

## Idolatry

### My Notes 5/7/2024 Tuesday Zoom

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##### [Daniel 3:1-15](#)

We're in the book of Daniel so we're in the third chapter, so you want to find yourselves there, and we begin.

So Lord, give us a good blessing this morning. We're opening up that third chapter where we're going to be learning about trials, and tribulations that believers go through as we go through the fire in Isaiah you promised to take us by the hand, through the fires, and through the waters, so bring us a blessing here help us to see our place in all of this in Jesus name we pray Amen.

All right, so as usual, I'd like to start with one of my videos prepared for this lesson. So sit back and enjoy. That's good actually. The King made an image of gold whose height was 3 score cubits, and the breadth thereof 6 cubits to be set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather together the Princess, 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 set up. That time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews. They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live forever. Thou king has made a decree that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, dulcimer, and all kinds of music shall fall down and worship the golden image. [Daniel 3:6](#) And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. No, it's seek your presence. So my heart, I follow you. I see you. I see your persons. Volunteer lots of persons with all our heart. Set your presence when we wish to bend something that is hard and unyielding. What do we do with it? We put it into the fire, and we sent your prophecy. There are no you say no hang on. Thank me for the grade. You know, they feel like this. I'm overcome by sorrow. Oh, I'd it's been very popular. People of Judah crimes oh just with us. It's with us. Well, I guess we're gonna.

All right, so now pretty exciting chapter we've got the prelude earlier in chapter 2 where Nebuchadnezzar had the dream and he was told by Daniel that he was the head of gold in this giant colossus that came in his dream, and it seems that that inspired him then to build this towering colossus as a tribute to himself, gold plated, and towering up into the heavens in the plain of Duran. So thou aren't the head of gold, is what Daniel told him, and that was in his heart. Of course this will lift up Nebuchadnezzar in his pride. It will ultimately lead to his destruction. The Head of gold what was the Kingdom of gold, in fact, Babylon was known as the City of Gold in antiquity. It was one of the titles given to Babylon. We know also the Bible speaks of the mystery Babylon. So it was a place of gross idolatry. We recall in our early chapters there, as we were discussing Babylon, and what it looked like. Yeah, this was pinnacle, and the acme of all antiquity. The towers that were built there, we see the gates of Ishtar trimmed with gold, and the glazed bricks. These ovens that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into the furnace that were used to bake all these bricks that they had in the Babylonian gates, and the gates of Ishtar particular we're very decorative, and the idols of their various gods, Marduk, and the rest, were all embedded almost in Baal relief. So it was a very impressive city, the people that came into it, the Jews would come into it was very strange circumstance for them, but they had to admire the beauty, the hanging gardens, the towers, the ziggurats that were built to Marduk, and the palace of Nebuchadnezzar opulent, impressive, and perhaps that's what inspires now him to build this image of himself in the plains of Duran. This kind of gross idolatry, the worship of men, that somehow men are God deifying a man that's what I see here in this third chapter. So we find the Princess, the governors, the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the councillors, the sheriff's. what you really see in Babylon is the origination of policy, and government and governance over men. It's something that we pattern to this very day in the modern context of governance. So all the rulers of the provinces, these rulers were called satraps in fact. Maybe we find Nebuchadnezzar at the head of all of this, but these rulers of the provinces are gathered together into the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar, the king, had set up, and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Now this is a towering image I've got here some way of measuring it. The cubit here was 18 inches, and I have here various statues that would put up this was 90 feet by 10 feet wide. At least that's what we understand in the measurement of these cubits. So you can see it's rather top heavy to say the least, but this gives you some concept. I've got here is the Colossus of Rhodes, which was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It stood 91 feet. We have the Colossus of Nero, which was 100 feet. So this Colossus of Nero was in Rome it was by the Colosseum, and the quality of the Colossus of Rhodes was built in the 4th century BC and it was 100 feet, very similar to what we have here in the specifications. Then we have the Statue of Liberty this gives us some idea as well 140 feet to the at least to the tip of the torch. So when the Bible presents things of this nature, we have to understand that, you know, there were other circumstances that kind of validate the history. This isn't an impossible image. That's built, it could be done, and it has been done, as you can see here from these various illustrations. Now we get to the idea of idolatry we mentioned in the first chapter. You know, the children of Israel were placed here in a place so foreign to them now images everywhere they looked, images of a the pacing lion, the dragon that had a face like a serpent, and a tail like a serpent, and yet it walked on all fours, perhaps trying to revive the imagery of what happened in the Garden of Eden with the serpent that was able to walk until it was cursed, and placed on his belly, and various other imagery that we have throughout Babylon, and now, of course, yeah we have in American Society, the idea of idolatry increasingly, the picture of our society is rendered in our media is illusional, delusion, disfigured, unreal out of touch with reality

