babylon, and he cannot live with the idea that his kingdom will eventually pass away. Thus, in an effort at his own self-exaltation, he builds an image to evoke his power and thereby assess the loyalty of his subjects. Although it may not be clear whether the image is intended to represent the king or a deity, we should keep in mind that in antiquity the lines separating politics from religion were often blurred, if they existed at all.



Introduction (cont'd)

We should remember, too, that Nebuchadnezzar has had two opportunities to get acquainted with the true God.

First, he tests the young Hebrews and finds them ten times wiser than the other sages of Babylon.

Then, after all other experts have failed to remind him of his dream, Daniel reports to him the thoughts of his mind, the dream, and its interpretation.

Finally, the king recognizes the superiority of the God of Daniel.

But surprisingly enough, those previous theology lessons do not prevent Nebuchadnezzar from reverting back to idolatry. Why? Most likely, pride. Sinful human beings resist acknowledging the fact that their material and intellectual accomplishments are vanity and are doomed to disappear. We may at times act like little “Nebuchadnezzars” as we pay too much attention to our accomplishments and forget how meaningless they can be in the face of eternity.

How can we learn not to fall, even in very subtle ways, into the same trap that Nebuchadnezzar does?



Daniel 3:1 - The King's Word Changed

Daniel 3:1 - Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

"The words, 'Thou art this head of gold,' had made a deep impression upon the ruler's mind. **Daniel 2:38**. The wise men of his realm, taking advantage of this and of his return to idolatry, proposed that he make an image similar to the one seen in his dream, and set it up where all might behold the head of gold, which had been interpreted as representing his kingdom. "Pleased with the flattering suggestion, he determined to carry it out, and to go even farther. **Instead of reproducing the image as he had seen it, he would excel the original. His image should not deteriorate in value from the head to the feet, but should be entirely of gold—symbolic throughout of Babylon as an eternal, indestructible, all-powerful kingdom, which should break in pieces all other kingdoms and stand forever.**" —**Prophets and Kings, pages 503, 504.**



Connection between Daniel 2 and 3

God had delineated in [Daniel 2](#) the sequence of kingdoms that would arise between the days of Nebuchadnezzar and the second coming of Jesus.

Nebuchadnezzar did not like the scenario that God had presented and he attempted to change God's prophetic scenario.

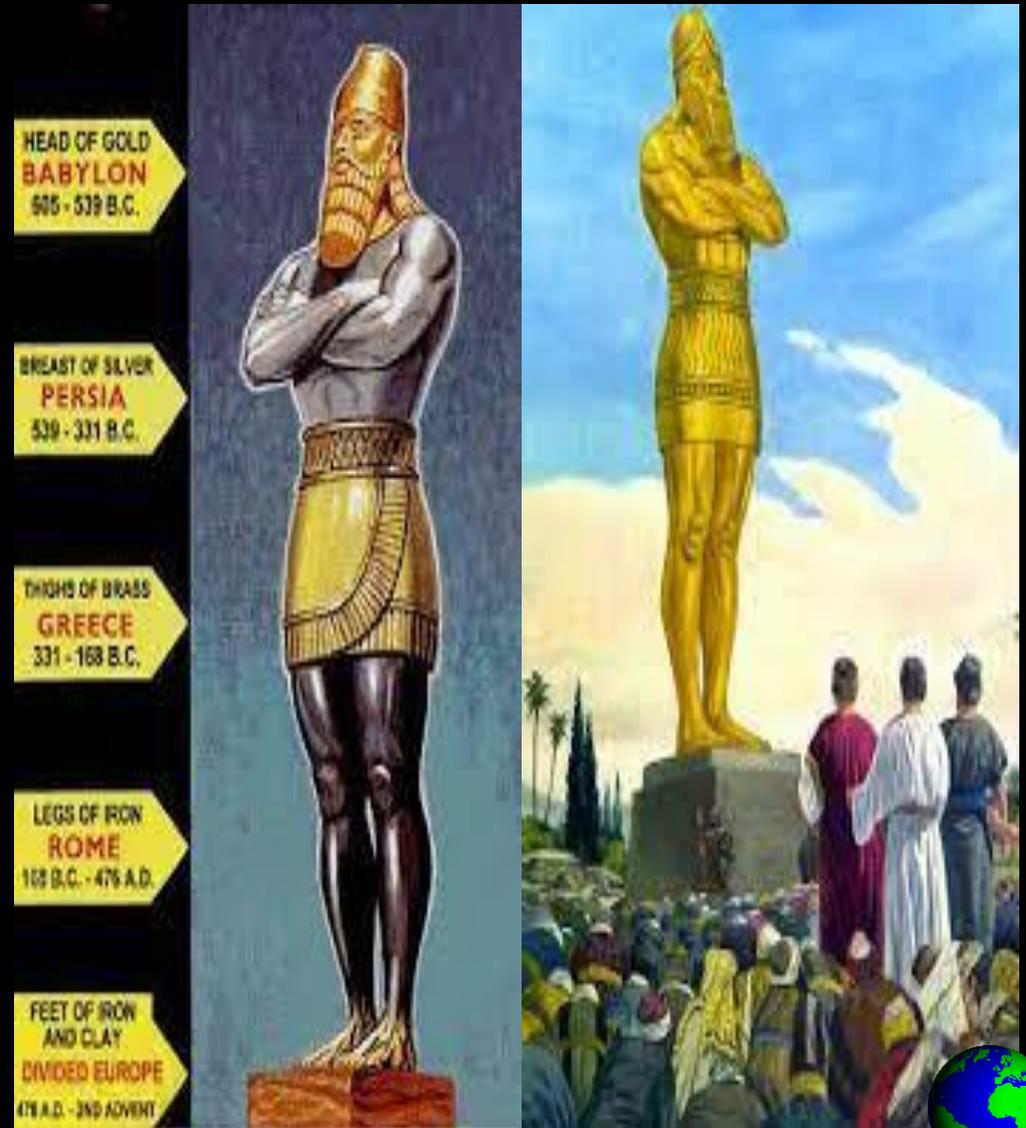
This idea came from the religious leaders.

The word "gold" in [Daniel 2 & 3](#) links the chapters.

The word "image" is identical in both chapters.

The expression "set up" is repeatedly used in the chapter.

Remember that in [Daniel 2:44](#) God had stated that He was going to "set up" his indestructible kingdom ([Daniel 3:1, 2, 3, 7, 12, 14, 15 and 18](#)). Nebuchadnezzar attempted to counteract God's scenario by setting up an image totally of gold!



Babylonian Mathematics

“Babylonian mathematics was based on the sexagesimal system, in which the basic counting units were the numbers 6 and 60. The sexagesimal system has been accepted universally for the measurement of arcs and angles and for divisions of time.” - Ranko Stefanovic, Revelation of Jesus Christ, p. 417

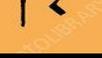
If what Herodotus says is correct, the image weighed 800 talents of gold which would be equivalent to over 30 tons (Daniel 3:1). In antiquity gold was called ‘the dew of the sun’ because it was believed that it had dripped down from the sun onto the earth. Gold was used to represent the sun god because gold is the colour of the sun.

Sexagesimal system originated in Babylon (the number system based on the number 6—60 seconds, 60 minutes, 24 hours, 360 days, 360 degrees).

If we multiply 60 x 6 the total is 360 which was a very sacred number in Babylon.

360 degrees and 360 days represent the full cycle of time and the full circle of space.

Place Value			
			
↑	↑	↑	↑
60 ³ times that value	60 ² times that value	60 times that value	Any one of the 59 symbols

1		11		100	
2		12		200	
3		20		300	
4		30		400	
5		40		500	
6		50		600	
7		60		700	
8		70		800	
9		80		900	
10		90		1000	



Babylonian Mathematics (cont'd)

Thirty six gods were placed to rule over the Babylonian pantheon. Each ruled over 10 degrees of space and 10 days of time.

When the numbers from 1-36 are added in sequence the total is 666 and the number 666 was known as "the great number of the sun." All the gods were included in this one summary number. In Babylon the sun god was called Marduk. He was thought of as the absolute ruler of all time and all space.

The Babylonian priestly system expressed this belief in practical terms by wearing amulets or medallions around their necks.

The medallions [Sigilla solis] were made of pure gold because gold is the colour of the sun.

It is no coincidence that in Isaiah 14:4 Babylon is called the golden kingdom and that in Daniel 2 Babylon is represented by the head of gold.

The medallions or amulets were circular (like the sun) and had a hexagon within the amulet.

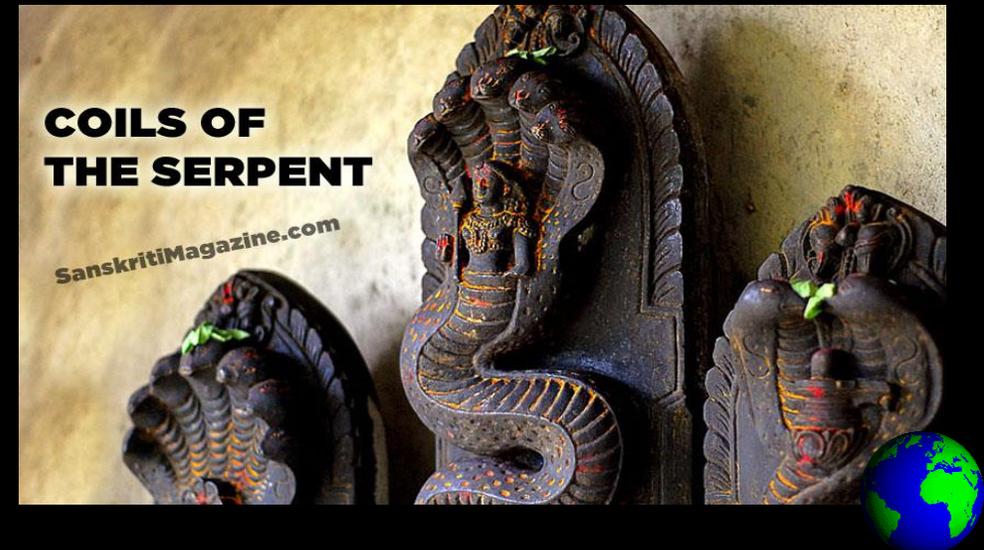


Babylonian Mathematics (cont'd)

On the obverse (front) side of the amulet there was a large square with 36 smaller squares within. In each of the smaller squares there was a number from 1-36 and beneath the large square was the number 666.

On the reverse side of the seal or amulet there was a raging lion with eagle's wings (yellow in colour like the sun) whose mane is portrayed as the rays of the sun (see [Malachi 4:2](#) where the sun is portrayed as having wings). It is no coincidence that Babylon is portrayed as a lion in [Daniel 7](#) and that sphinxes were at each of the entrances to the city.

Later Gnostic amulets, following the religion of ancient Babylon, combine the number 666 with a lion. The mane of the lion is portrayed as the rays of the sun. The glyph is actually the sign of a coiled serpent and had its origin in ancient India. It is really the sign of a coiled cobra and in many Romantic languages the sound of the number six reminds us of the hiss of the serpent!



Babylonian Mathematics (cont'd)

In astrology, Leo, the lion, rules over the hottest period of the year (July 23 - August 22).

Babylon is the king of kingdoms, the sun is the king of heavenly bodies, gold is the king of precious metals, the eagle is the king of birds and the # 666 is the king of numbers.

The Romans acquired much of their religious system from Babylon but they established a different number system.

They chose six letters from their Latin alphabet and gave each a numerical value. The sum total of all six numbers is 666.

Thus the number 666 is to be identified with Babylon and with Rome (also called Babylon in 1 Peter 5:13).

Thus those who worshipped the image would be honouring Babylon and worshiping the sun god whose number is 666.



$$6 \times 6 \sum_{i=1} i = 666,$$



King made an image of gold

The impression of the dream in [Daniel 2](#) had obviously worn off by this time, the impression being in [Daniel 2:46-49](#). For Nebuchadnezzar made the entire image of gold unlike the one in his dream. He was not content with having another kingdom succeed his own so, more in defiance, he makes one of gold. This was to show that his kingdom was not going to be succeeded by another but continue on perpetually. It was more an image of defiance and rebellion against God. He was worshiping his own kingdom and the exaltation of himself at the head of it.

We see part truths in this image of defiance. For Babylon, then ruled by Nebuchadnezzar, was depicted as being the head of gold in the dream. Then there was to be the chest and arms of silver, but not so with Nebuchadnezzar. Satan loves to mingle just enough truth with error to make things appear as being correct, but it is for the purpose of bringing about your fall. We see this example in [Genesis 3](#).

NEBUCHADNEZZAR
THE KING MADE
AN IMAGE OF
GOLD

Daniel 3:1



Image Set-up in the Plain of Dura

Height was threescore cubits...breadth thereof six cubits - Sixty cubits high by six cubits wide, which would include the height of a pedestal as the image would be out of proportion if there were not one. In our language, it was 27.43 metres by 2.74 metres. A cubit is eighteen inches, therefore, making the image ninety feet tall and nine feet wide.

He builds an image fashioned after the one in his dream, ninety feet tall and nine feet wide, made of gold.

Set up...plain of Dura...Province of Babylon -

The image was set up on the plain of Dura, which is approximately 41 kilometres south east of Babylon. Dura was a province/district of Babylon.

The image of gold standing on the plain of Dura, whose name in Akkadian means "walled place", gives the impression of a vast sanctuary. As if it were not enough, the furnace nearby can well evoke an altar.



Daniel 3:2-3 – All called for Dedication

Daniel 3:2 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

3 Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Nebuchadnezzar was to make the dedication a rather big occasion. He gathered together all the chief men of his kingdom from all the provinces to come to the dedication. The response was one of full acceptance by all. This is quite remarkable seeing that some would have to travel a great distance to be there. Idolaters are generally very committed to their religion. What about us?



There was a union of church and state

Notice: *“Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.” - Daniel 3:3*

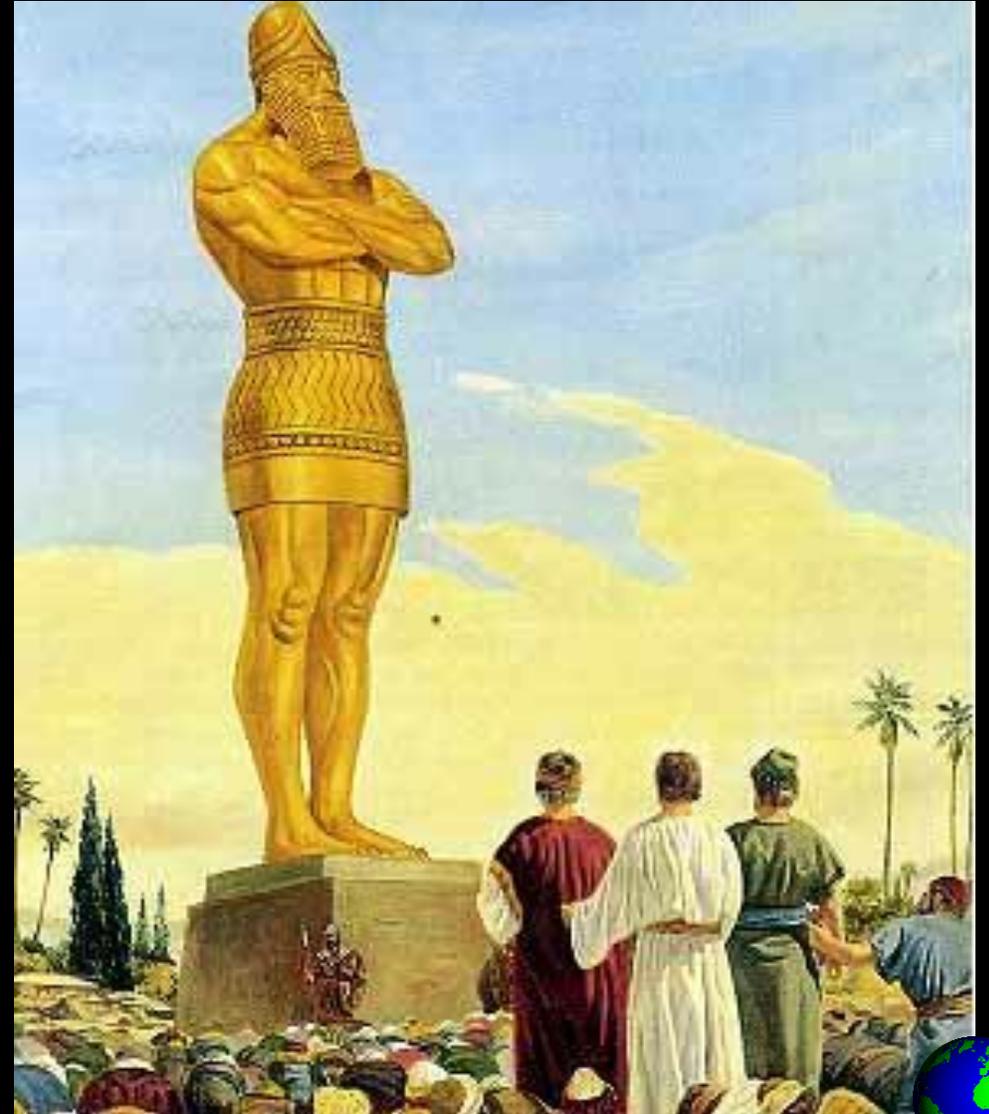
Notice all the political rulers who were present and in order of rank.

All the civil powers of the Babylonian world were present there for this religious celebration.

The government was enforcing a religious decree. To refuse to worship was considered high treason against the government.

The story of Daniel 3 illustrates what happens when the civil power seeks to establish religion.

Daniel 6 will illustrate what happens when the civil power attempts to forbid the free exercise of religion.



Daniel 3:4-7 – Order to Bow to Image

Daniel 3:4 Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,

5 That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

6 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

7 Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

Babylonian music is to be part of the liturgy.

Seven types of musical instruments are listed, as if to convey the completeness and effectiveness of the adoration protocol.



The music played, everybody bowed down except for Daniel's three friends, Shadrack, Meshach, and Abednego!

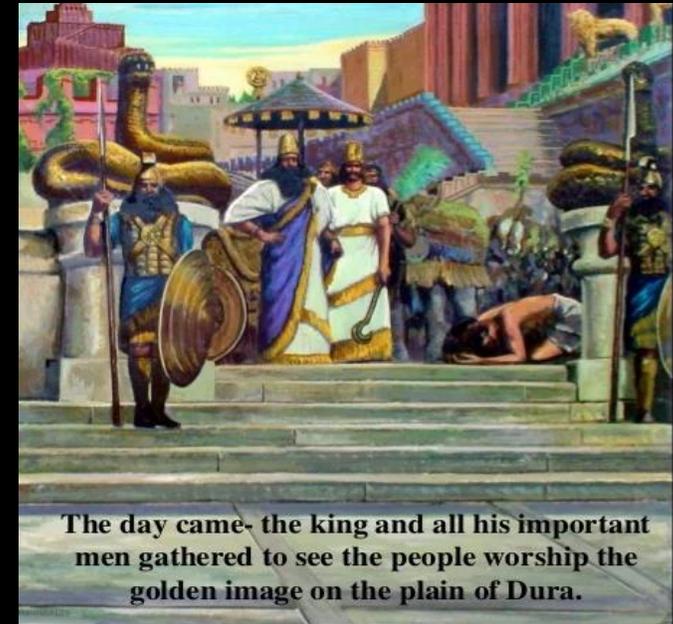


The decree to worship was Universal

“And it is not surprising that in a land where idol worship was of universal prevalence, the beautiful and priceless image in the plain of Dura, representing the glory of Babylon and its magnificence and power, should be consecrated as an object of worship. This was accordingly provided for, and a decree went forth that on the day of the dedication all should show their supreme loyalty to the Babylonian power by bowing before the image. - *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 505, 506

Representatives from all the nations of the day were present for this religious celebration enforced by the state. All the great political leaders of the day were present and bowed before the image (see *Daniel 3:2, 3, 7*). The expression ‘peoples, nations and languages is reminiscent of *Revelation 17:15*.

“Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages..."



“When you hear the music play,” he told the people, “Then you must bow down and worship MY IMAGE- Or you will be thrown into the burning fiery furnace!”



When music played - fall down and worship

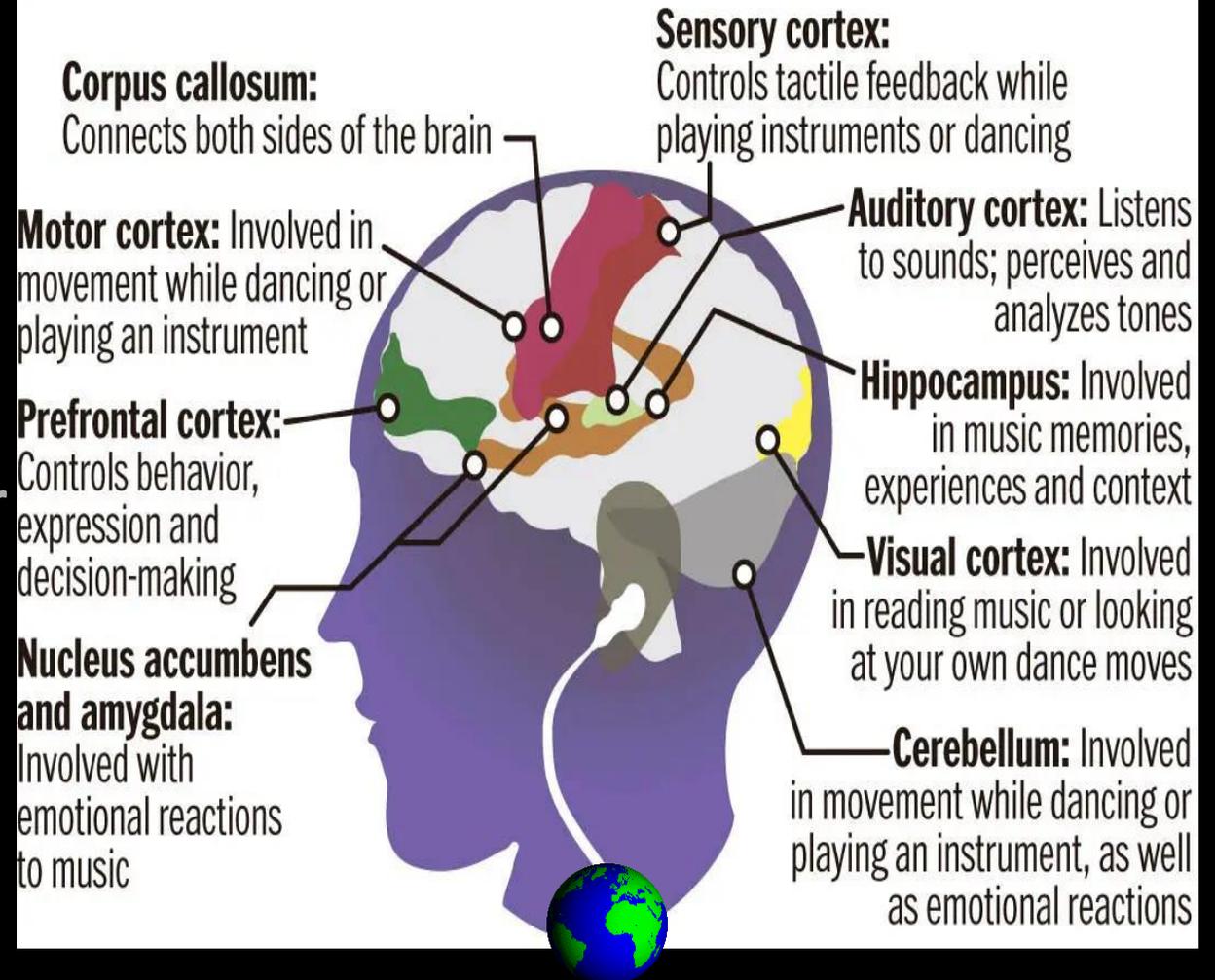
The congregation were informed that when they hear all kinds of music they were to bow down to the image and worship it. Music has a great influence over a person's mind and can create a pleasant atmosphere to help a person feel at peace in a given situation, or to encourage/persuade a person.

Music can be used rightly or wrongly. We need to be careful in the type of music we listen to because of the influence it can have over a person, even more so in worshipping God. Satan himself is the master of music, as he was created with musical instruments in him (Ezekiel 28:13) thus he uses it to his advantage.

Time and again the chapter emphasizes that music played a significant role in connection with false worship (Daniel 3:5, 7, 10 and 15). So to speak, everyone was expected to dance to Babylon's tune.

Music and the brain

Playing and listening to music works several areas of the brain



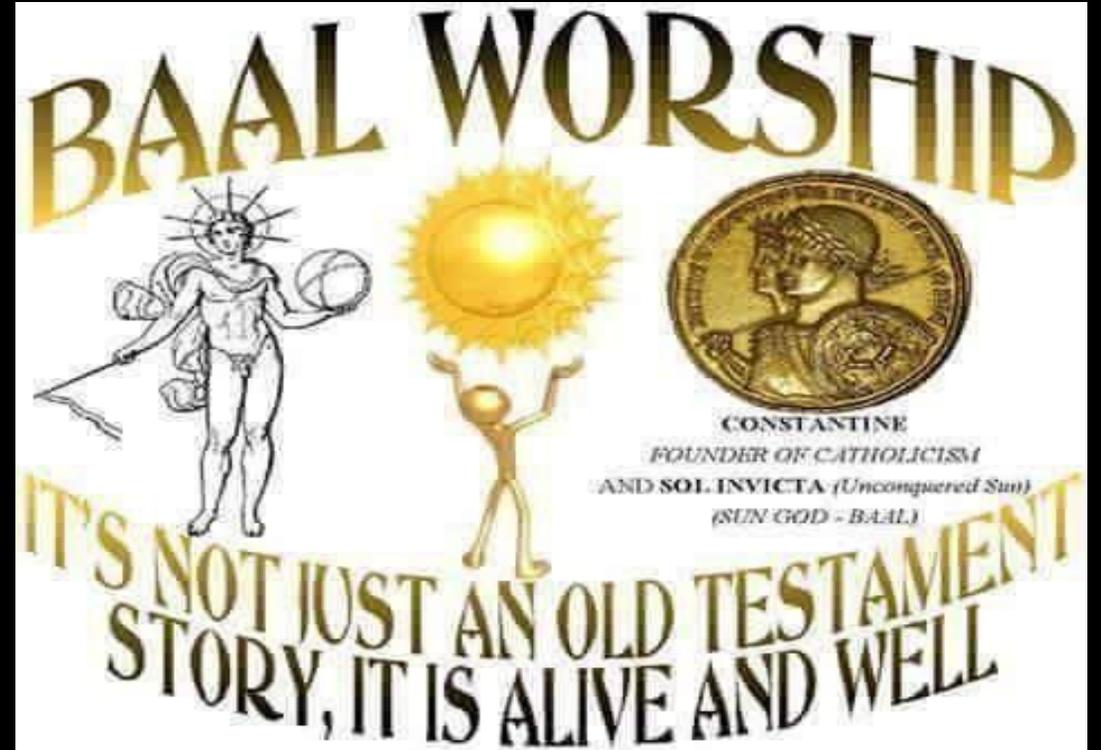
A foretaste of End-time Crisis

Today, we are bombarded from every side by calls to adopt new lifestyles, new ideologies, and to abandon our commitment to the authority of God as expressed in His Word and to surrender our allegiance to contemporary successors of the Babylonian empire. **The allure of the world at times seems overwhelming, but we should remind ourselves that our ultimate allegiance belongs to the Creator God.**

According to the prophetic calendar, we are living in the last days of earth's history.

Revelation 13 announces that the inhabitants of the earth will be called to worship the image of the beast.

That entity will cause: "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:" (Revelation 13:16).

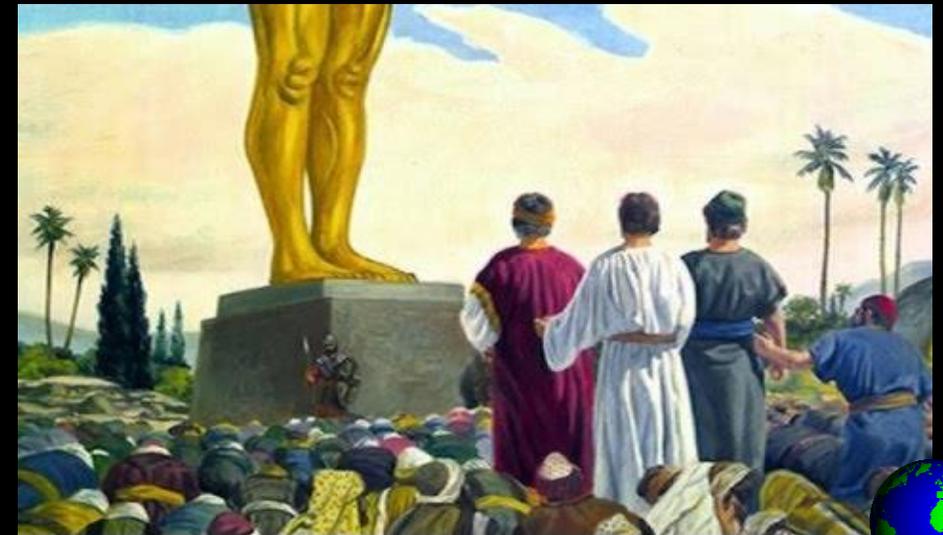


Daniel 3 Parallels Revelation 13

Six categories of people are said to give allegiance to the image of the beast: "small and great, rich and poor, free and slave". The number of the beast, which is 666, also emphasizes six. This shows that the image erected by Nebuchadnezzar is just an illustration of what the eschatological Babylon will do in the last days (see [Daniel 3:1](#) for the imagery of six and sixty). Therefore, we do well to pay close attention to what transpires in this narrative and how God sovereignly directs the affairs of the world.