disconnected from the true context of our life. So we put people in this category. They're individuals as though they are God like deifying individuals because they can shoot a basketball or they can hit a hockey puck into a net or they could throw a football 50 or 60 yards. We pay them millions of dollars. They live in mansions, and we glorify them. We do the same with rock stars, and singers, and movie stars it's celebrity worship. So we have our own types of idols these days as well. What a mistake it is we look at the history of cult leaders, and what they ultimately were able to do in manipulating the psyche of their devotees to a point where they're even willing to give up their lives to follow the leader. As I said, there's various forms of other gods. We have the rock star, like Michael Jackson in 2008, we can see these people emotionally responded, reacting, multitude of gathering. English. We've worshipped other gods before. Papal authority, for instance. You can see the Pope here being carried about with his obsequious servants. They carry him up on their shoulders on this gold crown as though he's some kind of a God on earth. He wears his three tier tiara worth multiplied millions of dollars. They used the Egyptian fans to fan him on his way it was the papal cannon of Boniface the 3rd that said we affirm it, defined it to be necessary to salvation for every human creature to be subject to the Roman Pontiff. So you can see the mystery of Babylon continues on in various permutations, be it by celebrity worship or in this case by religious authority that the Pope has. Far and in union with Francis, our Pope, and now here you are here. On this earth, the place of God almighty, and the Catholic national readers, it said, the Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, he is Jesus Christ himself, and then the extravagance of Pope John the 22nd. The title Lord God, the hope the Pope is found within a gloss. So it's no wonder the people will give a standing ovation for 15 minutes for a human being as though he were God. The title of the Pope of Rome is Vicarius Filii Dei, and if you take the letters of his title, which represent Latin numerals, and add them together, they come to 666. Now you might think that this is written by some evangelist somewhere, but in fact it was found in our Sunday visitor, which was the newspaper that was printed from the Vatican. So they are kind of admitting it that themselves it's kind of a fascinating situation hence priests are called also not just the Pope, but priests are called the parents of Jesus Christ, such as the title that Saint Bernard get gives them, but they are the active caused by which he is made to exist really in the consecrated host. Thus the priest may in a certain manner be called the creator of his creation. Since by saying the words of consecration he creates, as it were, Jesus in the sacrament by giving him a sacramental existence, and produces him as a victim to be offered to the eternal Father. As in creating the world, it was sufficient for God to have said let it be made, and it was created. He spoke, and they were made, so it is sufficient for the priest to say Hoc Est Corpus Meum, and behold, the bread is no longer bread, but the body of Jesus Christ. So this is what Catholics believe, and this is the dogma of the salvation. There's no salvation outside of the Catholic Church. This dogma that has been promulgated for the centuries. The notion is no salvation outside of the Catholic Church, because it's only the priest who has the power to consecrate the host, and to cause the transubstantiation by the bread actually becoming the actual body of Jesus Christ, and consumed by the communicants that come to the altar. So we see the problem folks here, and what they've done, and they've created a form of idolatry, even the worship of the host itself. They'll put the hosts in a remonstrance, which is a cross, golden cross, and then the people bow down to the cross, kiss the cross, and so forth, because they believe that Jesus Christ is in that host. All the while, of course, that the Roman Catholic Church commits its filth and perversion, as it has for centuries, somewhat unnoticed until recently. It was Father Richard Sipe, an advocate for the victims of abuse, claims that worldwide over the past 50 years, nearly half a million children have been abused at the hands of the Catholic Church incredible,