Worship isn't just bowing down before something or someone and openly professing ultimate allegiance. What are other ways, much more subtle ways, that we can end up worshiping something other than our Lord?

Therefore at that time - Because of the death penalty to all who did not comply, when the people heard the music they all bowed down and worshiped the image.

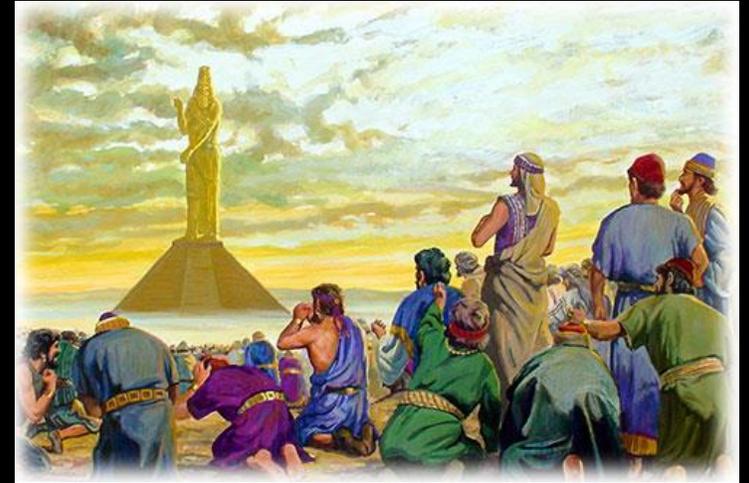


A Last Day Image - 3rd Angels Message

By many, the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is made void, being treated as a thing of naught; while the spurious sabbath, the child of the papacy, is exalted. In the place of God's laws, are elevated the laws of the man of sin,—laws that are to be received and regarded as the wonderful golden image of Nebuchadnezzar was by the Babylonians. Forming this great image, Nebuchadnezzar commanded that it should receive universal homage from all, both great and small, high and low, rich and poor. 4BC 1169.5

Just as ancient Babylon set up a law that was in direct opposition to one of the commandments of God, so spiritual Babylon will set up a law that is in direct opposition to one of the commandments of God. **This counterfeit law will be enforced upon the whole world:**

“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark in their right hand or on their forehead ([Revelation 13:16](#)), and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” ([Revelation 13:17](#)).



Daniel 3 is a foretaste of the Mark of the Beast

Revelation 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.
12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

The MARK Of The BEAST
REVELATION 13:16-18; 14:9-11

IS NOT

- ✗ A microchip
- ✗ A tattoo
- ✗ A barcode
- ✗ An identification card
- ✗ A credit card
- ✗ Something visible

THEN, WHAT IS IT?

It is the enforcement of Sunday observance as a Sabbath (Daniel 7:25), instead of the Seventh day, the day ordained in the Scriptures by our Creator (Genesis 2:3)



Points of Similarity to Daniel 3

1. As Nebuchadnezzar made an image, so an image of the beast will be made in the end time.

2. In both stories People are forced to worship the image or be killed.

3. Like Nebuchadnezzar, a powerful world leader will try to enforce false worship in the Mark of the Beast issue.

4. In Daniel 3 there is a fiery furnace. In Revelation 13, the fire comes down from heaven.

5. The number of the image of Daniel 3, and the number of the Beast in Revelation 13 have a common denominator of 6.

Daniel 3 strongly parallels the future Mark of the Beast. For Christians living with the threat of death from the beast of Revelation 13, the story of Daniel 3 provides a living example of the faithfulness of God's people. At the end of time, two ugly twins arise against God with global power: FORCED WORSHIP and FALSE WORSHIP.

And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blasphemate his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. (REV 13)

SUNDAY IS OUR MARK WE ARE ABOVE THE BIBLE

What is the Mark of the Beast?

If Protestants would follow the Bible, they should worship God on the Sabbath day - by God is Saturday. In keeping the Sunday, they are following a law of the Catholic Church.

Chancellor Albert Smith for Cardinal of Baltimore Archdiocese, letter dated February 10, 1920:



Burning fiery furnace

If the music was no help in preparing the people to worship the image, Nebuchadnezzar had furnaces in place to give a little more encouragement.

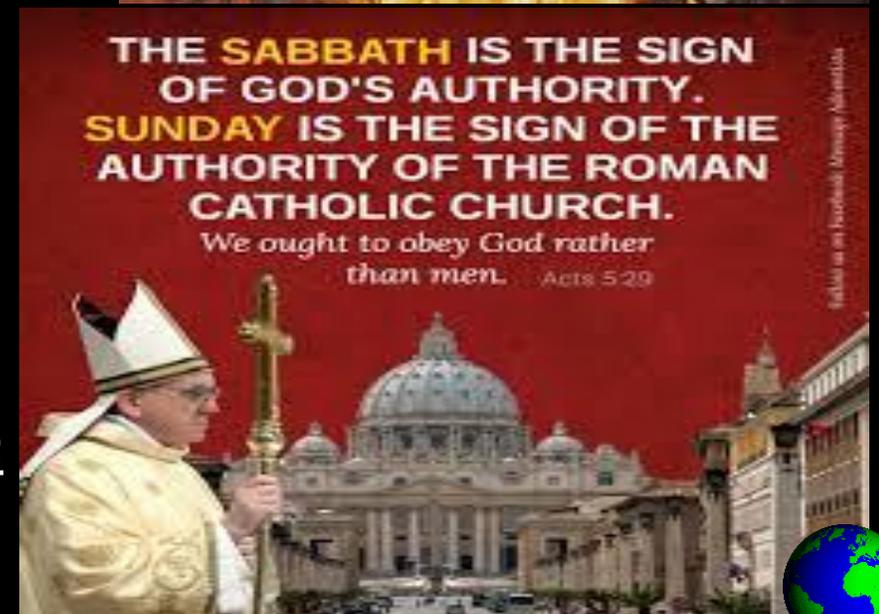
Nebuchadnezzar was dictating to the people the way they were going to worship, what they were going to worship, and how they were going to worship.

* If they did not, it was punished by death.

Forced worship is the system of the false religion, as Babylon was at the head of a false system of religion.

- Whereas with God it is a system of choice.
(Revelation 2:17, Isaiah 1:18, Joshua 24:15)

At the end of time we find that we have the same situation: forced worship under the penalty of death if not complied with. (Revelation 13:15)



Daniel 3:8-12 – Conspiracy & Complaint

Daniel 3:8 Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.

9 They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.

10 Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

11 And whoso falleth not down and worshipping, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Did you notice one of the key ingredients to this worship was music? Music plays a key role in music today, both in true and false worship. Is all music played in the name of God, acceptable to God for worship?



The Influence of Music

We need to realize the significant influence that music can have over people.

In 1704, the great Scottish patriot, Andrew Fletcher stated: "Let me write the songs of a nation: I don't care who writes its laws."

He understood that music is a powerful tool, and can either be used "FOR GOD," or "AGAINST GOD."

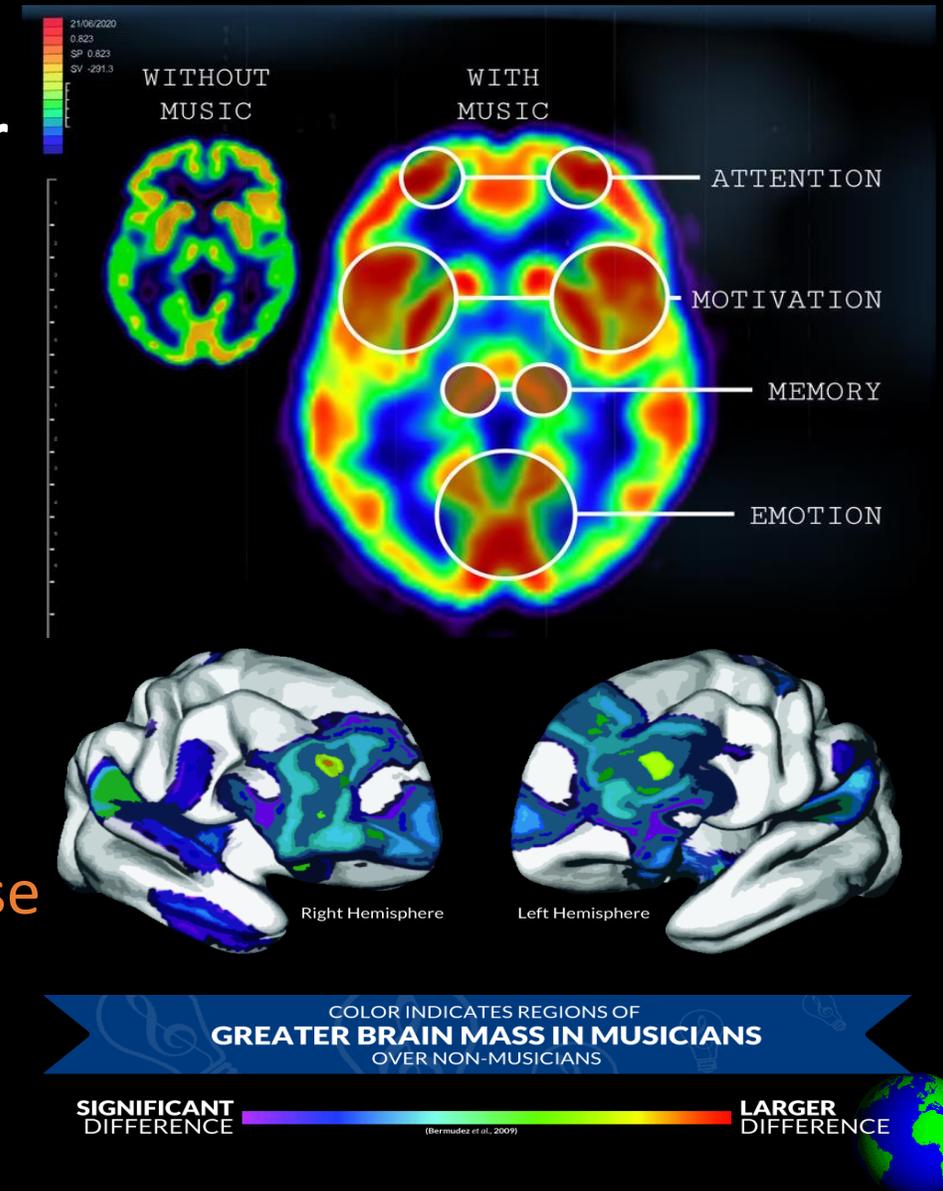
The Chaldeans were the religious leaders of Babylon, the priestly caste.

These religious leaders hated God's remnant because of their religious convictions.

The religious leaders accused the three young men to the civil power (Daniel 2:2, 4, 5, 10, 12; 3:9-12).

Key Points:

1. The wise men see their chance to get back at those outsiders Nebuchadnezzar put in charge over them.
2. Daniel 3 pictures a mixture of false religion and the state. Nebuchadnezzar "made a decree." He used his power of state to enforce False Worship.



Examining the verses...

Wherefore at that time - At the time that all had bowed down and worshiped the image.

Chaldeans came near...accused the Jews - These Chaldeans were obviously revengeful for being exposed as liars in the previous chapter. They came to the king accusing the Jews.

Hast made a decree... - They remind the king that he has made a decree to throw any, who would not bow down at the sound of the music, into the fiery furnace.

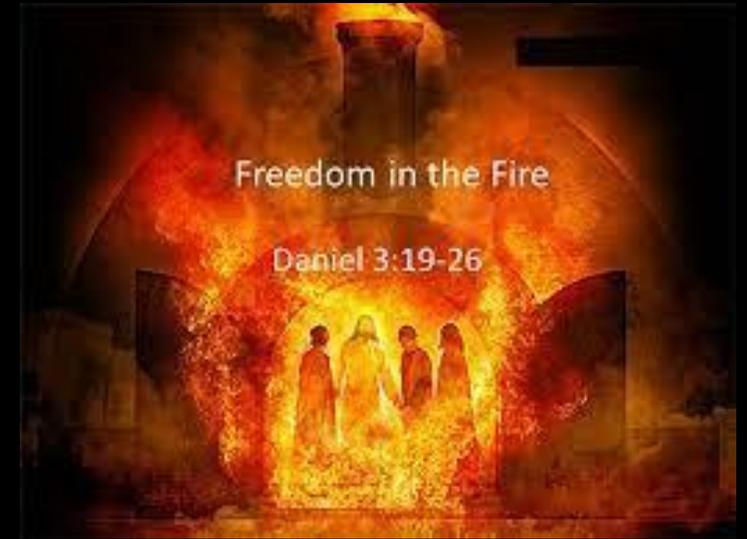
Certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs - These were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The king had set them over the affairs of the province of Babylon. Being sly, the Chaldeans remind the king that it was he who appointed them to that position.

Not regard thee...serve not thy gods... - After reminding the king that it was his idea to place them at such a high position, they tell him that these three Jews have no regard for his authority nor serve his gods, they didn't even bow down and worship the image. The structure of the Chaldeans sentence, is one of bringing his mind to remembrance of the death penalty, who he had promoted to a high position in the kingdom, then belittling the king by showing how the ones promoted have no regard for his authority. This would outrage the king.



Note these Characteristics

1. Powerful world leader forces false worship.
2. The test is global: Nebuchadnezzar brings representatives from his global empire to worship.
 - In Revelation 13:12, the beast power commands global worship of his image.
3. The forced worship involves breaking God's 10 Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17): **Which Commandment was being broken here?** (see Exodus 20:2-5)
 - The second, bowing down to someone other than God.
4. The test involves economic decisions: In Daniel 3:3, "Treasures" are mentioned. In Revelation 13:17, no one can buy or sell unless they worship the image of the beast.
5. The test involves a death decree: In Daniel 3:11, those who did not worship the golden image were to be killed.
 - In Revelation 13:15, those who will not worship the end-time image of the beast will be killed.
6. The test is a contest by fire: In Daniel 3:11, the burning fiery furnace was proof of Nebuchadnezzar's power.
 - In Revelation 13:13, fire comes down from heaven at the command of the beast power.



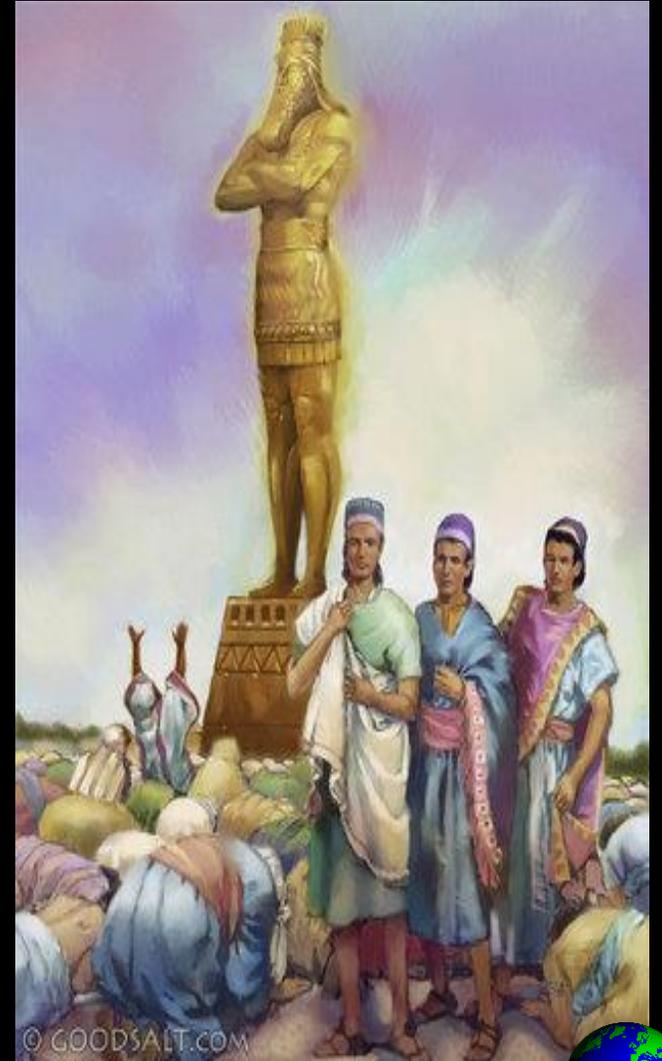
The 3 faithful men who did not Bow

How did the Chaldeans know that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not worshiping like they were suppose to? Obviously they didn't bow down to worship the golden image! Why didn't they bow down, knowing it would mean their life? Because to bow down to an image would be breaking God's Ten Commandments.

The first commandment (Exodus 20:3) says:
"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

The second commandment (Exodus 20:4-6) say:
"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

- **To break God's commandments would mean they were unfaithful to Him.**



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There was a shaking in the Valley of Dura

When Nebuchadnezzar took Daniel and his three friends captive to Babylon he left King Zedekiah to rule in Jerusalem. In 2 Kings 24:14-17 we are told that the king "... Carried into captivity all Jerusalem: all the captains and all the mighty men of valour, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths."

Would not Zedekiah be expected to be present at the dedication? We know that in the year 594 BC (Jeremiah 51:59) King Zedekiah made a trip to Babylon.

- Was it to worship the image?

Furthermore, there were other Hebrew youth who were placed in governmental positions when Daniel and his friends were taken to Babylon.

- Is it just possible that they bowed before the image?

We will discover in our study of Revelation that the beast power has these same characteristics. **The contest will involve a different commandment, but the issue of forced worship will still be the same.** The book of Daniel gives us the key to understanding the book of Revelation.



Daniel 3:13-18 - Command in Rage

Daniel 3:13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.

14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.



Examining these verses...

Rage and fury commanded to bring... - The king was in a rage or violent anger and furious. He commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. **And there they stood in front of the king.**

Serve my gods - The king asks them if the accusation is true about not serving his gods or worshiping the image. They had already set their hearts on serving the true God of heaven, who they knew was to have no other gods before Him, or to bow down before any graven image. (Exodus 20:3-5) For in reality they would be worshiping devils. (Deuteronomy 32:15-17) **This they would not do.**

If ye be ready...worship not - Nebuchadnezzar, trying to save face, remarkably gives them another chance to submit to his authority.

He also reminds them that if they do not comply with his demands they would be thrown into the burning fiery furnace, showing that it is not a matter of conscience but a dictation on who you will worship.

- This was done by force, namingly the death penalty.