but this is what happens when men think that they are God, and they can do whatever they want, and they can do it with immunity in a political sense, the politicians have also assumed the posture of deification, that they are the saviors of the world. Now when you hear people saying this, and we've heard it from conservatives like Donald Trump, he's the only one who can save America. This is very disturbing language, to say the least. Though I certainly can agree with his political positions that he has, but I'm not about to deify a man or believe that a man has the power to save any country. It's Christ who is the Lord, and our focus must always be on him, and we must be very careful about politicians that would assume power. Look what happened in Germany when the people have followed. You can see here the populations that would show up. Who worship and deify a man. The national sense of self pity after wartime defeat. An economic catastrophe. They could be whipped into a frenzy, and the erosion of organized religion, who placed spiritual yearnings where they did not belong, and leadership cults symbolize Hitler had the perfect personality that the successful effort leader he was allowing viewers allowed his followers to project their fantasies into healing. Stalin, of course probably worse than Hitler. We should tell you by now, Stalin expected to receive all the plaudits. This film shows his reception before making a speech in the autumn of 1944. No one wanted to be the first to stop clapping so a mechanical device gave them all permission to stop. Alright, so this is what happens when power goes to one's head, and bright exalts them, and they feel that they are the savior of the people, and the people become sycophants in this case. It's demanded that they give standing ovations, and no one dares sit down until the bell gives them right to sit down. These are antichrists. Nebuchadnezzar was certainly a type of Antichrist. Uh I'm doing a study in [1 John 2:18](#) in my Sunday school class, and we're teaching on the second chapter where John says even now, are there many antichrists. And throughout history, you can see those that could have easily stepped into the role had it been time, but the devil is no gentleman. He would he's got his dupes ready at the ready, but the power of the Church, and the witness of the Holy Spirit restrains the devil from doing what he would do, but these were all individuals that were worshipped as living deities, and the population that followed thought them to be that, and to the savior of their countries, and when they were exactly just the opposite, as a matter of fact, but you know. This was Obama Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you very much. But. Thank you. Thank you so much everybody. Thank you. Thank you so much. Good morning. Good morning. Everything I don't know. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you. Moment I've never thought this day would ever happen. I won't have to worry about putting gas in my car. I won't have to worry about paying my mortgage, you know? Can you help me? Ok, so insane things become this poor woman thinks that the election of Obama means that she won't have to pay her rent. She won't have to worry about putting gas in her car. I mean, this is this is what happens where people actually believe that a man on earth can bring the kingdom of heaven, and of course they can't and they fail to do so, and I suppose that that there are those who become disillusioned with the whole process, but they've just misplaced their loyalties, and thus was the case here before this. Mighty men who came to Nebuchadnezzar. So here we have the paradigm established right from the beginning of time in Genesis, where we have Cush begat Nimrod. He began to be a mighty one in the earth, and he rears up a tower right there in the Babel, and God comes down to smite it to the earth, but these paradigms continue to replicate throughout human history, and that's truly what Nebuchadnezzar's doing there, representing Babylon as a world empire, he the head of gold, but many followed thereafter as we study history. You're going to see throughout history these situations where we have various men that come