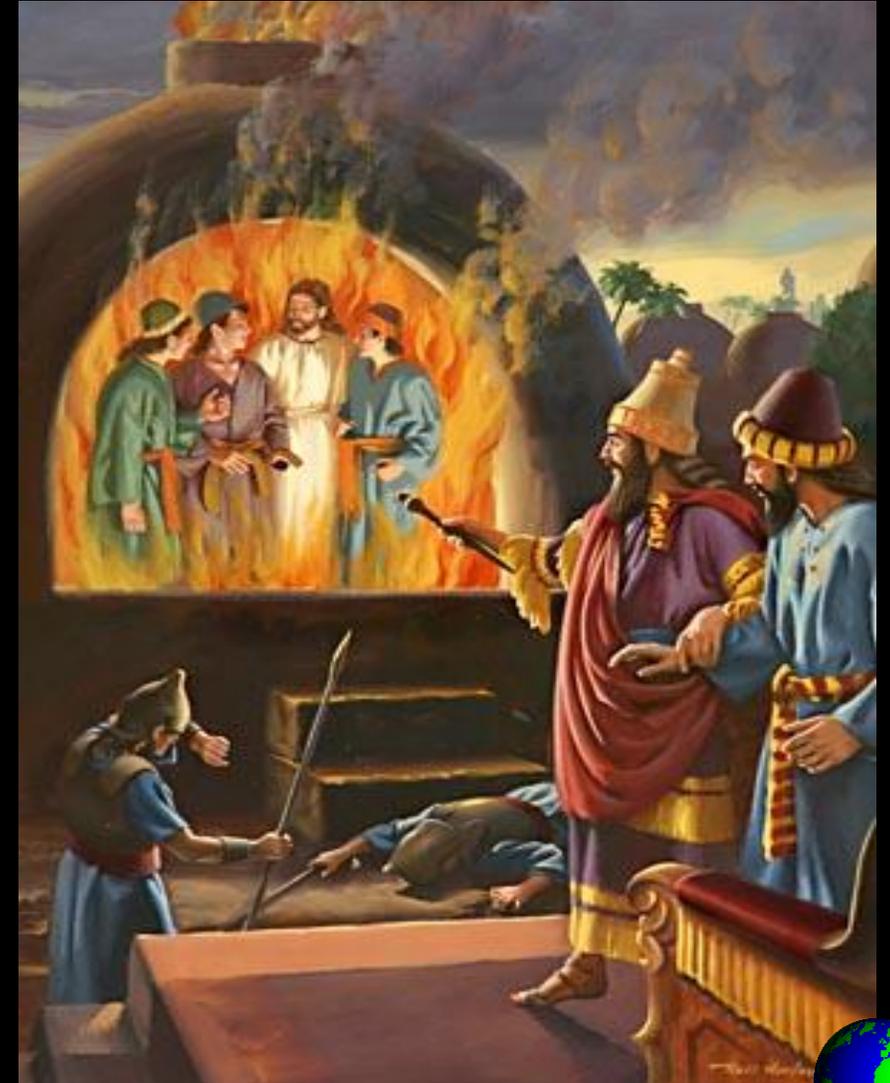


Examining these verses (cont'd)...

Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? - How defiant and arrogant is the question posed by Nebuchadnezzar? He basically states that he knows of no god that can deliver them from the sure death of the furnace. In saying this he openly admits that not even his gods could deliver them, and that there is not a god alive that can.

We are not careful to answer - Their reply to the king was straight to the point, and not one of trying to get on the king's good side through an eloquent style of speech. They gave the king an answer of, not to bother about a second chance as we have already made up our minds.

If it be so... - Or, if this is your decision to throw us into the fiery furnace. If this was the king's decision, these three young men had full faith in the ability of God to be able to deliver them from the flames and out of the king's hand. They tell the king that there is a living God, Whom we serve, that can deliver us.

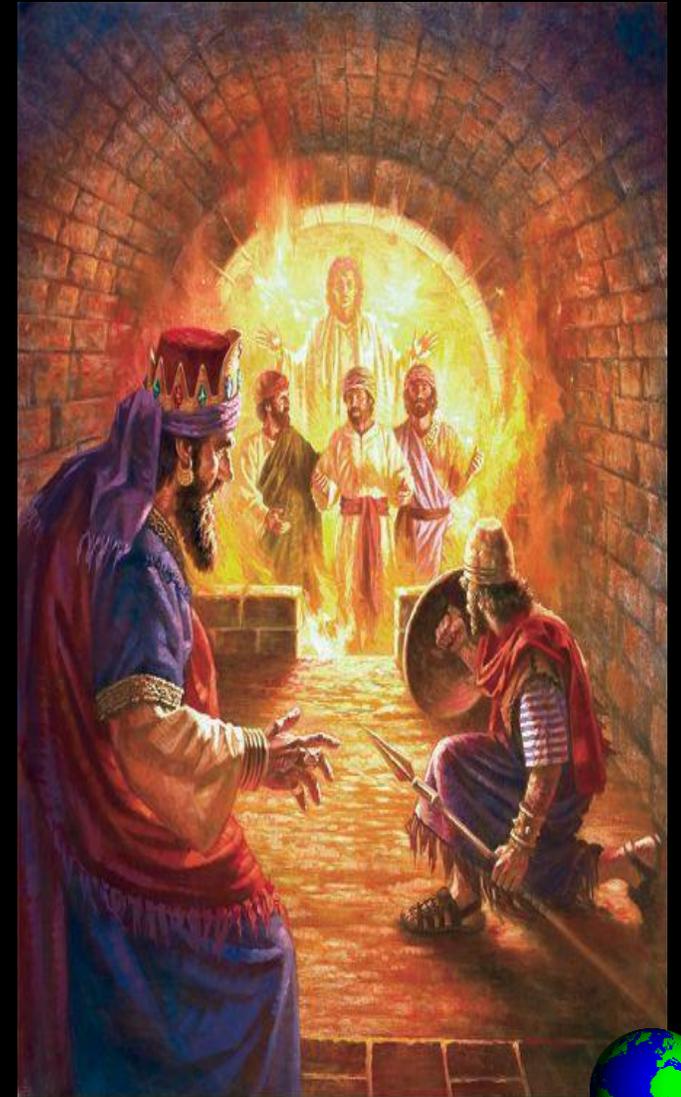


Examining these verses (cont'd)...

But if not... - Even if the Lord was not to deliver them, they were content to have their lives cease obeying God than live and obey man. Perfect peace and everlasting strength, even in the face of death, was within their minds because they had perfect trust in the Lord and set their faces like flint to obey God rather than man. (Isaiah 26:3-4; 50:7, Acts 5:29)

They told the king they would rather die than dishonour their God. So they rejected the religion of the world power and of the state. What incredible faith and strength. **We to will be called upon to exercise the same faith and strength in the last days.** (Revelation 20:4)

Why couldn't the three young men have gone along with the celebration? Everybody was bowing down, but couldn't that have been just a symbol without meaning? **Maybe they could have hummed a hymn to Jehovah while they appeared to be bowing to the Babylonian god. But what did they do? The three young men knew they would be rescued, and this knowledge that sustained them. Does God always rescue us from harm when we trust Him? Why or why not?**



Fascination, Intimidation, Annihilation

Nebuchadnezzar attempted to intimidate the remnant who kept the commandments of God and worshipped only Him (Daniel 3:15)

The king's strategy consisted in three steps: Fascination, intimidation, annihilation.

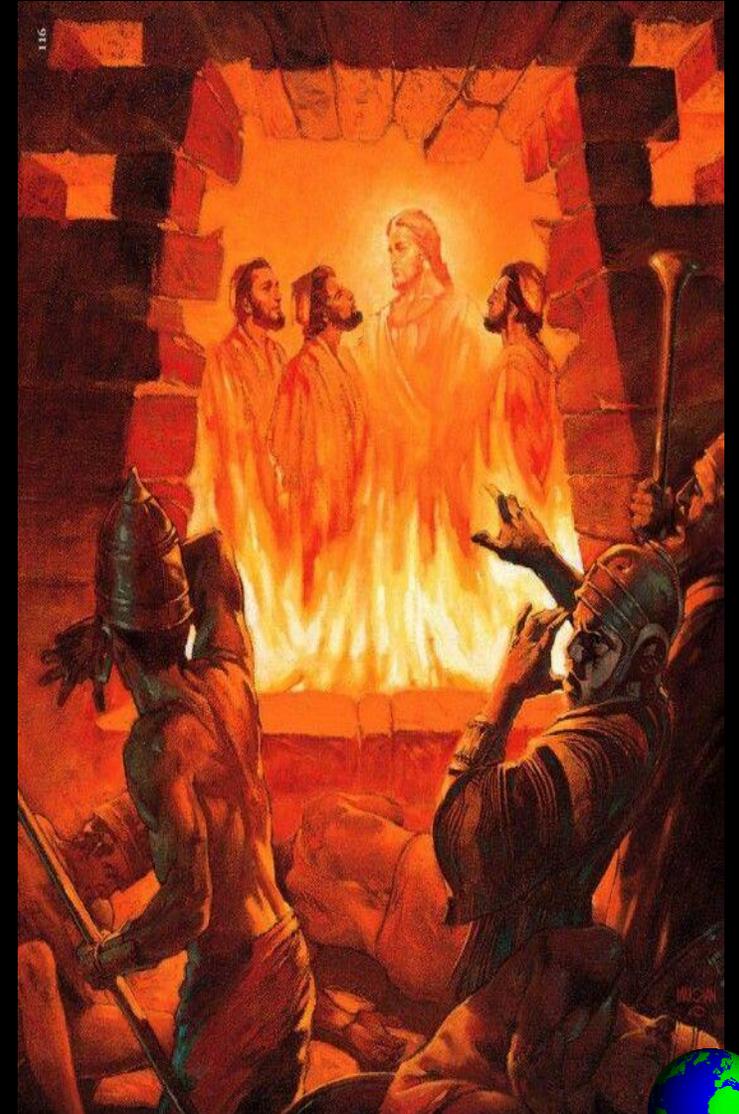
Everything in the story of Daniel 3 sought to 'wow' the senses. The music, the majestic image, the presence of the political leaders from all over the world the peer pressure, were all meant to mesmerize those who were present for the dedication of the image.

When the Hebrew worthies were unwilling to be hypnotized by the majesty of the occasion, the king sought to use intimidation and threats. When the threats did not work, the king resorted to the final solution: Annihilation!

The king roared as he said to the faithful remnant: Daniel 3:15: "And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?"

Ellen White makes a very insightful remark about the body language of the king when he spoke these words. She says that he spoke them "with hand stretched upward in defiance".

- Signs of the Times, May 6, 1897



Some Key Points:

1. **In verse 15:** Nebuchadnezzar challenged GOD by saying, “*who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?*” Because he rejected God’s historical revelation of prophecy, his pride forces him to directly challenge God’s authority. In attacking God’s people, Nebuchadnezzar is really attacking God.

2. **The Three Hebrew’s were committed.** (Note the parallel to the test of chapter 1) The Bible says they “*were not careful to answer.*” That means they did not have to “*think*” about what they would say. They had already made up their minds to be true and faithful to God. They decided to follow God’s truth and light, no matter what happened to them.

3. The answer of the faithful remnant was respectful yet firm ([Daniel 3:16-18](#))



Summary

For the three Hebrews, the image worship imposed by the king is a blatant counterfeit of the temple worship in Jerusalem, which they experienced in their earlier years.

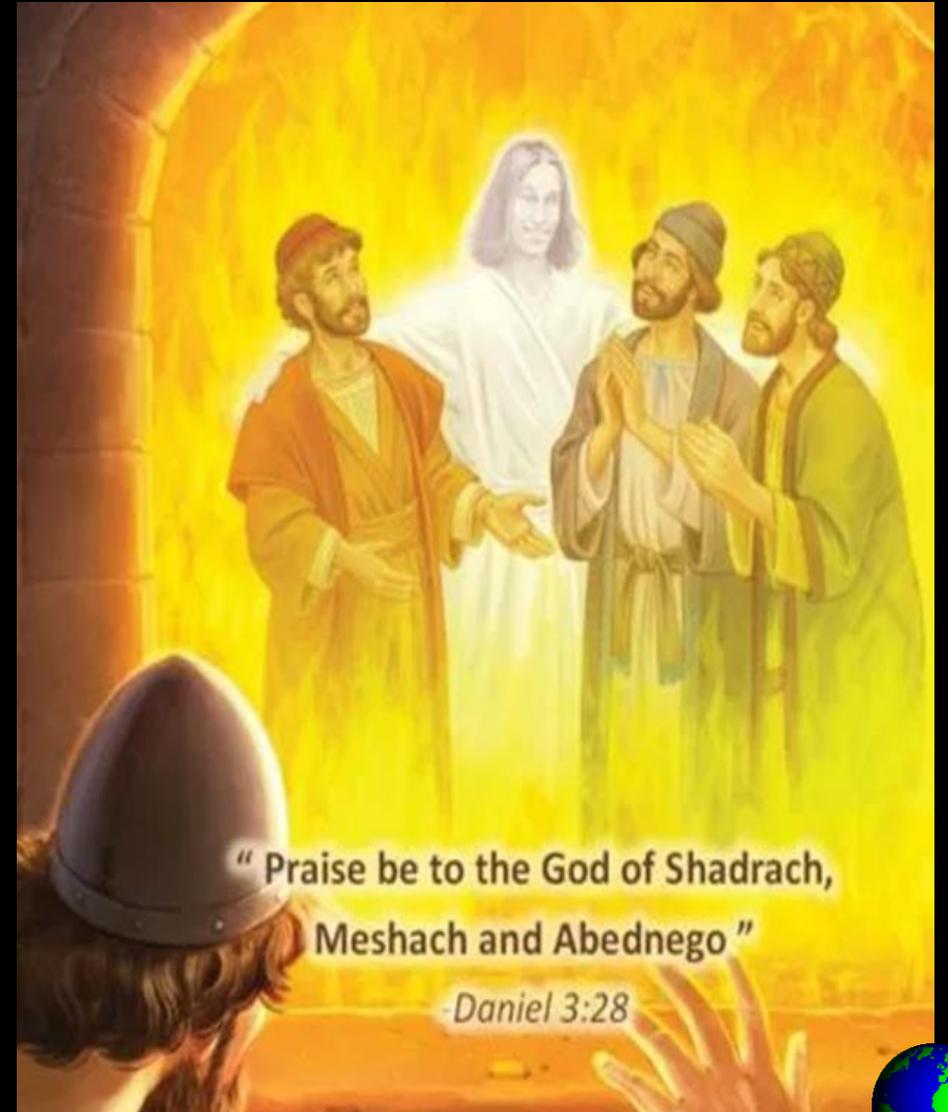
Although they hold offices in the empire and are loyal to the king, their allegiance to God sets a limit on their human loyalty.

They are certainly willing to continue to serve the king as faithful administrators; however, they cannot join the ceremony.

Read [Exodus 20:3-6](#) and [Deuteronomy 6:4](#).

What do these texts convey that surely influenced the stand these men took?

Following the instructions issued by the king, all the people at the sound of the musical instruments bow and worship the golden image. **Only the three — Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego — dare to disobey the king.** Immediately, some Babylonians bring the matter to the king's attention.

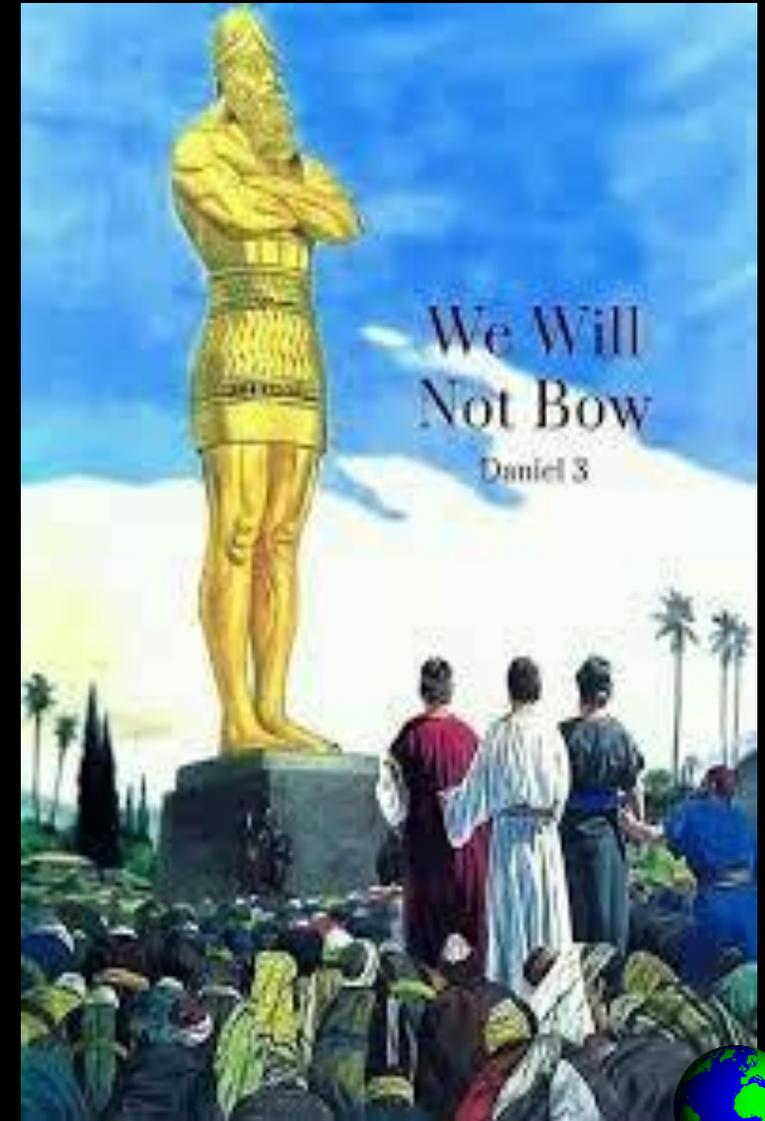


Summary (cont'd)

The accusers seek to enrage the king by saying:

1. It was the king himself who put these three young men over the province of Babylon;
2. The Jewish men do not serve the gods of the king;
3. They do not worship the gold image that the king had set up (Daniel 3:12). But in spite of his fury against them, the king offers the three men a second chance. The king is willing to repeat the whole procedure so that these men can retract their position and worship the image. **Should they refuse, they will be thrown into the fiery furnace.** And Nebuchadnezzar closes his appeal with a most arrogant claim: *“And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”*

Endowed with supernatural courage, they respond to the king: “If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up”