in to view Caesar Augustus was worshipped as a God. They even put a temple to him in Pergamus. Constantine who was the first one to adopt the title Pontifex Maximus believed himself to be the great bridge builder. He would bring together this amalgamation of heathen, and Christian's saw the sign in the in the clouds of across, and this sign to conquer, and they put the cross on their Shields, and they began doing there decimation of populations in the name of Jesus. It's just quite incredible. Napoleon it was believed, of course, that he was just by his name, Apollyon. They thought he was the Antichrist that came in. We have Charlemagne, we have Lenin in Russia, during the Bolshevik revolution, these all come in, the Communist come in stealthily. People believe somehow that they are for the people. They come in with the working class, and that they identify with the working class, that that notion. Meanwhile, they live lives in fabulous wealth. While their people suffer beneath them. We already mentioned Adolf Hitler. Mao Tse-tung in China the the people were forced to read the books of the sayings of Mao. They had the little red book, you know, they held in their hands, and worshipped him as a living God. Khrushchev came to America, and said that he would destroy us, and he beat on the pulpit in the UN, and said that we will bury you. That was his expression. Castro and Troop and Cuba are destroyed. Christians immediately persecuted the Christians that were there, and promised a new age, you know, and he had taken out the. The capitalist notion, and brought communism to Cuba of course nothing, but misery for all these years since. Already mentioned what people thought of Obama. They were calling him the Second Coming in Newsweek magazine called him the first gay president, and Newsweek even had him here in the posture of one of the Hindu gods, God of all things, they said. So all sorts of false religion that's what Babel is all about. Babel is confusion, and Babylon is the city of confusion, and its tentacles have reached throughout the various echelons of society, and throughout history. So we have various forms. This is what the devil does in confusing the world. The final world religion will be a one world religion will bring somehow can bring together all these various ties. For instance, Islam itself claims to be the true, and only true religion, but it's a form of worship. There they had, they had their locus, they had their place where they arrived. This is what idolatry is all about. You have to have a centerpiece, but for the Catholics, it's Vatican City. People go there, and stand in awe as they look at the gold, the palace, and the altar in Rome, and they kissed the statue of Jupiter when they come in, which is the they claim is the statue of Peter, but they always all these people have a person or a place where they can worship, and this is what we see here in this third chapter of Daniel where we have this centerpiece of idolatry occurring so um the focus of worship, a place where they assemble here in Mecca. They consider their holy city in Mecca they have this huge arena, and there they go to worship the Kaaba. The Kaaba is the canonical center of the Islamic world, and every pious act, particularly prayer, is directed toward it. Once a year it plays host to the greatest convention of religious believers, and stands ready to sanctify the traveler through the balance of the year. You know part of the five pillars of Islam is to go, and worship at this place. The official starting point of the walk around the Kaaba that forms the core of the holy pilgrimage is called the Hajj. During the dawah, the Pilgrim kiss or touch the Blackstone as they circumnavigate the Kaaba. So you you what's inside this, this sacred temple of theirs, this that's shrouded in black is a stone supposedly that fell from the heavens. So some Muslims are more willing to believe that the stone itself has some supernatural powers. They believe that this stone fell from the sky during the time of Adam and Eve, and that it has the power to cleanse worshippers of their sins by absorbing them into itself, and so the people gather around this and 1 by 1. They say that the Blackstone was once a pure, and dazzling white it has turned black because of the sins it is absorbed over the years, so touching or kissing the stone has a profound impact on the faithful, as it is supposed to count in their favour on

Judgment day. Researchers have noted that the Kaaba is accurately aligned on 2 heavenly phenomena, the cycles of the moon, and the rising of Cannabis the brightest star under Sirius. So the temple contained 360 idols worshipped before Mohammed the prophet. The building contained idols of worship, but the building itself was never an object of worship, and so actually Allah is the moon God, and the Pagan Arabs worshipped the moon God by praying toward Mecca several times a day, making a pilgrimage to Mecca, running around the temple of the moon God called the Kaaba kissing the black stone, killing an animal is sacrificed to the moon God. Throwing stones at the devil, fasting for the month which begins, and ends with the Crescent moon. Giving alms to the poor. So all these forms of idolatry and well, of course, throughout history we have the Jews even falling prey to idols, and this is why the commandment is so clear. And [Deuteronomy 4:15-19](#) Take you therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the Lord spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: 16 Lest you corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, 17 The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, so this image that we see here in Daniel, three is an image to Nebuchadnezzar, a likeness of a man. 17 The likeness of any beast you remember. The golden calf that is on the earth. 17 The likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air. 18 The likeness of anything that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth. 19 And lest thou lift up thine eyes into heaven, when thou seest the sun, and the moon and the stars, even all the host of heaven should be driven to worship them and serve them, which the Lord thy God hath divided into all nations under the whole heaven. Now this all precedes in Deuteronomy. You know the word Deuteronomy means literally the giving of the law, the the second giving of the law. So in the 5th chapter is where you have the repetition of the 10 commandments, and in those Ten Commandments we have the forbidding of the making of idols, the worshipping of these idols, and bowing down before them. So our three friends there that are thrown into the fire refuse to bow down. They know the law of God, and they will not worship. So in fact, this is how they ended up in their captivity. They ended up in the captivity because, well, at the end of all of this they were, or before they went into captivity they were worshipping Molech, and [Jeremiah 32:35](#) warns them. So they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the Sun of Hinnom, to cause their sons, and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech symbolic he demanded child sacrifice. You couldn't please him, and appease him unless you brought your children, and burned them in the fire to Molech, and the children of Israel began doing just that, and [Psalm 106:37-38](#) says, Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, and shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto idols of Canaan, and the land was polluted with blood. So we think we see what what is involved here, infanticide. This kind of worship, and they archaeology, archaeological digs they found these various statues to Molech, you can see here, one to the left here, where they uncovered what Bullock looked like. He was cut out of stone. He had his arms outstretched, and beneath his arms there they had a pit with an an oven that would be set to burn the sacrifices that would be offered to these false gods. So God has no use for the worship of idols. Uh, so even in New Testament expressions we have in [Romans 1:21-25](#) Because, that when they knew God, they glorified him not as God. Neither were thankful, but became vain. In their imaginations their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts and creeping things, then later, in the same context, who changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator who is blessed forever Amen. So, bowing down to

idols, worshipping idols, and believing that idols have some kind of effectual powers, ranging to them as though somehow they can bring us benefit. Now there's that statue I spoke about in the Vatican to the right, you'll see the picture of the people as they enter into the Vatican. They kissed the top of Peter. They believe it to be Peter, but actually this statue was the statue of Jupiter, and they sanctified it, and made it into the statue of Saint Peter. The people have done this now, over the centuries of time. In fact, the foot has been worn down. There are no toes left on the foot because so many people have touched, and kissed the statue. Um so of course this is Antichrist anti God. It is forbidden to make graven images, and to bow down before them, and there's the expressed commandment in the [Exodus 20:4-5](#) When it was given to Moses, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above. Or 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. Well, there's such condemnation of this in [Psalm 135:15-18](#) The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak. Not eyes, have they, but they see not. They have ears, but they hear not. Neither is there any breath in their mouths they that make them or like under them, so everyone that trusteth in them, and the New Testament language in [1 John 5:21](#) Little children, keep yourselves from idols. So you can see here where this leads, and what people ultimately become superstitious. They believe somehow that there's life in these. In fact, that's what paganism was. They believed that the spirit of the God that they made the image to what is actually it would actually inhabit the idol, and live in the idol. Uh, in some oriental customs there in Shintoism, they actually make meals, and bring bowls of rice, and put the rice right before the idol in their house as though the idol can somehow eat that which was given to it. We have meat, that would be offered to the idols, and [Psalm 135](#) You can see here that the word of God uses mockery and irony to demonstrate that the idol has no power, and it's a mockery when it says neither is there breath, but they can't speak. They have eyes they can't see, and yet people believe somehow, if they put a statue of Mary in their garden, that the garden will grow well, and keep out the Gophers, and whatever else it's just it's pure idolatry, and it is a form of blasphemy. There are those that believe that idols actually here right in Pittsburgh, they believe they have an idol that bleeds. The blood runs down through the virgins eyes. In China, they have various tunes to the soldiers, and they have these clay or terracotta idols that they worship. I've been to houses, I was well with the house. That's why I've got this picture of a bust of Elvis. I can remember being in this house, and seeing this a bust of Elvis. She had kind of a little shrine to Elvis. All these different statues, and so forth, and pictures and it was weird because the eyes of Elvis actually followed you. If you if you moved in the room, the eyes moved with you. It was kind of an eerie feeling o say the least. Oh, we've got various statues supposedly of Christ bleeding. It's been proven to be fraudulent. They've demonstrated where the plastic tubing comes down through the statue, and vermilion paint, it was mixed to be poured through those vials up through the eyes, and this gives credence to the power of the idol, at least to the devotees that come to see this. When I was young, I had a Saint Christopher medal, and that was supposed to protect us. I would wear it when I went to Kenny wood in particular, because that second loop on the Jack Rabbit always kind of frightened me. I thought I was going to be thrown out of it. So Saint Christopher was there to protect us, or so we thought. Saint Christopher medals were placed in the car. He would help you from having a wreck. We had a Saint Christopher medal in our Buick a Buick special, and while we were in Mass at the mother of good counsel, in Homewood our car was stolen, and I thought, well, that the statute didn't help us too much with that. So, and of course, I think Catholics that really follow these things should know that Saint Christopher was defrocked. He was decanonized mainly because he was a Greek, and