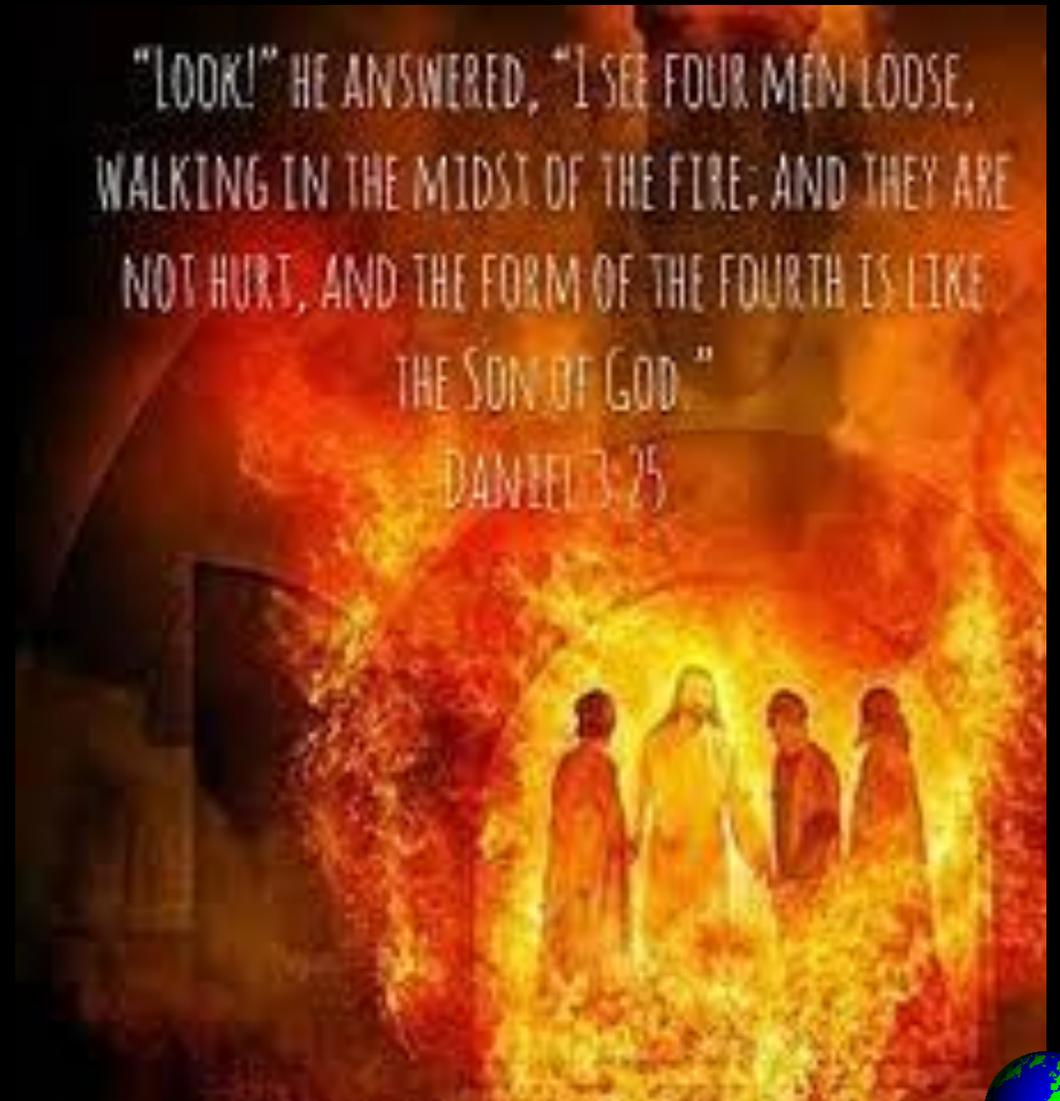


Conclusion

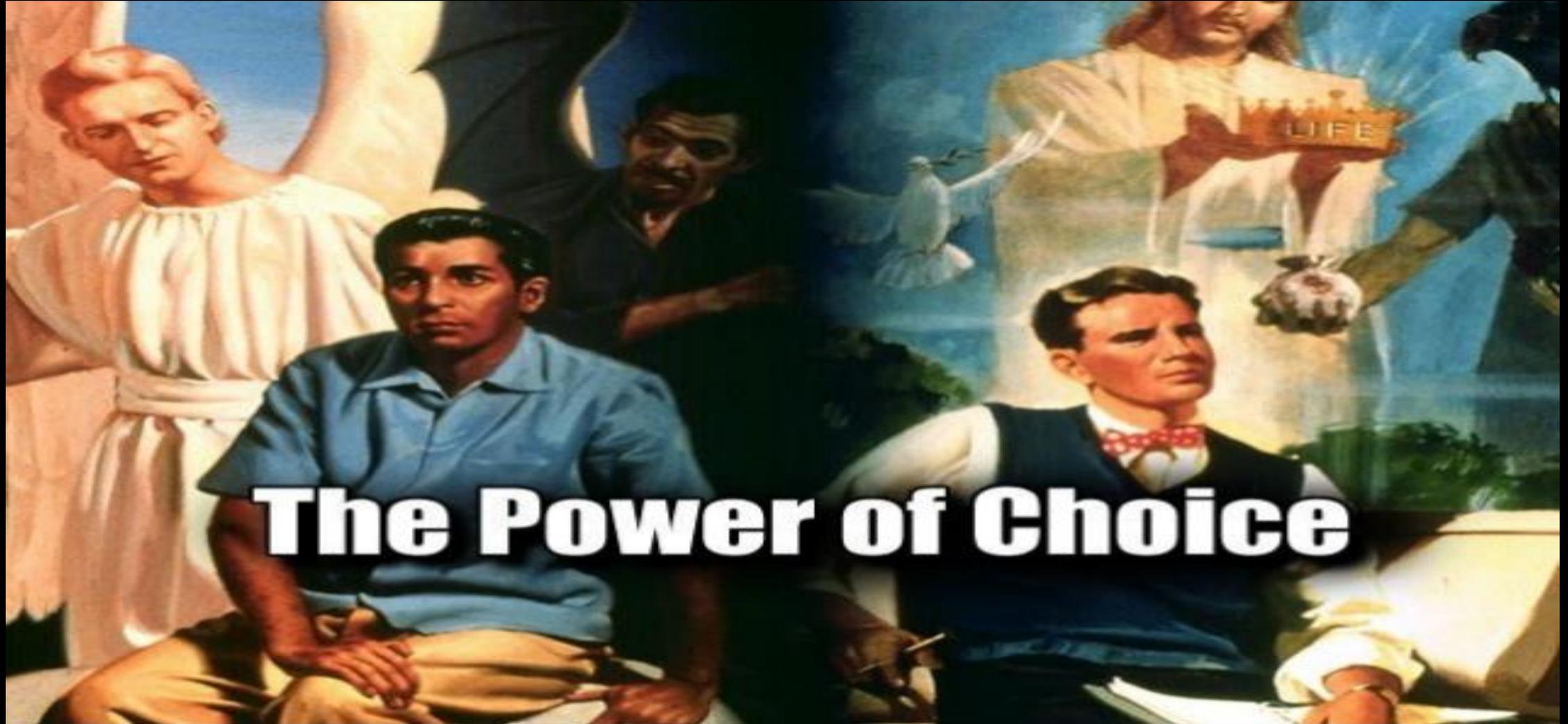
Though they know their God can deliver them, they do not have the guarantee that He will. Nevertheless, they refuse to obey the king's command, even knowing that they could be burned alive.

- Where do we get that kind of faith?
- What important lesson did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego leave for us today?
- Does God's answers to our prayers assure us that we're on the heavenward path?
- Did these three men know that their faith in God would be rewarded as it was?
- If not, why did they continue in their obedience to Him?
- What is the lesson for you and me in this story?

This is the kind of faith that is needed – please read [Revelation 14:12](#).

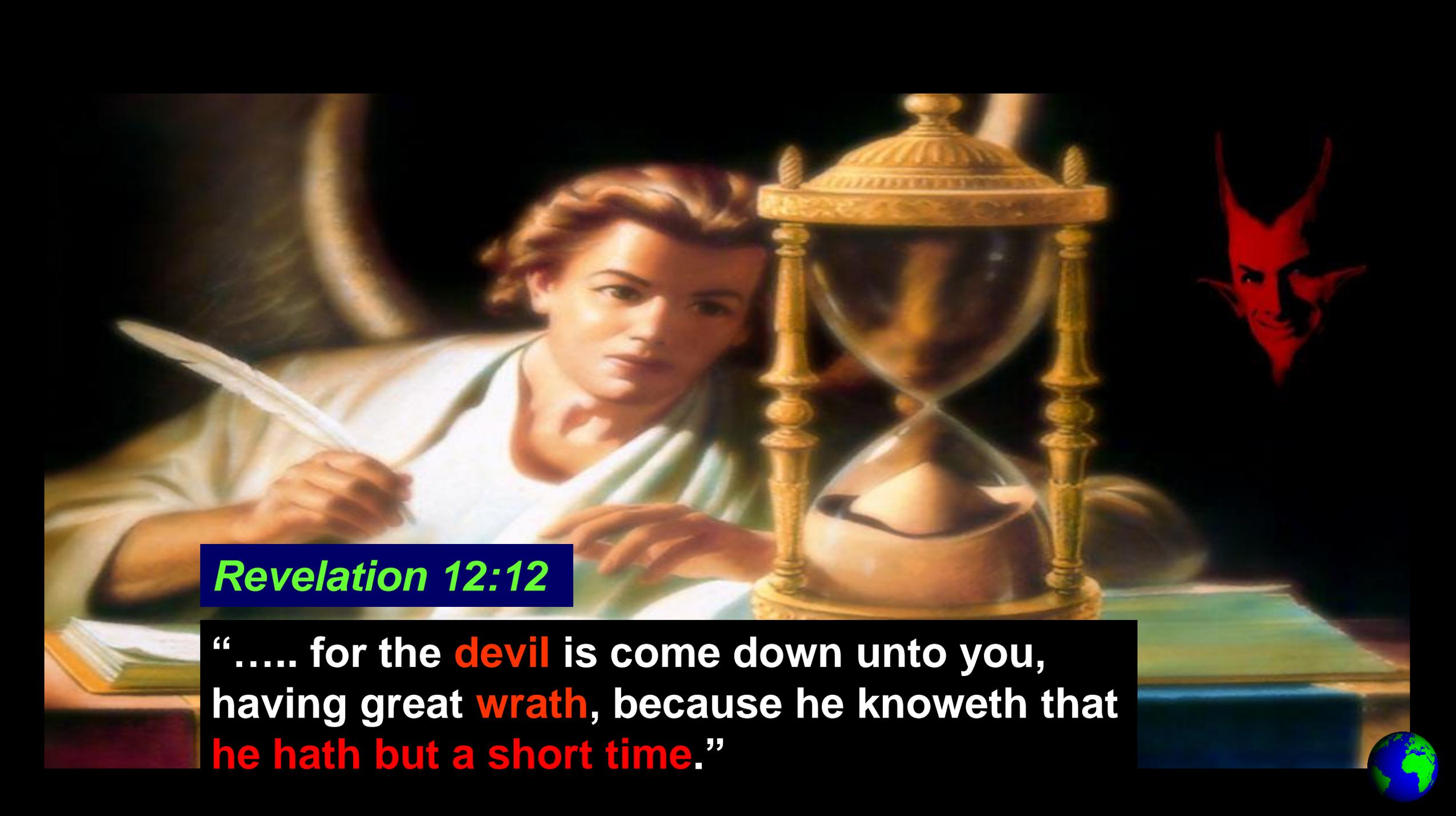


God has given all:



The Power of Choice





Revelation 12:12

“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you, having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that **he hath but a short time.**”



Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. –
Revelation 3:20





THE END



ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?