Saint Christopher and Saint Nicholas were both the decanonized. So I guess Saint Nicholas can't bring us any treats on Christmas morning anymore either, and Saint Christopher can't protect you in your car. Well of course, these idols all have to be fixed every once in a while, so they have to build scaffolding up, and so to make sure that we don't have any more of these these issues, alright let me get back to [Daniel](#). I've gone on a field here. So we want to get back to this, this statue in the plane of Duran. The image of the beast, we might say. So the dimensions, as we already mentioned, 60 cubits, which would be equivalent to about 90 feet, and about 10 feet wide. I'm noticing here 60 cubits high, 6 cubits wide, and there are 6 mute musical instruments that would be used to worship, and whenever you could hear these various ancient instruments being played, that was the cue to bow down before it. So I just find it interesting. Not necessarily something we need to really look forward in through the Bible for, but there it is. We have the three sixes, you know, and that reminds us of the image of the beast, and what the image of the beast will ultimately bring. [Revelation 17:3,5](#) I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast full of blasphemy, 5 And upon her forehead was a name written Mystery, Babylon, The Mother of Harlots, The Abominations of the Earth. Uh so we mentioned right at the outset that we're going to have this woman that rides the Beast. In the end, she's intoxicated with music. The voice of Harps, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters in Revelation Chapter 18. So it doesn't really surprise us that here we we have in Daniel three the prototype of this kind of worship. You know, I'm intrigued with how the devil has entered the church now, and we have devil music. Uh pretended to be worship music. They bring it into the church. Now I was a musician in the world, and so I remember playing those rhythms, and the devil's music it doesn't belong in the church, but we can see that that's going to be part of the worship of the the new age, and the the worship of the beasts. It will certainly be the music of the world. So you can hear the kind of beat it's a robust, rather hit, and music has its power, obviously. So the devil knows that, and so he has perverted that, and he has used it now as part of his sacred worship. The Super Bowl always has some kind of demonic entertainer coming in, like Madonna or Katy Perry riding a beast. Uh we've got multitudes not just in the stands cheering this on, but remember, this is the most viewed telecast of the year Super Bowl, and people often look forward to this halftime demonic show. Well, we can demonstrate this with Madonna, who came in as a an Egyptian goddess once. We have Beyoncé who was dressed in an outfit, Baphomet the devil's head, and so on and on it goes, but people think it's entertainment, and Christians even enjoy it. So that's where we are today, but it's the mystery of Babylon, and the image of the beast, and the woman is going to ride the beast as we, certainly see in Revelation, and we see it beginning here in its prototype in Babylon. Remember our studies about the idolatry of Babylon? There is the Ishtar Gate with the lion. The lion is the goddess of fertility, Ishtar, and one of the reliefs of Ishtar here that I had already shown you to the right, where she has the Baphomet horn in her hand, there, the horns of the devil in her hand. The beasts that she is riding there, and also the 666 that we mentioned earlier about this particular relief that they worshipped in Babylon. So now you can understand why the children of Israel refused to bow. They would not bow themselves to this. They knew this kind of paganism was Antichrist anti God. So they were cast into the fires, and we find out that they wouldn't burn, they wouldn't bend, they wouldn't bow, and they wouldn't burn. So the lesson at hand, Nebuchadnezzar spake, and he said unto them, is it true? Oh Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Do not you serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up. If you worship not, you shall be cast that same hour into the midst of a burning, fiery furnace, and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? Well, Nebuchadnezzar fully believed himself to be the living God. There is no God bigger than he is. He, after all is the head of gold, and so if you refuse to bow then

you're gonna burn. Now, interestingly enough here, what Nebuchadnezzar is doing is he's put a proposition before them. He's given them a choice of course I maintain, and have always maintained through my ministry that God gives everybody a choice. I'm not a Calvinist. I don't think that everything is predetermined. I think that everybody gets a choice, and the free will is manifested throughout the Bible, not just here, but certainly here too. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had to make a choice. They had exercised their volition. They had to decide if they were going to follow God or not, and so must we. No one is forced to believe. If we want to, we can follow the world we can follow the devil to our own damnation, but it is our choice to do so every individual will have to answer to God for what choice they make. In our chapter in the first chapter we we spoke about Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were given Pagan names, they went to Pagan schools remember that they were chosen a very special way to be Eunuch's in the courts of God of Nebuchadnezzar, and they they were schooled intentionally. They apparently had a certain brilliance about them, a certain aptitude that gave them this elite privilege. There would be a sense in which they because they weren't enslaved like the rest of their people, that they would have all the more cost to compromise. They would recognize that by irritating the king in any fashion, not eating his meat, not drinking his wine that could end their special category, that they could be thrown back into slavery with the rest of their people, or they could lose their lives by insulting the king, but they stood strong, and they refused to eat the King's meat. They wouldn't drink the King's wine, and they were in the hands of the Lord, but we find out that you know, they passed that test. So here they were living in a Pagan palace yet they kept their faith in God, and obedience to his law. [Isaiah 43:2](#) When thou passes through the waters, I will be with thee; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; Neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. So here is Isaiah giving a word 100 some years before their captivity. words that will mean something to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego while they endured this tribulation that God will spare them even through this fire they had confidence, and they knew that if they took their stand, that God would be with them, but they were given the option, and they told Nebuchadnezzar in no uncertain terms they would not bow before the idol, and that God, their God, was able to deliver them from the fire, and they would base that upon this passage that they could be delivered from the fire, but they also said, if God chooses not to do that they still will not bow down. So they left that also. You know, we often think, well, God ought to do this or do that, and he doesn't always do what we think he ought to do, and these three were willing to accept that if God doesn't, and if we we perish in the flames, we still will take our stand for the Lord if he doesn't come through for us. So how wonderful all this is, and that Isaiah was given these words of the prophet. Let me give you just my timeline on how this works out. You know we have the division of Israel after the death of Solomon. We have Jeroboam, we have Rehoboam. So we're now we have Israel and Judah, right? We have the civil war that took place. We have the two tribes of Judah, and Benjamin, and then the 10 tribes of the northern a children of Israel, but God sends prophets during all this period of time, and these prophets, when we look at our Bible, they're not necessarily in chronological order. So maybe this timeline will help you a bit to see the chronological order of things, and what do we find here, but God is giving a final warning to Israel before their exile to Babylon, and it came by the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. Here they are giving a word out to Israel, Isaiah being at the vanguard of that prophecy 100 some years before, the exile giving the warning out. Then it is reissued by Jeremiah, so to speak, right before the captivity, and Ezekiel is a contemporary with Jeremiah. These will be the captivity prophets as well. Then of course, Daniel. So Daniel comes as a captivity prophet, and speaks the word during that time, then after the deliverance after the Persians come in,

and destroy Babylon, and take the Jews now captive, as now under Persian rule. They are permitted to go back under Nehemiah, and Ezra to go back, and rebuild the temple, and we have those post captivity prophets, Haggai and Zachariah, and they give that word to those to return, and to rebuild, and then finally, as Malachi just reading this morning, as a matter of fact. So Malachi is the final word to those that are living after the rebuilding of the temple, and after they're somewhat settled in, and complacency comes, and Malachi warns them again, and gives the final word to them, and thus brings a close to the Canon of the Old Testament. Well, the time of our study is ended, so we're kind of in the middle of chapter 3. We've got a whole lot more to teach about God's deliverance through the fire, his faithfulness to us, the spirit of Antichrist, and what I believe to be the beginning of the conversion of a heathen King, Nebuchadnezzar. So that we're gonna take up in our study next Tuesday. So do I have any questions that I can answer before we close out? No

Lord bless our time together, and what we were able to accomplish here in Daniel chapter 3, and just praying Lord that we can communicate truth in a way that is digestible. There are some moments here. Abstruse teachings, Lord but necessary ones, and hopefully we can all take the history, and be glad that we have the validation of human history in the in these books. So grateful that we have an inspired text to depend upon, and we'll take great comfort, Lord, in your protective hand as we begin to learn how you were there as the 4th one in the fire, and as we go through our various trials, and tribulations, Lord they pale in comparison to what these three went through, but nonetheless, Lord, our trials are very real to us, and we will need your comforting hand. We'll need the abiding presence of the Son of God as we go through the waters, and through the fires in Jesus name we pray Amen.